Lattice Field Theory

Discussed on 27.11 and 4.12.

1. Chiral condensate $\Sigma \equiv -\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle$ is an order parameter of chiral symmetry breaking. Clearly, non-zero chiral condensate breaks the axial symmetries of the full QCD (-like) action. In QCD, chiral condensate is broken at low temperatures, restored at high temperatures. The quark masses break the chiral symmetry explicitly, as happens with free fermions. Let us study this below.

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Consider one naive free fermion on the lattice. Show that

$$\Sigma \equiv -\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle = a^{-3} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{4am}{a^2m^2 + \sum_{\mu} \sin^2 k_{\mu}}$$

. .

and which has an expansion

$$\Sigma = c_1 m a^{-2} + m^3 [c_3 \ln(am) + c'_3] + O(a)$$

Hint: use directly the integral on p. 66 on the lecture notes. What are the coefficients c_1 and c_3 ?

This shows that the bare chiral condensate on the lattice is UV-divergent and has to be regulated, but for naive fermions it is proportional to m. For Wilson fermions, the leading divergence is c_0a^{-3} . What does this imply about the m-dependence?