

Exactly Solvable 1+1d Chiral Lattice Gauge Theories

Sahand Seifnashri

Institute for Advanced Study

New Developments in Lattice Fermions, Syracuse

August 12, 2026

Based on [arXiv:2601.14359] and
to appear with **Yichul Choi, Nathan Seiberg, and Wucheng Zhang**

Lattice formulation of the Standard Model

Lattice formulation of the Standard Model

It is hard to put *chiral fermions* on the lattice due to

1. The Nielsen-Ninomiya theorem
2. Anomalies of chiral fermions

These obstacles make it hard, but not impossible, to find a lattice regularization of the Standard Model!

- ▶ The Standard Model is anomaly-free
- ▶ The goal is anomaly-free chiral lattice gauge theories
[..., Wang-Wen 13, Kaplan-Sen 23, Butt-Catterall-Hasenfratz 24, ...]
- ▶ We address this in **1+1d** for **abelian** gauge theories
See also [Berkowitz-Cherman-Jacobson 23, Thorngren-Preskill-Fidkowski 26]

What is a **chiral** gauge theory?

What is a **chiral** gauge theory?

- ▶ In a **chiral** gauge theory, the left-moving and right-moving fermions transform differently under the gauge group

What is a **chiral** gauge theory?

- ▶ In a **chiral** gauge theory, the left-moving and right-moving fermions transform differently under the gauge group
- ▶ The Lagrangian breaks reflection symmetry and is **chiral**

What is a **chiral** gauge theory?

- ▶ In a **chiral** gauge theory, the left-moving and right-moving fermions transform differently under the gauge group
- ▶ The Lagrangian breaks reflection symmetry and is **chiral**
- ▶ Lattice regularization requires the realization of exact **chiral symmetries** of individual chiral fermions on the lattice

What is a **chiral** gauge theory?

- ▶ In a **chiral** gauge theory, the left-moving and right-moving fermions transform differently under the gauge group
- ▶ The Lagrangian breaks reflection symmetry and is **chiral**
- ▶ Lattice regularization requires the realization of exact **chiral symmetries** of individual chiral fermions on the lattice
- ▶ The IR theory may have emergent parity symmetry

What is a **chiral** gauge theory?

- ▶ In a **chiral** gauge theory, the left-moving and right-moving fermions transform differently under the gauge group
- ▶ The Lagrangian breaks reflection symmetry and is **chiral**
- ▶ Lattice regularization requires the realization of exact **chiral symmetries** of individual chiral fermions on the lattice
- ▶ The IR theory may have emergent parity symmetry
- ▶ The UV theory may have a hidden parity symmetry and be non-chiral!

Evading the Nielsen-Ninomiya no-go theorem

There is no discretization of the Dirac operator $D(p)$, such that

- **Locality:** $D(p)$ is a continuous and periodic function of p
- **Free fermions:** $D(p) \sim \gamma_\mu p^\mu$ for $|p| \ll 1/a$
- **No doublers:** $D(p)$ has poles only at $p = 0$
- **Exact chiral symmetry:** $\{\Gamma, D(p)\} = 0$

Evading the Nielsen-Ninomiya no-go theorem

There is no discretization of the Dirac operator $D(p)$, such that

- **Locality:** $D(p)$ is a continuous and periodic function of p
- **Free fermions:** $D(p) \sim \gamma_\mu p^\mu$ for $|p| \ll 1/a$
- **No doublers:** $D(p)$ has poles only at $p = 0$
- **Exact chiral symmetry:** $\{\Gamma, D(p)\} = 0$

Our strategy is to use duality/bosonization instead of directly discretizing the Dirac operators on the lattice: [Neuzil's talk]

1. Realizing **exact** anomalous chiral symmetries on the lattice
Modified Villain: [Gross-Klebanov 90, Sulejmanpasic-Gattringer 19, Gorantla-Lam-Seiberg-Shao 21, Cheng-Seiberg 22, Fazza-Sulejmanpasic 22, Xu-Chen 24, Fidkowski-Xu-Zhang 25]
2. Gauging anomaly-free combination of chiral symmetries
[SS 2023]

Goal: 1+1d anomaly-free U(1) gauge theories

- I. Realizing N free Dirac fermions and their $U(1)_L^N \times U(1)_R^N$ chiral symmetry on the lattice

$$\psi_L^{(1)}, \psi_L^{(2)}, \dots, \psi_L^{(N)} \quad , \quad \psi_R^{(1)}, \psi_R^{(2)}, \dots, \psi_R^{(N)}$$

Goal: 1+1d anomaly-free U(1) gauge theories

- I. Realizing N free Dirac fermions and their $U(1)_L^N \times U(1)_R^N$ chiral symmetry on the lattice

$$\psi_L^{(1)}, \psi_L^{(2)}, \dots, \psi_L^{(N)} \quad , \quad \psi_R^{(1)}, \psi_R^{(2)}, \dots, \psi_R^{(N)}$$

- II. Gauge an anomaly-free U(1) symmetry where the left-moving and right-moving fermions have integer charges

$$n_L^{(1)}, n_L^{(2)}, \dots, n_L^{(N)} \quad , \quad n_R^{(1)}, n_R^{(2)}, \dots, n_R^{(N)}$$

Goal: 1+1d anomaly-free U(1) gauge theories

- I. Realizing N free Dirac fermions and their $U(1)_L^N \times U(1)_R^N$ chiral symmetry on the lattice

$$\psi_L^{(1)}, \psi_L^{(2)}, \dots, \psi_L^{(N)} \quad , \quad \psi_R^{(1)}, \psi_R^{(2)}, \dots, \psi_R^{(N)}$$

- II. Gauge an anomaly-free U(1) symmetry where the left-moving and right-moving fermions have integer charges

$$n_L^{(1)}, n_L^{(2)}, \dots, n_L^{(N)} \quad , \quad n_R^{(1)}, n_R^{(2)}, \dots, n_R^{(N)}$$

- ▶ No gravitational anomaly: $c_L = c_R = N$
- ▶ No gauge anomaly if:

$$\sum_{l=1}^N (n_L^{(l)})^2 = \sum_{l=1}^N (n_R^{(l)})^2$$

Goal: 1+1d anomaly-free U(1) gauge theories

- I. Realizing N free Dirac fermions and their $U(1)_L^N \times U(1)_R^N$ chiral symmetry on the lattice

$$\psi_L^{(1)}, \psi_L^{(2)}, \dots, \psi_L^{(N)} \quad , \quad \psi_R^{(1)}, \psi_R^{(2)}, \dots, \psi_R^{(N)}$$

- II. Gauge an anomaly-free U(1) symmetry where the left-moving and right-moving fermions have integer charges

$$n_L^{(1)}, n_L^{(2)}, \dots, n_L^{(N)} \quad , \quad n_R^{(1)}, n_R^{(2)}, \dots, n_R^{(N)}$$

- ▶ No gravitational anomaly: $c_L = c_R = N$
- ▶ No gauge anomaly if:

$$\sum_{l=1}^N (n_L^{(l)})^2 = \sum_{l=1}^N (n_R^{(l)})^2$$

- ▶ One popular option is the “34-50” model: $3^2 + 4^2 = 5^2 + 0^2$

Outline

1. Introduction
2. The continuum theory
3. Modified Villain formulation of compact boson CFT
4. Lattice gauge theories
 - I. The Schwinger model
 - II. The “34-50” model

1. Introduction

2. The continuum theory

3. Modified Villain formulation of compact boson CFT

4. Lattice gauge theories

I. The Schwinger model

II. The “34-50” model

Bosonization: Dirac fermion $\Leftrightarrow$ compact boson

A Dirac fermion in 1+1d is related by bosonization to the compact boson theory at radius $R = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Dirac}} = i\psi_L^\dagger \partial_- \psi_L + i\psi_R^\dagger \partial_+ \psi_R \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{L}_{\text{boson}} = \frac{1}{8\pi} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi$$

where $\varphi \sim \varphi + 2\pi$. The compact boson theory has $U(1)_m \times U(1)_w$ symmetry, which is related to chiral symmetries of fermions as

$$Q_L = Q_m + \frac{1}{2} Q_w \quad Q_R = Q_m - \frac{1}{2} Q_w$$

Bosonization: Dirac fermion $\Leftrightarrow$ compact boson

A Dirac fermion in 1+1d is related by bosonization to the compact boson theory at radius $R = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Dirac}} = i\psi_L^\dagger \partial_- \psi_L + i\psi_R^\dagger \partial_+ \psi_R \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{L}_{\text{boson}} = \frac{1}{8\pi} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi$$

where $\varphi \sim \varphi + 2\pi$. The compact boson theory has $U(1)_m \times U(1)_w$ symmetry, which is related to chiral symmetries of fermions as

$$Q_L = Q_m + \frac{1}{2} Q_w \quad Q_R = Q_m - \frac{1}{2} Q_w$$

► In the “34-50” model, the anomaly-free conserved charge is:

$$Q = 3Q_L^{(1)} + 4Q_L^{(2)} + 5Q_R^{(1)} = 8Q_m^{(1)} + 4Q_m^{(2)} - Q_w^{(1)} + 2Q_w^{(2)}$$

N compact bosons

Consider N compact bosons $\varphi^{(I)} \sim \varphi^{(I)} + 2\pi$ (for $I = 1, 2, \dots, N$) with moduli $E = G + B$:

$$S = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \left(G_{IJ} d\varphi^{(I)} \wedge \star d\varphi^{(J)} + B_{IJ} d\varphi^{(I)} \wedge d\varphi^{(J)} \right)$$

The **momentum** and **winding** currents

$$J_m^{(I)} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(G_{IJ} \star d\varphi^{(J)} + B_{IJ} d\varphi^{(J)} \right) , \quad J_w^{(I)} = \frac{1}{2\pi} d\varphi^{(I)}$$

generate the global chiral symmetry $U(1)_m^N \times U(1)_w^N$

N compact bosons

Consider N compact bosons $\varphi^{(I)} \sim \varphi^{(I)} + 2\pi$ (for $I = 1, 2, \dots, N$) with moduli $E = G + B$:

$$S = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \left(G_{IJ} d\varphi^{(I)} \wedge \star d\varphi^{(J)} + B_{IJ} d\varphi^{(I)} \wedge d\varphi^{(J)} \right)$$

The **momentum** and **winding** currents

$$J_m^{(I)} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(G_{IJ} \star d\varphi^{(J)} + B_{IJ} d\varphi^{(J)} \right) , \quad J_w^{(I)} = \frac{1}{2\pi} d\varphi^{(I)}$$

generate the global chiral symmetry $U(1)_m^N \times U(1)_w^N$

- There is a mixed 't Hooft anomaly between momentum and winding symmetries

$$\alpha_{\text{anomaly}} = -\frac{i}{2\pi} \sum_{I=1}^N \int A_w^{(I)} \wedge dA_m^{(I)}$$

Anomaly cancellation: N compact bosons

$$\alpha[A_m^{(I)}, A_w^{(J)}] = -\frac{i}{2\pi} \sum_{I=1}^N \int A_w^{(I)} \wedge dA_m^{(I)}$$

For the $U(1)$ symmetry generated by the conserved charge

$$Q = \sum_{I=1}^N \left(n_m^{(I)} Q_m^{(I)} + n_w^{(I)} Q_w^{(I)} \right)$$

the anomaly is given by setting $A_m^{(I)} = n_m^{(I)} A$ and $A_w^{(I)} = n_w^{(I)} A$:

$$\alpha[A] = - \left(\sum_{I=1}^N n_m^{(I)} n_w^{(I)} \right) \int \frac{2}{4\pi} A dA$$

Anomaly cancellation: $\vec{n}_m \cdot \vec{n}_w = 0$

T-duality

A single compact boson at radius R is equivalent to one at $\tilde{R} = 1/R$, and T-duality exchanges momentum and winding:

$$J_m = \frac{R^2}{2\pi} \star d\varphi = \frac{1}{2\pi} d\tilde{\varphi} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad J_w = \frac{1}{2\pi} d\varphi = \frac{\tilde{R}^2}{2\pi} \star d\tilde{\varphi}$$

T-duality

A single compact boson at radius R is equivalent to one at $\tilde{R} = 1/R$, and T-duality **exchanges momentum and winding**:

$$J_m = \frac{R^2}{2\pi} \star d\varphi = \frac{1}{2\pi} d\tilde{\varphi} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad J_w = \frac{1}{2\pi} d\varphi = \frac{\tilde{R}^2}{2\pi} \star d\tilde{\varphi}$$

For N compact bosons, the T-duality group is $O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$, generated by

1. T-dualities of individual bosons
2. $GL(N, \mathbb{Z})$ basis changes of the fields $\varphi^{(I)}$
3. Integer shifts of B_{IJ}

T-duality

A single compact boson at radius R is equivalent to one at $\tilde{R} = 1/R$, and T-duality **exchanges momentum and winding**:

$$J_m = \frac{R^2}{2\pi} \star d\varphi = \frac{1}{2\pi} d\tilde{\varphi} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad J_w = \frac{1}{2\pi} d\varphi = \frac{\tilde{R}^2}{2\pi} \star d\tilde{\varphi}$$

For N compact bosons, the T-duality group is $O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$, generated by

1. T-dualities of individual bosons
2. $GL(N, \mathbb{Z})$ basis changes of the fields $\varphi^{(I)}$
3. Integer shifts of B_{IJ}

which acts on the momentum/winding charges as:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \vec{n}_m \\ \vec{n}_w \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \mathcal{O} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{n}_m \\ \vec{n}_w \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{O} \in O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$$

Solving the gauge theory via T-duality

Strategy: use $\mathcal{O} \in O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$ to rotate the vector of charges $(\vec{n}_m, \vec{n}_w)$ so that **only the winding of the first boson is gauged**:

$$\mathcal{O} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{n}_m \\ \vec{n}_w \end{pmatrix} = n \begin{pmatrix} \vec{0} \\ \vec{e}_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad n = \gcd(\vec{n}_m, \vec{n}_w)$$

Solving the gauge theory via T-duality

Strategy: use $\mathcal{O} \in O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$ to rotate the vector of charges $(\vec{n}_m, \vec{n}_w)$ so that **only the winding of the first boson is gauged**:

$$\mathcal{O} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{n}_m \\ \vec{n}_w \end{pmatrix} = n \begin{pmatrix} \vec{0} \\ \vec{e}_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad n = \gcd(\vec{n}_m, \vec{n}_w)$$

In this frame, the gauged charge is **non-chiral** (winding of $\varphi^{(1)}$).
The chirality is hidden in the moduli of the remaining bosons:

$$S = \int \frac{1}{2e^2} da \wedge \star da + \frac{G'_{IJ}}{4\pi} d\varphi^{(I)} \wedge \star d\varphi^{(J)} + \frac{B'_{IJ}}{4\pi} d\varphi^{(I)} \wedge d\varphi^{(J)} + \frac{n}{2\pi} \varphi^{(1)} da$$

Solving the gauge theory via T-duality

Strategy: use $\mathcal{O} \in O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$ to rotate the vector of charges $(\vec{n}_m, \vec{n}_w)$ so that **only the winding of the first boson is gauged**:

$$\mathcal{O} \begin{pmatrix} \vec{n}_m \\ \vec{n}_w \end{pmatrix} = n \begin{pmatrix} \vec{0} \\ \vec{e}_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad n = \gcd(\vec{n}_m, \vec{n}_w)$$

In this frame, the gauged charge is **non-chiral** (winding of $\varphi^{(1)}$).
The chirality is hidden in the moduli of the remaining bosons:

$$S = \int \frac{1}{2e^2} da \wedge \star da + \frac{G'_{IJ}}{4\pi} d\varphi^{(I)} \wedge \star d\varphi^{(J)} + \frac{B'_{IJ}}{4\pi} d\varphi^{(I)} \wedge d\varphi^{(J)} + \frac{n}{2\pi} \varphi^{(1)} da$$

- ▶ This theory can be solved exactly by integrating out the gauge field 'a', which makes $\varphi^{(1)}$ noncompact and massive
- ▶ The theory factorizes as: **a non-compact boson** $\otimes (N-1)$ **compact bosons** $\otimes$ **a $\mathbb{Z}_n$ gauge theory**

1. Introduction

2. The continuum theory

3. Modified Villain formulation of compact boson CFT

4. Lattice gauge theories

I. The Schwinger model

II. The “34-50” model

Modified Villain model: $\mathcal{L} = \frac{R^2}{4\pi}((\partial_0\varphi)^2 + (\partial_1\varphi)^2)$

The idea is to start from the non-compact boson theory

$$H = \sum_{j=1}^L \left(\frac{1}{2} p_j^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j)^2 \right) \quad \text{where: } [\phi_j, p_{j'}] = i\delta_{j,j'}$$

and **gauge** the shift symmetry $\phi_j \mapsto \phi_j + 2\pi R\mathbb{Z}$

Modified Villain model: $\mathcal{L} = \frac{R^2}{4\pi}((\partial_0\varphi)^2 + (\partial_1\varphi)^2)$

The idea is to start from the non-compact boson theory

$$H = \sum_{j=1}^L \left(\frac{1}{2} p_j^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j)^2 \right) \quad \text{where: } [\phi_j, p_{j'}] = i\delta_{j,j'}$$

and **gauge** the shift symmetry $\phi_j \mapsto \phi_j + 2\pi R\mathbb{Z}$ to find

$$H_{\text{mV}} = \sum_{j=1}^L \left[\frac{1}{2R^2} p_j^2 + \frac{R^2}{2} \left(\frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j}{2\pi} + \tilde{p}_{j,j+1} \right)^2 \right]$$

where $\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}$ are integer-valued gauge fields. They satisfy $[\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}, \tilde{p}_{j',j'+1}] = i\delta_{j,j'}$ and Gauss's law constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} e^{2\pi i p_j - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j})} &= 1 : & \phi_j &\sim \phi_j + 2\pi n_j \\ \tilde{p}_{j,j+1} &\sim \tilde{p}_{j,j+1} + n_j - n_{j+1} \\ e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} &= 1 : & \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} &\sim \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} + 2\pi m_{j,j+1} \end{aligned}$$

The chiral global symmetries of H_{mV}

$$Q_{\text{m}} = \sum_{j=1}^L p_j , \quad Q_{\text{w}} = \sum_{j=1}^L \left(\tilde{p}_{j,j+1} + \frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j}{2\pi} \right)$$

The momentum/winding charges are manifestly gauge invariant.

They are also quantized because of the gauge constraints:

$$e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} = 1 \text{ and } e^{2\pi i p_j - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j})} = 1$$

The chiral global symmetries of H_{mV}

$$Q_m = \sum_{j=1}^L p_j, \quad Q_w = \sum_{j=1}^L \left(\tilde{p}_{j,j+1} + \frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j}{2\pi} \right)$$

The momentum/winding charges are manifestly gauge invariant.

They are also quantized because of the gauge constraints:

$$e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} = 1 \text{ and } e^{2\pi i p_j - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j})} = 1$$

- The anomaly can be seen from the **Schwinger term**:

$$\left[p_j, \left(\tilde{p}_{j',j'+1} + \frac{\phi_{j'+1} - \phi_{j'}}{2\pi} \right) \right] = \frac{i}{2\pi} (\delta_{j,j'} - \delta_{j,j'+1})$$

which is a discretization of $[J_m^0(t, x), J_w^0(t, y)] = \frac{i}{2\pi} \partial_x \delta(x - y)$

The chiral global symmetries of H_{mV}

$$Q_m = \sum_{j=1}^L p_j, \quad Q_w = \sum_{j=1}^L \left(\tilde{p}_{j,j+1} + \frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j}{2\pi} \right)$$

The momentum/winding charges are manifestly gauge invariant.

They are also quantized because of the gauge constraints:

$$e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} = 1 \text{ and } e^{2\pi i p_j - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j})} = 1$$

- The anomaly can be seen from the **Schwinger term**:

$$\left[p_j, \left(\tilde{p}_{j',j'+1} + \frac{\phi_{j'+1} - \phi_{j'}}{2\pi} \right) \right] = \frac{i}{2\pi} (\delta_{j,j'} - \delta_{j,j'+1})$$

which is a discretization of $[J_m^0(t, x), J_w^0(t, y)] = \frac{i}{2\pi} \partial_x \delta(x - y)$

- Different from the chiral anomaly in [Chatterjee-Pace-Shao 24, Catterall-Pradhan-Samlodia 25, Lew-Smith-Pace-Shao 26]

T-duality of H_{mV}

The modified Villain Hamiltonian realizes an exact T-duality

$$\mathcal{T} : \quad \begin{aligned} \phi_j &\mapsto \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} , & p_j &\mapsto \tilde{p}_{j,j+1} + \frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j}{2\pi} \\ \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} &\mapsto \phi_{j+1} , & \tilde{p}_{j,j+1} &\mapsto p_{j+1} - \frac{\tilde{\phi}_{j+1,j+2} - \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}}{2\pi} \end{aligned}$$

It implements T-duality and is gauge invariant since

$$\mathcal{T} : \quad \begin{aligned} H_{\text{mV}}(R) &\mapsto H_{\text{mV}}(R^{-1}) \\ e^{2\pi i p_j - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j})} &\mapsto e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} \mapsto e^{2\pi i p_{j+1} - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j+1,j+2} - \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1})} \end{aligned}$$

T-duality of H_{mV}

The modified Villain Hamiltonian realizes an exact T-duality

$$\mathcal{T} : \quad \begin{aligned} \phi_j &\mapsto \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} , & p_j &\mapsto \tilde{p}_{j,j+1} + \frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j}{2\pi} \\ \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} &\mapsto \phi_{j+1} , & \tilde{p}_{j,j+1} &\mapsto p_{j+1} - \frac{\tilde{\phi}_{j+1,j+2} - \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}}{2\pi} \end{aligned}$$

It implements T-duality and is gauge invariant since

$$\mathcal{T} : \quad \begin{aligned} H_{\text{mV}}(R) &\mapsto H_{\text{mV}}(R^{-1}) \\ e^{2\pi i p_j - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j})} &\mapsto e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} \mapsto e^{2\pi i p_{j+1} - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j+1,j+2} - \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1})} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ $\mathcal{T}$ exchanges the momentum and winding charges as expected:
 $\mathcal{T} Q_{\text{m}} \mathcal{T}^{-1} = Q_{\text{w}}$ and $\mathcal{T} Q_{\text{w}} \mathcal{T}^{-1} = Q_{\text{m}}$
- ▶ $\mathcal{T}$ acts as a half-translation since $\mathcal{T}^2 = T_{\text{translation}}$

1. Introduction
2. The continuum theory
3. Modified Villain formulation of compact boson CFT
4. Lattice gauge theories
 - I. The Schwinger model
 - II. The “34-50” model

Constructing chiral lattice gauge theories

We start with N flavors of the modified Villain theory

$$H_{\text{mV}} = \sum_{l=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^L \left[\frac{1}{2R^2} \left(p_j^{(l)} \right)^2 + \frac{R^2}{2} \left(\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(l)} + \frac{\phi_{j+1}^{(l)} - \phi_j^{(l)}}{2\pi} \right)^2 \right]$$

with constraints $e^{2\pi i p_j^{(l)} - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(l)} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(l)})} = 1$ and $e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(l)}} = 1$

- Consider an anomaly-free U(1) chiral symmetry associated with the conserved charge

$$Q = \sum_{l=1}^N (n_{\text{m}}^{(l)} Q_{\text{m}}^{(l)} + n_{\text{w}}^{(l)} Q_{\text{w}}^{(l)}) , \quad \text{where: } \sum_{l=1}^N n_{\text{m}}^{(l)} n_{\text{w}}^{(l)} = 0$$

- Gauge this symmetry following [\[SS 2023\]](#)

Gauging $U(1)_Q$

- I. We couple the theory to background $U(1)$ gauge fields $a_j \sim a_j + 2\pi$. This amounts to modifying Gauss's laws to

$$e^{2\pi i p_j^{(I)} - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(I)} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(I)})} = e^{i n_w^{(I)} a_j}, \quad e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j-1,j}^{(I)}} = e^{i n_m^{(I)} a_j}$$

- II. Making the gauge fields dynamical. We add conjugate variables (the electric field) E_j , where $[a_j, E_{j'}] = i\delta_{j,j'}$ and impose Gauss's law constraints

$$\sum_{l=1}^N \left(n_m^{(l)} q_j^{(l)} + n_w^{(l)} q_{j,j+1}^{(l)} \right) = E_j - E_{j+1}, \quad e^{2\pi i E_j} = 1$$

- III. Add a kinetic term for the gauge fields to the Hamiltonian

$$\frac{e^2}{2} \sum_{j=1}^L \left(E_j + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} - \sum_{l=1}^N \frac{n_w^{(l)} \phi_j^{(l)} + n_m^{(l)} \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(l)}}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

$N=1$ case: the “massless” Schwinger model

$$H_{\text{Schwinger}} = \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{e^2 a}{2} \left(E_j + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} - \frac{\phi_j}{2\pi} \right)^2 + \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{2\pi}{a} p_j^2 \\ + \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{2\pi}{4a} \left(\tilde{p}_{j,j+1} + \frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

with constraints

$$e^{2\pi i p_j - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j})} = e^{ia_j} , \quad e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} = 1 \\ \tilde{p}_{j,j+1} + E_{j+1} - E_j = 0 , \quad e^{2\pi i E_j} = 1$$

$N=1$ case: the “massless” Schwinger model

$$H_{\text{Schwinger}} = \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{e^2 a}{2} \left(\cancel{E_j} + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} - \frac{\phi_j}{2\pi} \right)^2 + \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{2\pi}{a} p_j^2$$

$$+ \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{2\pi}{4a} \left(\cancel{\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} + \frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

with constraints

$$\cancel{e^{2\pi i p_j - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j})}} = e^{ia_j}, \quad e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} = e^{2\pi i (E_{j+1} - E_j)}$$

$$\tilde{p}_{j,j+1} + \cancel{E_{j+1} - E_j} = 0, \quad e^{2\pi i E_j} = 1$$

- We apply the unitary transformation $e^{2\pi i \sum_{j=1}^L E_j q_j}$

$N=1$ case: the “massless” Schwinger model

$$H_{\text{Schwinger}} = \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{e^2 a}{2} \left(\cancel{E_j} + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} - \frac{\phi_j}{2\pi} \right)^2 + \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{2\pi}{a} p_j^2$$

$$+ \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{2\pi}{4a} \left(\cancel{\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} + \frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

with constraints

$$\cancel{e^{2\pi i p_j - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j})}} = e^{ia_j} , \quad e^{2\pi i \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}} = e^{2\pi i (E_{j+1} - E_j)}$$

$$\tilde{p}_{j,j+1} + \cancel{E_{j+1} - E_j} = 0 , \quad e^{2\pi i E_j} = 1$$

- We apply the unitary transformation $e^{2\pi i \sum_{j=1}^L E_j q_j}$ to get

$$H_{\text{Schwinger}} = \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{e^2 a}{8\pi^2} \phi_j^2 + \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{2\pi}{a} p_j^2 + \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{2\pi}{4a} \left(\frac{\phi_{j+1} - \phi_j}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

which describes a non-compact boson of mass $M = \frac{e}{\sqrt{\pi}}$

The “34-50”/(8,4,-1,2) model

$$H_{8,4,-1,2} = \frac{e^2 a}{2} \sum_{j=1}^L \left(E_j + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} - \frac{8\tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(1)} + 4\tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(2)} - \phi_j^{(1)} + 2\phi_j^{(2)}}{2\pi} \right)^2 \\ + \frac{2\pi}{a} \sum_{j=1}^L \sum_{l=1}^2 \left(\left(p_j^{(l)} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{4} \left(\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(l)} + \frac{\phi_{j+1}^{(l)} - \phi_j^{(l)}}{2\pi} \right)^2 \right)$$

with constraints

$$e^{2\pi i q_j^{(1)}} = e^{-ia_j} ,$$

$$e^{2\pi i q_{j-1,j}^{(1)}} = e^{8ia_j}$$

$$e^{2\pi i q_j^{(2)}} = e^{2ia_j} ,$$

$$e^{2\pi i q_{j-1,j}^{(2)}} = e^{4ia_j}$$

$$e^{2\pi i E_j} = 1 , \quad 8q_j^{(1)} + 4q_j^{(2)} - q_{j,j+1}^{(1)} + 2q_{j,j+1}^{(2)} = E_j - E_{j+1}$$

The “34-50”/(8,4,-1,2) model

$$H_{8,4,-1,2} = \frac{e^2 a}{2} \sum_{j=1}^L \left(E_j + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} - \frac{8\tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(1)} + 4\tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(2)} - \phi_j^{(1)} + 2\phi_j^{(2)}}{2\pi} \right)^2 \\ + \frac{2\pi}{a} \sum_{j=1}^L \sum_{l=1}^2 \left(\left(p_j^{(l)} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{4} \left(\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(l)} + \frac{\phi_{j+1}^{(l)} - \phi_j^{(l)}}{2\pi} \right)^2 \right)$$

with constraints

$$e^{2\pi i q_j^{(1)}} = e^{-ia_j} ,$$

$$e^{2\pi i q_{j-1,j}^{(1)}} = e^{8ia_j}$$

$$e^{2\pi i q_j^{(2)}} = e^{2ia_j} ,$$

$$e^{2\pi i q_{j-1,j}^{(2)}} = e^{4ia_j}$$

$$e^{2\pi i E_j} = 1 , \quad 8q_j^{(1)} + 4q_j^{(2)} - q_{j,j+1}^{(1)} + 2q_{j,j+1}^{(2)} = E_j - E_{j+1}$$

► To solve this, we perform a T-duality transformation $\mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{M}}$

The fermionic 34-50 model

The Hilbert space consists of two bosons $\phi_j^{(1)}, \phi_j^{(2)}$ and two Majorana fermions $\psi_j, \tilde{\psi}_j$ per site and one boson $\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(2)}$ per link:

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{3450} = & \frac{e^2}{8\pi^2} \sum_{j=1}^L \left(\phi_j^{(1)} \right)^2 + \sum_{j=1}^L \left(\left(p_j^{(1)} \right)^2 + \left(-p_j^{(2)} + 2p_j^{(1)} \right)^2 \right) \\
 & + \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{1}{4} \left(-2 \frac{(D\phi^{(2)})_{j,j+1}}{2\pi} - 4p_j^{(2)} + 8p_{j+1}^{(1)} - \frac{(d\phi^{(1)})_{j,j+1}}{2\pi} \right)^2 \\
 & + \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{1}{4} \left(-\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(2)} - \frac{\phi_{j+1}^{(2)} - \phi_j^{(2)}}{2\pi} + 4p_{j+1}^{(1)} \right)^2
 \end{aligned}$$

with Gauss's law constraints

$$e^{2\pi i p_j^{(2)} - i(\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(2)} - \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(2)})} = i\tilde{\psi}_j \psi_j, \quad i\psi_j e^{i\pi \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(2)}} \tilde{\psi}_{j+1} = 1$$

The solution

The modified Villain theory has an exact $O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$ T-duality.

Using this, we solve the “34-50” model and determine its spectrum:

a massless Dirac fermion + a Schwinger boson of mass

$$M = 5e/\sqrt{\pi} \text{ [Choi-Seiberg-SS-Zhang]}$$

The solution

The modified Villain theory has an exact $O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$ T-duality.
Using this, we solve the “34-50” model and determine its spectrum:

a massless Dirac fermion + a Schwinger boson of mass

$$M = 5e/\sqrt{\pi} \text{ [Choi-Seiberg-SS-Zhang]}$$

- The “34-50” model has a hidden reflection symmetry that is not manifest in the fermionic d.o.f. It is actually non-chiral!

The solution

The modified Villain theory has an exact $O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$ T-duality.
Using this, we solve the “34-50” model and determine its spectrum:

a massless Dirac fermion + a Schwinger boson of mass

$$M = 5e/\sqrt{\pi} \text{ [Choi-Seiberg-SS-Zhang]}$$

- ▶ The “34-50” model has a hidden reflection symmetry that is not manifest in the fermionic d.o.f. It is actually non-chiral!
- ▶ To get a chiral gauge theory, we need $N \geq 3$ Dirac fermions

The solution

The modified Villain theory has an exact $O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$ T-duality.
Using this, we solve the “34-50” model and determine its spectrum:

a massless Dirac fermion + a Schwinger boson of mass

$$M = 5e/\sqrt{\pi} \text{ [Choi-Seiberg-SS-Zhang]}$$

- ▶ The “34-50” model has a hidden reflection symmetry that is not manifest in the fermionic d.o.f. It is actually non-chiral!
- ▶ To get a chiral gauge theory, we need $N \geq 3$ Dirac fermions
- ▶ We can break the exact solvability by adding mass terms for the fermions (e.g., two-flavor massive Schwinger model
[Cuomo-Dempsey-Katsevich-Klebanov-Kochergin-Pufu-Søgaard '26])

Summary & Outlook

- ▶ **1+1d**: Constructed exactly solvable chiral lattice $U(1)$ gauge theories via gauging anomaly-free combinations of chiral symmetries
- ▶ Modified Villain model realizes all the moduli of N compact bosons and their full $O(N, N; \mathbb{Z})$ T-duality on the lattice
- ▶ **3+1d**: There is a lattice realization of exact $U(1)_V \times U(1)_A$ chiral symmetry and its anomaly [Thorngren, Preskill, Fidkowski 26] in a concrete lattice Hamiltonian of bosons [Lu, SS, Shao 26]
 - Generalization to **non-abelian** gauge groups such as $SU(N)$?
 - Chiral symmetry in 3+1d with $U(1)$ -**grav-grav** anomaly?

Thank You!

Alternative presentation of the gauge theory

Applying the transformation $e^{-i \sum_{l,j} (\frac{n_w^{(l)}}{2\pi} \phi_j^{(l)} + \frac{n_m^{(l)}}{2\pi} \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(l)}) a_j}$, the gauged Hamiltonian becomes

$$H_{\text{gauged}} = \frac{e^2}{2} \sum_{j=1}^L \left(E_j + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \right)^2 + \sum_{l=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{1}{2R^2} \left(p_j^{(l)} + \frac{n_w^{(l)}}{2\pi} a_j \right)^2 \\ + \sum_{l=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^L \frac{R^2}{2} \left(\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(l)} + \frac{n_m^{(l)}}{2\pi} a_{j+1} + \frac{\phi_{j+1}^{(l)} - \phi_j^{(l)}}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

Gauss's law for U(1) gauging and the quantization of the electric fields change to

$$\sum_{l=1}^N \left(n_m^{(l)} p_j^{(l)} + n_w^{(l)} \left(\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(l)} + \frac{\phi_{j+1}^{(l)} - \phi_j^{(l)}}{2\pi} \right) \right) = E_j - E_{j+1} \\ e^{2\pi i E_j} = \exp \left\{ -i \sum_{l=1}^N \frac{n_w^{(l)}}{2\pi} \phi_j^{(l)} + \frac{n_m^{(l)}}{2\pi} \tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(l)} \right\}$$

Solving the (8,4,-1,2) model using T-duality

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 & 8 & 4 \\ 0 & -1 & -4 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} : \begin{pmatrix} 8 \\ 4 \\ -1 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{M}} Q \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{M}}^{-1} = Q_w^{(1)}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T}_{\mathcal{M}} : \quad & \phi_j^{(1)} \mapsto -\phi_j^{(1)} - 2\phi_j^{(2)} - 4\tilde{\phi}_{j-1,j}^{(2)} + 8\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(1)} \\ & \phi_j^{(2)} \mapsto -\phi_j^{(2)} + 4\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(1)} \\ & \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(1)} \mapsto -\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(1)} \\ & \tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(2)} \mapsto -\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(2)} + 2\tilde{\phi}_{j,j+1}^{(1)} \\ & p_j^{(1)} \mapsto -p_j^{(1)} \\ & p_j^{(2)} \mapsto -p_j^{(2)} + 2p_j^{(1)} \\ & \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(1)} \mapsto -\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(1)} - 2\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(2)} - 4q_j^{(2)} + 8q_{j+1}^{(1)} \\ & \tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(2)} \mapsto -\tilde{p}_{j,j+1}^{(2)} + 4q_{j+1}^{(1)} \end{aligned}$$