Transparent Dirac potentials in one dimension: the time-dependent case

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(Dated: May 11, 2014)

We generalize the original derivation of transparent, static Schrödinger potentials by Kay and
Moses [1], to obtain a large class of time-dependent transparent Dirac potentials in one spatial dimen-
sion. They contain all known transparent potentials as special cases and play a key role in the
semi-classical solution of 1+1 dimensional, fermionic quantum field theories of Gross-Neveu and
Nambu–Jona-Lasinio type.

PACS numbers: 03.65.Nk,03.65.Pm

I. INTRODUCTION

Transparent, static potentials of the one-dimensional Schrödinger equation were first characterized systematically
in the seminal paper by Kay and Moses (KM) [1]. These are potentials with the property that the reflection coefficient
for a scattered particle vanishes at all energies. KM constructed the most general potential of this type by algebraic
methods [1]. Their proof that this was indeed the most general transparent potential was based on inverse scattering
theory and the Gel’fand-Levitan-Marchenko equation (for a review see [2]). One can also define transparent, time
dependent potentials. The reason is the fact that the asymptotic behavior of the scattering wavefunctions is the
same as for static potentials, if one takes the limit $x \to \pm \infty$ at a fixed time. The generalization of the KM work
to time dependent Schrödinger potentials can be found in work of Nogami and Warke on soliton solutions of the
multicomponent nonlinear Schrödinger equation [3]. Although these authors did not address the issue of transparency,
it is easy to find the scattering solutions to their time dependent potential and confirm that these are reflectionless.
As a matter of fact, the continuum wave functions (in a notation adapted to that of [3]) are given by

$$g_k = \left(1 + \sum_\alpha \frac{u_\alpha g_\alpha}{ik + \kappa_\alpha^*}\right) e^{i(kx - k^2 t)}$$

(1)

where the $g_\alpha$ are bound state wave functions, and the $u_\alpha$ are exponentials in $x,t$.

The KM results have also been generalized to the relativistic regime. Toyama, Nogami and Zhao [4] solve a
stationary, nonlinear Dirac equation by reducing it to a pair of (supersymmetric) Schrödinger equations. This enables
to derive all static, Lorentz-scalar, transparent Dirac potentials from the known KM potentials. Their results
agree with independent work on the large-$N$ solution of baryons and multibaryon bound states in the Gross-Neveu
(GN) model [5–7]. In this context, it has long been known that self-consistent mean field potentials are necessarily
transparent [6]. The authors of [4] argue heuristically that Lorentz-vector potentials are unlikely to be transparent.
They also point out that their method fails in the non-static case, simply because one cannot reduce the time-dependent
Dirac equation to a Schrödinger equation. Later on, Nogami and Toyama reported on transparent, pseudoscalar Dirac
potentials as well [8]. With hindsight, their search was too narrow, being restricted to a $x$-dependent pseudoscalar
and a constant scalar potential. This situation only changed very recently with a series of works by Nitta, Takahashi
and coworkers [9–11]. Working on self-consistent, static solutions of the Nambu–Jona Lasinio (NJL$_2$) model or,
equivalently, the Bogoliubov-de Gennes (BdG) equation, they found a very general class of static, transparent scalar-
pseudoscalar potentials of the one-dimensional Dirac equation. These correspond to bound states of any number of
chirally twisted kinks of the type first discussed by Shei in the context of the NJL$_2$ model [12].

If it is indeed correct that only scalar and pseudoscalar Dirac potentials have a chance of being transparent, the only
step missing so far is the generalization of these relativistic transparent potentials to the time dependent case. This
problem is intimately related to the self-consistent solution of dynamical problems in the GN and NJL$_2$ models, such
as scattering of kinks, breathers and bound states thereof. Lorentz scalar potentials are relevant for time-dependent
Hartree-Fock (TDHF) solutions of the large-$N$ GN model. Scalar-pseudoscalar potentials are needed to solve the
NJL$_2$ model or the BdG equation in condensed matter physics, where chiral twists are possible. It is the purpose
of this paper to fill this gap and construct a general class of transparent scalar and pseudoscalar, time dependent
Dirac potentials. Related results have already been presented in a recent letter [13], and here we give an even simpler characterization of time-dependent transparent Dirac potentials. The detailed application of the results obtained here to exactly solvable quantum field theories will be the subject of a forthcoming publication [14].

II. FORMALISM AND RESULTS

A. Formalism

Our starting point is the Dirac equation in one space dimension with real scalar ($S$) and pseudoscalar ($P$) potentials depending on $x$ and $t$,

\[(i\partial - S - i\gamma_5 P)\psi = 0.\]  

(2)

We choose a chiral representation of the Dirac matrices,

\[\gamma^0 = \sigma_1, \quad \gamma^1 = i\sigma_2, \quad \gamma_5 = \gamma^0\gamma^1 = -\sigma_3,\]  

(3)

and go over to light cone coordinates,

\[z = x - t, \quad \bar{z} = x + t, \quad \partial_0 = \bar{\partial} - \partial, \quad \partial_1 = \bar{\partial} + \partial.\]  

(4)

(Note that $\bar{z}$ is not the complex conjugate of $z$, which we would write as $z^\ast$.) Momentum $k$ and energy $E$ are encoded in the light cone spectral parameter (using natural units where the fermion mass is set to 1),

\[k = \frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta - \frac{1}{\zeta} \right), \quad E = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta + \frac{1}{\zeta} \right)\]  

(5)

In these variables, the Lorentz scalar argument of a plane wave reads

\[k_\mu x^\mu = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta \bar{z} - z/\zeta \right).\]  

(6)

The Dirac equation in light cone coordinates can be written in components as

\[2i\bar{\partial}\psi_2 = \Delta \psi_1, \quad 2i\partial\psi_1 = -\Delta^* \psi_2,\]  

(7)

where the scalar and pseudoscalar potentials are combined into a single complex potential $\Delta$:

\[\Delta \equiv S - iP.\]  

(8)

In Eq (7), $\psi_1, \psi_2$ are the upper and lower spinor components with left- and right-handed chirality, respectively.

B. Ansatz

In order to find transparent potentials $\Delta$, we start from the following ansatz for the continuum spinor,

\[\psi_\zeta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \zeta^2}} \begin{pmatrix} \zeta \chi_1 \\ -\chi_2 \end{pmatrix} e^{i(\zeta \bar{z} - z/\zeta)/2}.\]  

(9)

This ansatz has a standard continuum normalization for free, massive spinors provided that $\lim_{x \to -\infty} \chi_{1,2} = 1$. We also demand that $\chi_1$ and $\chi_2$ approach some constant for $x \to \infty$. In that case, the continuum spinor behaves like a plane wave travelling to the right for $x \to -\infty$ as well as for $x \to \infty$ (for $k > 0$), hence it is manifestly reflectionless.

The Dirac equation for the reduced spinor components $\chi_1, \chi_2$ takes on the form

\[(2i\bar{\partial} - \zeta)\chi_2 + \zeta \Delta \chi_1 = 0,\]  

(10)

\[(2i\partial + \zeta)\chi_1 - \Delta^* \chi_2 = 0.\]  

(11)

We introduce $N$ basis functions $e_n, f_n$, reminiscent of plane waves, but with complex spectral parameters,

\[e_n = e^{i(\zeta_n \bar{z} - z/\zeta_n)/2}, \quad f_n = \frac{e_n}{\zeta_n}, \quad \zeta_n \in \mathbb{C}, \quad n = 1, ..., N\]  

(12)
As our ansatz to construct a transparent potential we assume that $\chi_{1,2}$ can be represented as a finite sum of these basis functions, with a finite number, $N$, of poles in the complex spectral plane:

$$
\chi_1 = 1 + i \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{1}{\zeta - \zeta_n} e_n^* \phi_{1,n},
$$

$$
\chi_2 = 1 - i \sum_{n=1}^{N} \frac{\zeta - \zeta_n}{\zeta - \zeta_n} e_n^* \phi_{2,n},
$$

(13)

where $\phi_{1,n}$ and $\phi_{2,n}$ are $2N$ functions defined as the solutions of the following systems of linear, algebraic equations,

$$
\sum_{m=1}^{N} (\omega + B)_{nm} \phi_{1,m} = e_n,
$$

$$
\sum_{m=1}^{N} (\omega + B)_{nm} \phi_{2,m} = -f_n.
$$

(14)

Here, $\omega$ is a constant, hermitean but otherwise arbitrary $N \times N$ matrix, and $B$ is an $N \times N$ matrix constructed from the basis functions, $e_n(z, \bar{z})$, and spectral parameters, $\zeta_n$, as follows:

$$
B_{nm} = i \frac{e_n e^*_m}{\zeta_m - \zeta_n^*}.
$$

(15)

From Eq. (13) we see that the parameters $\zeta_n$ introduced in (12) correspond to the positions of the bound state poles of $\psi_\zeta$ in the complex $\zeta$-plane.

C. Proof of Solution

To show that the ansatz above provides an exact time-dependent solution of the Dirac equation, with a transparent potential $\Delta$, we use the following elementary algebraic steps. We denote by $e, f, \phi_1, \phi_2$ the $N$-dimensional column vectors with components $e_n, f_n, \phi_{1,n}, \phi_{2,n}$, respectively, whereas $\omega$ and $B$ denote $N \times N$ matrices. Eq. (14) becomes the pair of matrix equations:

$$
(\omega + B)\phi_1 = e, 
$$

$$
(\omega + B)\phi_2 = -f.
$$

(16)

(17)

Differentiating the column vectors $e$ and $f$, using the definitions (12), leads to the simple relations

$$
2i \partial e = f, 
$$

$$
2i \bar{\partial} f = -e,
$$

(18)

showing that the $N$ spinors with components $(e_n, -f_n)^T$ are (unnormalizable, due to the complex spectral parameter) solutions of the free, massive Dirac equation ($m = 1$). This then implies an important property of the matrix $B$: its derivatives with respect to $z, \bar{z}$ are separable matrices,

$$
\partial B = \frac{1}{2} ff^t, 
$$

$$
\bar{\partial} B = \frac{1}{2} ee^t.
$$

(19)

Let us apply $2i \partial$ to (16), and $2i \bar{\partial}$ to (17). Using (18, 19), we find

$$
(\omega + B)2i \partial \phi_1 = f(1 - if^t \phi_1),
$$

$$
(\omega + B)2i \bar{\partial} \phi_2 = e(1 - i e^t \phi_2).
$$

(20)

Upon multiplying these equations from the left by $(\omega + B)^{-1}$, we get

$$
2i \partial \phi_1 = -\phi_2(1 - if^t \phi_1), 
$$

$$
2i \bar{\partial} \phi_2 = \phi_1(1 - ie^t \phi_2),
$$

(21)

showing that the $\phi_{1,n}, \phi_{2,n}$ are the upper and lower components of $N$ distinct solutions of the Dirac equation with potential

$$
\Delta = 1 - ie^t \phi_2 = 1 + i\phi_2^t f = 1 + ie^t \frac{1}{\omega + B} f.
$$

(22)
The three different expressions for $\Delta$ given here in (22) are equivalent owing to Eqs. (16, 17). The $\phi_1, \phi_2$ are (normalizable) bound state spinors of the potential $\Delta$. If we insert them into our ansatz for the continuum spinor (13), it is now straightforward to verify that the continuum spinor satisfies the Dirac equation (10, 11) with the potential (22), proving that this potential is transparent. In view of the crucial importance of this last step, we give a few details of the calculation. Let us spell out the three terms appearing in Eq. (10),

\[
2i\partial \chi_2 = -i \sum_n \frac{\zeta}{\zeta_n} e^*_n (\zeta_n \phi_{2,n} + \Delta \phi_{1,n}),
\]

\[-\zeta \chi_2 = -\zeta + i \sum_n \frac{\zeta^2}{\zeta - \zeta_n} e^*_n \phi_{2,n},
\]

\[\zeta \Delta \chi_1 = \zeta \Delta + \zeta \Delta^* \sum_n \frac{1}{\zeta - \zeta_n} e^*_n \phi_{1,n},
\]

(23)

where we have carried out $\partial e^*_n$, and used the Dirac equation to evaluate $\partial \phi_{2,n}$. To obtain a solution, these three terms should add up to zero. The terms containing $\phi_{1,n}$ in the 1st and 3rd lines of (23) clearly cancel. The terms containing $\phi_{2,n}$ in the 1st and 2nd lines of (23) add up to $\zeta (1 - \Delta)$, using Eq. (22), and therefore cancel the remaining terms in the 2nd and 3rd lines of (23). Likewise, the three terms of Eq. (11) become

\[2i\zeta \partial \chi_1 = -i \sum_n \frac{\zeta}{\zeta_n} (f^*_n \phi_{1,n} + e^*_n \Delta^* \phi_{2,n})
\]

\[\chi_1 = 1 + i \sum_n \frac{1}{\zeta - \zeta_n} e^*_n \phi_{1,n}
\]

\[-\Delta^* \chi_2 = -\Delta^* + i \Delta^* \sum_n \frac{\zeta}{\zeta - \zeta_n} e^*_n \phi_{2,n}
\]

(24)

Here, the terms containing $\phi_{2,n}$ in the 1st and 3rd lines cancel. The terms containing $\phi_{1,n}$ in the 1st and 2nd lines add up to $(\Delta^* - 1)$, and cancel the remaining terms in the 2nd and 3rd lines.

This completes the proof that we have indeed found a whole class of transparent, time-dependent potentials of the Dirac equation. The potential $\Delta$ is given by (22) in terms of the basis functions $e_n$ and/or $f_n$, and the solutions of the algebraic equations (16, 17). These time-dependent transparent potentials $\Delta(x, t)$ are parameterized by $N$ complex constants $\zeta_n$ related to $N$ bound state poles in the complex $\zeta$-plane, and by a constant, hermitean $N \times N$ matrix $\omega$. Further conditions can be placed on the matrix $\omega$ to ensure that the potential $\Delta$ is physical; for example, to ensure that the solution does not develop singularities as a function of $x$ and $t$, or violate cluster separability. Details of choosing physical scattering solutions will be discussed in a separate work [14].

We have not yet been able to prove that our result is the most general transparent potential. The tools used by KM in their corresponding proof for the static Schrödinger potentials, namely inverse scattering theory and the Gel’fand-Levitan-Marchenko equation, are not available in the present time-dependent case.

### III. GENERAL PROPERTIES OF THE RESULT

The transparent potentials derived above in Eq. (22) describe a rich variety of solitons, multi-soliton bound and scattering states as well as states involving breathers of increasing complexity. Since these solitons play the role as TDHF potentials in integrable quantum field theories like the GN and the NJL models, we postpone a detailed discussion to a forthcoming paper, where also the self-consistency will be shown explicitly [14]. Rather than studying concrete examples, we collect in this section some general properties of our solution which will turn out to be helpful in analyzing the above mentioned integrable field theoretic models.

#### A. Determinants

Since the bound state spinors can be regarded as residues of the continuum spinor at the bound state poles $\zeta_n$, essentially all information is contained in the three quantities $\Delta, \chi_1, \chi_2$: recall that $\Delta(x, t)$ is the complex potential, whose real and imaginary parts give the scalar and pseudoscalar Dirac potentials, respectively, while $\chi_{1,2}$ define the chiral components of the associated continuum spinors in (9). Our algebraic construction leads to simple and explicit
representations of these key quantities in terms of determinants. Let us define the following \( N \times N \) matrices, related to the matrix \( B \) defined in Eq. (15):

\[
A_{nm} = \frac{\zeta_m}{\zeta_n} B_{nm},
\]
\[
C_{nm} = \frac{\zeta - \zeta^*_n}{\zeta - \zeta_m} B_{nm},
\]
\[
D_{nm} = \frac{\zeta_m}{\zeta_n} C_{nm},
\] (25)

The distinguishing feature of these three matrices is the fact that they differ from \( B \) only through separable matrices,

\[
A - B = i f e^\dagger, \\
C - B = i e g^\dagger, \\
D - B = i \zeta f g^\dagger.
\] (26)

Here we have introduced a 3rd vector \( g \), in addition to the vectors \( e, f \) defined in Eq. (12), with components

\[
g_n = \frac{e_n}{\zeta_n - \zeta_n^*}.
\] (27)

The determinant of the sum of an invertible matrix \( M \) and a separable matrix \( a b^\dagger \) can be computed as follows [15]:

\[
\frac{\det(M + a b^\dagger)}{\det(M)} = 1 + b^\dagger \frac{1}{M} a.
\] (28)

Applying this algebraic identity to the quantities \( \Delta, \chi_1, \chi_2 \), using their expressions in (22, 13), yields

\[
\Delta = 1 + i e^\dagger \frac{1}{\omega + B} f = \frac{\det(\omega + A)}{\det(\omega + B)},
\]
\[
\chi_1 = 1 + i g^\dagger \frac{1}{\omega + B} c = \frac{\det(\omega + C)}{\det(\omega + B)},
\]
\[
\chi_2 = 1 + i \zeta g^\dagger \frac{1}{\omega + B} f = \frac{\det(\omega + D)}{\det(\omega + B)}.\] (29)

Eq. (29) is a compact expression of our main result: we have expressed each of the three key quantities, the potential and the components of the continuum spinors, as a ratio of determinants of simple matrices.

**B. Diagonal matrix \( \omega \): scattering of chirally twisted kinks**

The expressions (29) can be further simplified in the case where the matrix \( \omega \) is diagonal. As will be discussed in more detail elsewhere [14], this corresponds to the situation where \( N \) twisted kinks scatter without forming breathers. In this special case, because of the extra symmetry of the mixing matrix \( \omega \), it is advantageous to introduce \( N \) functions \( U_n \), and a \( N \times N \) coefficient matrix \( b_{nm} \), as follows,

\[
U_n = \frac{i |e_n|^2}{\omega_{nn}(\zeta_n - \zeta_n^*)}, \quad b_{nm} = \left| \frac{\zeta_n - \zeta_m}{\zeta_n - \zeta_m^*} \right|^2.
\] (30)

The determinant of \( \omega + B \) can then be reduced to the following simple expression,

\[
\frac{\det(\omega + B)}{\det(\omega)} = 1 + \sum_n U_n + \sum_{n < m} b_{nm} U_n U_m + \sum_{n < m < k} b_{nm} b_{nk} U_n U_m U_k + \cdots + \prod_{n < m} b_{nm} \prod_k U_k.
\] (31)

Furthermore, the other determinants appearing in (29) can be inferred from this expression by merely rescaling the variables \( U_n \) by complex factors,

\[
det(\omega + A) = det(\omega + B) \left( U_n \rightarrow \frac{\zeta_n}{\zeta_n^*} U_n \right),
\]
\[
det(\omega + C) = det(\omega + B) \left( U_n \rightarrow \frac{\zeta - \zeta_n^*}{\zeta - \zeta_n} U_n \right),
\]
\[
det(\omega + D) = det(\omega + B) \left( U_n \rightarrow \frac{\zeta_n \zeta - \zeta_n^*}{\zeta_n \zeta - \zeta_n} U_n \right).
\] (32)
If we further restrict this special case to the situation where the complex spectral parameters \( \zeta_n \) all lie on the unit circle, these determinant expressions (32) provide an explicit closed-form solution to the finite algebraic system of equations used in [9–11] to define static transparent Dirac potentials.

C. Diagonal matrix \( \omega \) and pure imaginary spectral parameters \( \zeta_n \): scattering of real kinks

A further simplification is obtained by choosing the mixing matrix \( \omega \) to be diagonal, as in the previous subsection, but restricting the spectral parameters to be purely imaginary. In this case, the determinant expressions in (29) reduce to:

\[
\begin{align*}
\det(\omega + A) &= \det(\omega + B) \left( U_n \rightarrow -U_n \right), \\
\det(\omega + C) &= \det(\omega + B) \left( U_n \rightarrow \frac{\zeta + \zeta_n}{\zeta - \zeta_n} U_n \right), \\
\det(\omega + D) &= \det(\omega + B) \left( U_n \rightarrow -\frac{\zeta + \zeta_n}{\zeta - \zeta_n} U_n \right).
\end{align*}
\]  

(33)

Now the potential can be chosen to be real, \( \Delta = S \), and these solutions describe the scattering of real kinks with twist angle \( \pi \). Furthermore, they are in fact characterized by solutions to the Sinh-Gordon model, as \( S(x,t) \) satisfies the nonlinear equation [16]

\[
\partial \bar{\partial} (\ln S^2) = \frac{1}{2} \left( S^2 - \frac{1}{S^2} \right) = \sinh(\ln S^2).
\]  

(34)

D. Master equation

Our general transparent solutions do not satisfy the Sinh-Gordon equation (34). The most general nonlinear partial differential equation satisfied by the transparent potential \( \Delta \) relates it to the common denominator, \( \det(\omega + B) \), of the three expressions in (29):

\[
4\partial \bar{\partial} \ln \det(\omega + B) = 1 - |\Delta|^2.
\]  

(35)

We refer to this equation as “master equation”, since in large \( N \) fermionic field theories \( \Delta \) plays a role similar to the “master field” in large \( N \) gauge theories [17]. To prove (35), we evaluate its left hand side, using \( \ln \det = \text{Tr} \ln \),

\[
4\partial \bar{\partial} \ln \det(\omega + B) = 4\text{Tr} \left( \frac{1}{\omega + B} \partial \bar{\partial} B - \frac{1}{\omega + B} \partial B \frac{1}{\omega + B} \bar{\partial} B \right).
\]  

(36)

With the help of (19) and the 2nd derivative

\[
\partial \bar{\partial} B = \frac{i}{4} \left( e f^\dagger - f e^\dagger \right),
\]  

(37)

we find

\[
4\partial \bar{\partial} \ln \det(\omega + B) = i f^\dagger \frac{1}{\omega + B} e - ie^\dagger \frac{1}{\omega + B} f - e^\dagger \frac{1}{\omega + B} f f^\dagger \frac{1}{\omega + B} e = 1 - |\Delta|^2,
\]  

(38)

thus confirming Eq. (35). The master equation may be viewed as the generalization of the following equation of KM [1],

\[
V(x) = -\partial_x^2 \ln \det(1 + A), \quad A_{ij} = \sqrt{a_i a_j} e^{(\kappa_i + \kappa_j)x} \frac{1}{\kappa_i + \kappa_j}.
\]  

(39)

Restricting by the algebraic conditions of diagonal \( \omega \) and spectral parameters lying on the unit circle, and expanding \( |\Delta| \approx 1 + V \) in a non-relativistic limit, the master equation (35) reduces to the log det form of the Kay-Moses transparent potential in (39).
E. Spatial asymptotics of potential and continuum spinors

The determinantal forms of $\Delta, \chi_1, \chi_2$ derived in the subsections III B and III C are particularly convenient for extracting the asymptotics of the potential and associated spinors for $x \rightarrow \pm \infty$. With each bound state pole $\zeta_n$, we can associate a complex momentum

$$k_n = \frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta_n - \frac{1}{\zeta_n} \right).$$

(40)

Let us assume that $\text{Im} k_n > 0$ for all $n$. Then the matrix $B$ blows up exponentially for $x \rightarrow \infty$, and vanishes for $x \rightarrow -\infty$. Thus the matrices $A, B, C, D$ dominate over the matrix $\omega$ for $x \rightarrow \infty$, whereas $\omega$ dominates over $A, B, C, D$ for $x \rightarrow -\infty$. The potential $\Delta$ satisfies

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \Delta = 1, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \Delta = \frac{\det A}{\det B} = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \frac{\zeta_n}{\zeta_n^*}.$$  

(41)

This shows that $\Delta$ has a chiral twist. It starts out at the point $(S = 1, P = 0)$ on the chiral (unit) circle at $x \rightarrow -\infty$, and reaches another point on the chiral circle at $x \rightarrow +\infty$, say $e^{i\Theta}$. According to (41), the chiral twist angle $\Theta$ can be computed by simply adding up the phases of all bound state pole parameters $\zeta_n$,

$$\Theta = 2 \sum_{n=1}^{N} \theta_n, \quad \zeta_n = |\zeta_n|e^{i\theta_n}.$$  

(42)

The spinor components have the asymptotic behavior

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \chi_1 = 1, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \chi_1 = \frac{\det C}{\det B} = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \frac{\zeta_n - \zeta_n^*}{\zeta - \zeta_n^*},$$

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \chi_2 = 1, \quad \lim_{x \rightarrow -\infty} \chi_2 = \frac{\det D}{\det B} = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \frac{\zeta_n \zeta - \zeta_n^*}{\zeta_n \zeta - \zeta_n}.$$  

(43)

(44)

The product in (43) can be identified with the fully factorized, unitary transmission amplitude $T(\zeta)$ with the expected pole structure,

$$T(\zeta) = \prod_{n=1}^{N} \frac{\zeta - \zeta_n^*}{\zeta - \zeta_n}, \quad |T(\zeta)| = 1.$$  

(45)

The extra factors in the product in (44) are necessary to account for the chiral twist of the potential $\Delta$ at $x \rightarrow \infty$, which also affects the spinors.

F. Normalization and orthogonality of bound states

According to Eqs. (16, 17), the spinor components of the $n$-th bound state spinor $\phi_n$ are given by

$$\phi_{1,n} = \left( \frac{1}{\omega + B} e \right)_n, \quad \phi_{2,n} = -\left( \frac{1}{\omega + B} f \right)_n.$$  

(46)

Consider the “density matrix”

$$\phi_n^\dagger \phi_m = \phi_n^* \phi_m + \phi_n^* \phi_{m} = \left( \frac{1}{\omega + B} (ee^\dagger + ff^\dagger) \frac{1}{\omega + B} \right)_{mn}.$$  

(47)

Here, the word “density matrix” refers to the bound state labels $n, m$, with the understanding that all spinors are evaluated at the same space-time arguments. Since, according to (19),

$$\partial_x B = (\partial + \bar{\partial}) B = \frac{1}{2} (ee^\dagger + ff^\dagger),$$  

(48)
the density matrix can be written as a total spatial derivative,
\[ \phi_n^\dagger \phi_m = -2 \partial_x \left( \frac{1}{\omega + B} \right)_{mn}. \] (49)

This is very useful, as it enables us to evaluate the normalization matrix trivially,
\[ R_{nm} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx \phi_n^\dagger \phi_m = -2 \left( \frac{1}{\omega + B} \right)_{mn} \bigg|_{x=+\infty}^{x=-\infty} = 2 \left( \omega^{-1} \right)_{mn}. \] (50)

In the last step, we have once again assumed that the bound state poles have Im $k_n > 0$. Orthonormalized bound states $\hat{\phi}_n$ can be constructed from the $\phi_n$ via
\[ \hat{\phi}_n = \sum_m C_{nm} \phi_m, \quad \int dx \hat{\phi}_n^\dagger \hat{\phi}_m = \delta_{n,m}. \] (51)

The following condition for the matrix $C$ follows from Eqs. (50, 51),
\[ 2C\omega^{-1}C^\dagger = 1. \] (52)

This condition is needed for applying the present results to integrable quantum field theories in the large $N$ limit [13, 14].

**IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

We have found a simple algebraic characterization of a large class of transparent, scalar-pseudoscalar Dirac potentials in one dimension. The novel feature is the fact that these potentials are time-dependent. Whether our results exhaust all transparent Dirac potentials remains to be seen. They contain all previously found transparent potentials, as special cases, be they static Dirac potentials, or static and non-static Schrödinger potentials, and also provide new classes of time-dependent Dirac potentials associated with multi-baryons and multi-breathers [13, 14]. Our expressions in terms of determinants are natural generalizations of the original Kay-Moses results for static Schrödinger potentials. In view of the tremendous generalization from the static Schrödinger potentials of KM more than half a century ago, it is very surprising that the derivation in the time-dependent Dirac case is hardly more complicated. In fact, we were strongly guided by the KM work when setting up the proof for the time-dependent, relativistic case.

Our results open the door for solving a variety of dynamical problems in large $N$ fermionic quantum field theories. These include scattering problems of arbitrary number of baryonic bound states, but also breathers of any degree of complexity and their interactions. According to general experience, the self-consistent potentials in Hartree-Fock or TDHF approaches to integrable models are always transparent, so that the present study gives a good starting point for identifying self-consistent solutions [13, 14]. However, transparent potentials may also have other applications than the one to integrable quantum field theories, such as for example in condensed matter physics, quantum optics, or cold atom physics.

**Acknowledgement**

G.D. acknowledges support from DOE grants DE-FG02-92ER40716 and DE-FG02-13ER41989, and the ARC Centre of Excellence in Particle Physics at the Terascale and CSSM, School of Chemistry and Physics, University of Adelaide. M.T. thanks Oliver Schnetz for stimulating discussions and the DFG for financial support under grant TH 842/1-1.

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