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Revisiting symmetries of lattice fermions via spin-flavor representation

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Abstract

Employing the spin-flavor representation, we investigate the structures of the doubler-mixing symmetries and the mechanisms of their spontaneous breakdown in four types of lattice fermion formulation. We first revisit the $U(4) \times U(4)$ symmetries of the naive fermion with the vanishing bare mass m , and re-express them in terms of the spin-flavor representation. We apply the same method to the Wilson fermion, which possesses only the $U(1)$ vector symmetry for general values of m . For a special value of m , however, there emerges an additional $U(1)$ symmetry to be broken by pion condensation. We also explore two types of minimally doubled fermion, and discover a similar kind of symmetry enhancement and its spontaneous breakdown.

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1 Introduction

Lattice field theory is the most powerful theoretical framework for investigating non-perturbative aspects of gauge theories such as quantum chromodynamics (QCD). In this framework, while gauge fields are successfully incorporated without any obstacles [1], putting fermion fields on the lattice is not straight-forward: A naive fermion formulation gives rise to undesirable superfluous fermion modes, producing sixteen flavors rather than one. The essence of this problem is summarized in the form of Nielsen-Ninomiya's no-go theorem [2, 3], which states that a lattice fermion action with chiral symmetry, locality and other reasonable properties inevitably produces one or more pairs of particles with opposite chiralities in the continuum limit.

To overcome this doubling problem, various types of lattice fermion formulation have been proposed. Among them, the staggered fermion [4–6] and the Wilson fermion [1] are utilized frequently for QCD simulations. In the staggered fermion formulation, the number of flavors is reduced to four by the spin diagonalization method [7]. The staggered fermion action possesses the flavor-singlet vector and non-singlet axial-vector $U(1)$ symmetries, the latter of which is spontaneously broken. In addition, it has several discrete symmetries as well [8]. In the case of the Wilson fermion, on the other hand, doublers are eliminated by adding the Wilson term at the cost of the chiral symmetry: The term is not invariant under the chiral transformation even if the bare quark mass is set to zero, so that the additive mass renormalization is required to realize massless or very light quarks. At the same time, the Wilson term splits sixteen species doublers of the naive fermion into five branches composed of one, four, six, four, and one fermion modes. One of the notable features of the Wilson fermion is its complicated phase structure [9–12]: Parity symmetry is spontaneously broken by pion condensation, depending on the values of the quark mass and the gauge coupling constant.

As is seen in the above, the existence of fermion doublers on the lattice entails the symmetry structure different from that of continuum theory. Hence, it is important to understand the underlying symmetries in lattice field theory, not only for QCD simulations with these fermion formulations, but also for constructions of other lattice fermion formulations such as overlap [13, 14], domain-wall [15–17], staggered Wilson [18–21], staggered overlap [19, 20, 22, 23] and minimally doubled fermions [24–32]. Moreover fermion doublers could be used to economically simulate QCD-like theories with many flavors,¹ which might be relevant for the construction of techni-color theories.

In the case of the naive fermion, it is known that the kinetic term possesses $U(4) \times U(4)$ symmetries² and it is spontaneously broken into the diagonal $U(4)$ [7, 42]. In the case of the Wilson fermion, branches other than the physical one have been taken little heed of. Recently,

¹See, for example, refs. [33–39]

²For earlier discussion on the symmetry of the naive fermion, see also [40, 41].

it has been reported in the study of the Gross-Neveu model that the symmetry enhancement would take place at the central branch (the third branch) of Wilson-type fermions [18].

The aim of this paper is to shed light on the structures of underlying continuous symmetries and their spontaneous breakdown in four types of lattice fermions formulation: the naive fermion, the Wilson fermion and two kinds of minimally doubled fermion. For this purpose, we rewrite lattice fermion actions in “the spin-flavor representation” [43, 44], in which the spin and doubler-multiplet structures of the lattice fermions become manifest. We first re-express the $U(4) \times U(4)$ symmetry of the naive fermion in [7, 42] using the spin-flavor representation. We then apply the same method to the Wilson fermion action, which is invariant under only the ordinary $U(1)$ vector transformation for general values of the mass parameter m . We show, however, that an additional $U(1)$ vector symmetry is realized by tuning m and this symmetry is spontaneously broken by pion condensation. Finally, we explore the Karsten-Wilczek and the Boriçi-Creutz minimally doubled fermion and discover that a similar type of symmetry enhancement and its spontaneous breakdown occur.

This paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we revisit the symmetries of the naive lattice fermion via the spin-flavor representation. In section 3, we discuss the symmetries of the Wilson fermion with emphasis on the symmetry enhancement and its spontaneous breakdown. We also explore minimally doubled fermions in section 4. Section 5 is devoted to a summary and discussions. Some technical details are given in appendixes.

2 Naive fermion and Spin-flavor representation

In this section, we first review the $U(4) \times U(4)$ symmetries of the naive fermion [7, 42]. Then we introduce the spin-flavor representation, which simplifies the identification of symmetry in the case of the Wilson fermion and the minimally doubled fermions.

The action of the naive fermion is given by

$$S_{\text{nf}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n,\mu} (\bar{\psi}_n \gamma_\mu \psi_{n+\hat{\mu}} - \bar{\psi}_{n+\hat{\mu}} \gamma_\mu \psi_n) + m \sum_n \bar{\psi}_n \psi_n. \quad (1)$$

Throughout this paper, we consider the nondimensionalized action. As is discussed in [7, 42], the kinetic term of this action has larger symmetry than the action of the continuum theory:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_n &\rightarrow \psi'_n = \exp \left[i \sum_X \left(\theta_X^{(+)} \Gamma_X^{(+)} + \theta_X^{(-)} \Gamma_X^{(-)} \right) \right] \psi_n, \\ \bar{\psi}_n &\rightarrow \bar{\psi}'_n = \bar{\psi}_n \exp \left[i \sum_X \left(-\theta_X^{(+)} \Gamma_X^{(+)} + \theta_X^{(-)} \Gamma_X^{(-)} \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Here, $\Gamma_X^{(+)}$ and $\Gamma_X^{(-)}$ are site-dependent 4×4 matrices:

$$\Gamma_X^{(+)} \in \left\{ \mathbf{1}_4, (-1)^{n_1+\dots+n_4} \gamma_5, (-1)^{\tilde{n}_\mu} \gamma_\mu, (-1)^{n_\mu} i \gamma_\mu \gamma_5, (-1)^{n_{\mu,\nu}} \frac{i[\gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu]}{2} \right\}, \quad (3)$$

$$\Gamma_X^{(-)} \in \left\{ (-1)^{n_1+\dots+n_4} \mathbf{1}_4, \gamma_5, (-1)^{n_\mu} \gamma_\mu, (-1)^{\tilde{n}_\mu} i \gamma_\mu \gamma_5, (-1)^{\tilde{n}_{\mu,\nu}} \frac{i[\gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu]}{2} \right\}, \quad (4)$$

where $\tilde{n}_\mu = \sum_{\rho \neq \mu} n_\rho$, $n_{\mu,\nu} = n_\mu + n_\nu$ and $\tilde{n}_{\mu,\nu} = \sum_{\rho \neq \mu, \nu} n_\rho$. Although the kinetic term is invariant under the transformations with arbitrary complex $\theta_X^{(\pm)}$ s, the link reflection positivity constrains $\theta_X^{(\pm)}$ s to be real. In other words, only if $\theta_X^{(\pm)}$ s are real numbers, the transformations commute with the following anti-linear operation Θ :

$$\Theta[\psi_n] = \bar{\psi}_{n_i, -n_4+1} \gamma_4, \quad \Theta[\bar{\psi}_n] = \gamma_4 \psi_{n_i, -n_4+1}. \quad (5)$$

The symmetry group (2) is $U(4) \times U(4)^3$, which is broken by the chiral condensate or the mass term down to the diagonal $U(4)$ generated by $\Gamma_X^{(+)}$. Therefore, there appear sixteen Nambu-Goldstone bosons (NG bosons) when the symmetry is spontaneously broken. The existence of these sixteen NG bosons is explicitly verified from the strong coupling analysis [42, 45].

In order to understand the relation between the $U(4) \times U(4)$ symmetries and the sixteen doublers, it is useful to rephrase the above results using the spin-flavor representation [43, 44]. We use this representation also in the subsequent sections to clarify the symmetries of the Wilson and minimally doubled fermions.

Using the field χ_n defined by

$$\chi_n = \gamma_4^{n_4} \gamma_3^{n_3} \gamma_2^{n_2} \gamma_1^{n_1} \psi_n, \quad \bar{\chi}_n = \bar{\psi}_n \gamma_1^{n_1} \gamma_2^{n_2} \gamma_3^{n_3} \gamma_4^{n_4}, \quad (6)$$

we can represent the naive fermion action (1) as follows:

$$S_{\text{nf}} = \left[\sum_{n,\mu} \eta_\mu(n) \bar{\chi}_n \frac{\chi_{n+\hat{\mu}} - \chi_{n-\hat{\mu}}}{2} + m \sum_n \bar{\chi}_n \chi_n \right] \quad \text{with} \quad \eta_\mu(n) = (-1)^{\sum_{\nu < \mu} n_\nu}. \quad (7)$$

As in the case of the staggered fermion [43, 44], we define the field $\Psi(N)$ as⁴

$$\Psi(N)_{\alpha, f_1, f_2} = \sum_A \left(\frac{\gamma_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha, f_1} \chi_A(N)_{f_2}, \quad \bar{\Psi}(N)_{\alpha, f_1, f_2} = \sum_A \left(\frac{\bar{\gamma}_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha, f_1} \bar{\chi}_A(N)_{f_2}, \quad (8)$$

where $A_\mu = 0$ or 1 , $\chi_A(N) = \chi_{2N+A}$, $\gamma_A = \gamma_1^{A_1} \gamma_2^{A_2} \gamma_3^{A_3} \gamma_4^{A_4}$, and $\bar{\gamma}_A$ denotes the complex conjugate of γ_A . Note that we can identify the index α with a spinor index and the indices f_1, f_2 with flavor indices of sixteen doublers. The relation between the fields ψ and Ψ is given by

$$\Psi(N)_{\alpha, f_1, f_2} = \sum_A \left(\frac{\gamma_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha, f_1} (\bar{\gamma}_A)_{\beta, f_2} (\psi_{2N+A})_\beta, \quad (9)$$

³The so-called ‘‘doubling symmetry’’ [2] is a discrete subgroup of $U(4) \times U(4)$.

⁴The spin-flavor representation becomes more complicated in the presence of gauge fields. However, because the structure of global symmetry remains unchanged, we here consider the free theory for simplicity.

$$\bar{\Psi}(N)_{\alpha, f_1, f_2} = \sum_A \left(\frac{\bar{\gamma}^A}{2} \right)_{\alpha, f_1} (\gamma_A)_{\beta, f_2} (\bar{\psi}_{2N+A})_{\beta}. \quad (10)$$

In terms of $\Psi(N)$, the naive fermion action (1) can be written as

$$S_{\text{nf}} = \left[\frac{1}{2} \sum_{N, \mu} \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_{\mu} \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4) \nabla_{\mu} \Psi(N) + m \sum_N \bar{\Psi}(N) (\mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4) \Psi(N) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{N, \mu} \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_{\mu}^T \gamma_5^T \otimes \mathbf{1}_4) \nabla_{\mu}^2 \Psi(N) \right], \quad (11)$$

where

$$\bar{\Psi}(A \otimes B \otimes C) \Psi = \sum_{\alpha, \alpha', f_1, f'_1, f_2, f'_2} \bar{\Psi}_{\alpha, f_1, f_2}(A)_{\alpha\alpha'} (B)_{f_1 f'_1} (C)_{f_2 f'_2} \Psi_{\alpha', f'_1, f'_2}, \quad (12)$$

$$\nabla_{\mu} \Psi(N) = \frac{\Psi(N + \hat{\mu}) - \Psi(N - \hat{\mu})}{2}, \quad (13)$$

$$\nabla_{\mu}^2 \Psi(N) = \frac{\Psi(N + \hat{\mu}) - 2\Psi(N) + \Psi(N - \hat{\mu})}{2}, \quad (14)$$

and the superscript T denotes transposition. In (11), the third term breaks the vector and the axial-vector symmetries among sixteen doublers down to the $U(4) \times U(4)$ symmetries generated by $(\mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{u}(4))$ and $(\gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_5^T \otimes \mathbf{u}(4))$. Thus, the $U(4) \times U(4)$ symmetries are part of the vector and the axial-vector symmetries among doublers. The reformulated action (11) is quite similar to that of the staggered fermion [43, 44] except that eq. (11) has an additional tensor structure denoted by the index f_2 . This is manifestation of the well-known fact that the naive fermion is composed of four copies of staggered fermions. Although this additional tensor structure is trivial in the case of the naive fermion, it is nontrivial in the Wilson and minimally doubled fermions and is important when we discuss the symmetry of these fermions in the following sections.

3 Wilson fermion

In this section we discuss the symmetry and its breaking in the case of the Wilson fermion with emphasis on the effect of the Wilson term. As is well-known, the Wilson term splits sixteen doublers into five branches. Since numerical simulations almost exclusively use the “physical” branch, which contains only one massless fermion mode, the symmetry and the structure in other branches have not been fully investigated so far. Therefore, here we will clarify the continuous symmetries and their spontaneous breaking in all the branches. As a consequence, we will find an unexpected symmetry enhancement and its spontaneous breaking in the central branch.

3.1 Action and symmetries

The action for the Wilson fermion [1] is given by

$$S = S_{\text{nf}} + S_W \quad \text{with} \quad S_W = -\frac{r}{2} \sum_{n,\mu} \bar{\psi}_n (\psi_{n+\hat{\mu}} - 2\psi_n + \psi_{n-\hat{\mu}}) . \quad (15)$$

In terms of the spin-flavor representation, the Wilson term S_W is written as

$$\begin{aligned} S_W = & -\frac{r}{2} \sum_{N,\mu} \left[2\bar{\Psi}(N) (\mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \gamma_\mu^T \otimes \gamma_\mu) \Psi(N) + \bar{\Psi}(N) (\mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \gamma_\mu^T \otimes \gamma_\mu) \nabla_\mu^2 \Psi(N) \right. \\ & \left. + \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_5^T \otimes \gamma_\mu) \nabla_\mu \Psi(N) \right] + 4r \sum_N \bar{\Psi}(N) (\mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4) \Psi(N) . \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

The first three terms in (16) are invariant under the ordinary $U(1)$ vector transformation, $U(1)_V$, which is defined by

$$\Psi(N) \rightarrow \Psi'(N) = \exp [i\theta(\mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4)] \Psi(N) , \quad (17)$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(N) \rightarrow \bar{\Psi}'(N) = \bar{\Psi}(N) \exp [-i\theta(\mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4)] , \quad (18)$$

$$\psi_n \rightarrow \psi'_n = e^{i\theta} \psi_n , \quad \bar{\psi}_n \rightarrow \bar{\psi}'_n = e^{-i\theta} \bar{\psi}_n , \quad (19)$$

and the site-dependent $U(1)$ vector transformation, $U(1)_V^-$, defined by

$$\Psi(N) \rightarrow \Psi'(N) = \exp [i\theta(\gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_5^T \otimes \mathbf{1}_4)] \Psi(N) , \quad (20)$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(N) \rightarrow \bar{\Psi}'(N) = \bar{\Psi}(N) \exp [i\theta(\gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_5^T \otimes \mathbf{1}_4)] , \quad (21)$$

$$\psi_n \rightarrow \psi'_n = e^{i(-1)^{n_1+\dots+n_4}\theta} \psi_n , \quad \bar{\psi}_n \rightarrow \bar{\psi}'_n = e^{i(-1)^{n_1+\dots+n_4}\theta} \bar{\psi}_n . \quad (22)$$

By contrast the last term in (16) is invariant only under the $U(1)_V$ transformation. Therefore, the total Wilson fermion action possesses only the $U(1)_V$ symmetry for general values of m and r . Interestingly enough, however, the additional $U(1)_V^-$ symmetry appears if m and r satisfy $m + 4r = 0$, at which the on-site terms cancel out between the mass term and the Wilson term. As we will show in the next subsection, this symmetry is spontaneously broken by the pion condensate, $\langle \bar{\psi} \gamma_5 \psi \rangle$.

3.2 Strong coupling analysis

Now we employ the strong coupling analysis to show that there appears an NG boson associated with the $U(1)_V^-$ symmetry breaking in the presence of the pion condensate. An effective action for mesons in the strong coupling limit [42, 9, 10] can be written in general as

$$S_{\text{eff}}(M) = N_c \sum_n \left[\sum_\mu \text{Tr} f(\Lambda_{n,\mu}) + \text{tr} \hat{M} M(n) - \text{tr} \log M(n) \right] , \quad (23)$$

$$\Lambda_{n,\mu} = \frac{V_{n,\mu}\bar{V}_{n,\mu}}{N_c^2}, \quad M(n)^{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\sum_a \bar{\psi}_n^{a,\alpha} \psi_n^{a,\beta}}{N_c},$$

where N_c is the number of colors, Tr (tr) means a trace over color (spinor) index, and $M(n)$ is a meson field. The explicit form of the function f is determined by performing a one-link integral of the gauge field. More explicitly we can write

$$V_{n,\mu}^{ab} = \bar{\psi}_n^b P_\mu^- \psi_{n+\hat{\mu}}^a, \quad \bar{V}_{n,\mu}^{ab} = -\bar{\psi}_{n+\hat{\mu}}^b P_\mu^+ \psi_n^a, \quad (24)$$

$$\text{Tr} f(\Lambda_{n,\mu}) = -\text{tr} f(-M(n)(P_\mu^+)^T M(n+\hat{\mu})(P_\mu^-)^T), \quad (25)$$

where 4×4 matrices P_μ^\pm are specified later. In the large N_c limit, it is known that $f(x)$ can be analytically evaluated as

$$f(x) = \sqrt{1+4x} - 1 - \ln \frac{1 + \sqrt{1+4x}}{2} = x + O(x^2). \quad (26)$$

However, in the following part of this paper, we will approximate $f(x)$ as $f(x) = x$ unless otherwise stated because qualitative features such as an appearance of NG bosons remain unchanged by this approximation.

To calculate meson masses we expand the meson field as⁵

$$M(n) = M_0^T + \sum_X \pi^X(n) \Gamma_X^T, \quad X \in \{S, P, V_\alpha, A_\alpha, T_{\alpha\beta}\}, \quad (27)$$

where M_0 is the vacuum expectation value (VEV) of $M(n)$, and

$$\Gamma_S = \frac{\mathbf{1}_4}{2}, \quad \Gamma_P = \frac{\gamma_5}{2}, \quad \Gamma_{V_\alpha} = \frac{\gamma_\alpha}{2}, \quad \Gamma_{A_\alpha} = \frac{i\gamma_5 \gamma_\alpha}{2}, \quad \Gamma_{T_{\alpha\beta}} = \frac{\gamma_\alpha \gamma_\beta}{2i} \quad (\alpha < \beta). \quad (28)$$

Then the effective action at the second order of π^X is given by

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{eff}}^{(2)} &= N_c \sum_n \left[\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} (M_0^{-1} \Gamma_X M_0^{-1} \Gamma_Y) \pi^X(n) \pi^Y(n) + \sum_\mu \text{tr} (\Gamma_X P_\mu^- \Gamma_Y P_\mu^+) \pi^X(n) \pi^Y(n + \hat{\mu}) \right] \\ &= N_c \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \pi^X(-p) D_{XY}(p) \pi^Y(p), \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

where

$$D_{XY}(p) = \frac{1}{2} (\tilde{D}_{XY}(p) + \tilde{D}_{YX}(-p)), \quad (30)$$

$$\tilde{D}_{XY}(p) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} (M_0^{-1} \Gamma_X M_0^{-1} \Gamma_Y) + \sum_\mu \text{tr} (\Gamma_X P_\mu^- \Gamma_Y P_\mu^+) e^{ip_\mu}. \quad (31)$$

⁵In eq. (27), S, P, V_α, A_α and $T_{\alpha\beta}$ stand for scalar, pseudo-scalar, vector, axial-vector and tensor respectively.

In the case of the Wilson fermion, $\hat{M} = (m + 4r)\mathbf{1}_4 \equiv M_W\mathbf{1}_4$ and $P_\mu^\pm = \frac{\gamma_\mu \pm r}{2}$. By taking $M_0 = \sigma\mathbf{1}_4 + i\pi\gamma_5$, we have

$$\begin{cases} \sigma = \frac{-M_W \pm \sqrt{M_W^2 + 8(1-r^2)}}{4(1-r^2)}, & \pi = 0, & M_W^2 \geq M_c^2 \\ \sigma = \frac{M_W}{4r^2}, & \pi^2 = \frac{1}{16r^4(1+r^2)}(8r^4 - M_W^2(1+r^2)), & M_W^2 < M_c^2 \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

where $M_c^2 = \frac{8r^4}{1+r^2}$.

As discussed in the previous subsection, at $M_W = 0$ we have an additional $U(1)$ symmetry, $U(1)_{\bar{V}}$. Since this parameter regime resides in the parity broken phase, in which $\pi^2 \neq 0$ and $M_W^2 < M_c^2$, $U(1)_{\bar{V}}$ is spontaneously broken by the VEV of π in this case.

To compute the meson mass, we hereafter take $r^2 = 1$ for simplicity. Because $D(p)$ is block-diagonal, we concentrate on its submatrix $D_{XY}(p)$ with $X, Y \in \{S, P, A_\alpha\}$. Then, by setting $p = (\pi, \pi, \pi, \pi + im_{SPA})$, we find that the S - P - A_α sector mass m_{SPA} is given by

$$\cosh(m_{SPA}) = 1 + \frac{20M_W^2}{6 - 7M_W^2}. \quad (33)$$

Note that since the transformation (22) involves the site-dependent quantity $(-1)^{n_1+\dots+n_4}$, it is natural to expand the momentum p around (π, π, π, π) . Eq. (33) tells us that the meson becomes a massless NG boson at $M_W = 0$ as expected. If we use the exact form of $f(x)$ in the large N_c limit, we then obtain

$$\cosh(m_{SPA}) = 1 + \frac{2M_W^2(16 + M_W^2)}{16 - 15M_W^2}, \quad (34)$$

which again shows that a massless NG boson appears at $M_W = 0$.

Before closing this subsection, it is worth noting that the point $M_W = 0$ corresponds to the central cusp in the parity broken phase, at which six fermion modes with momentum shift, $p = (\pi, \pi, 0, 0)$, $(\pi, 0, \pi, 0)$, $(\pi, 0, 0, \pi)$, $(0, \pi, \pi, 0)$, $(0, \pi, 0, \pi)$ and $(0, 0, \pi, \pi)$, are expected to appear in the continuum limit. Although we have not yet known much about the continuum limit for this cusp, it is expected to describe QCD with six flavors, which is still asymptotically free. Therefore, if an appropriate continuum limit exists, we expect the theory in the limit will be Lorentz-symmetric as in the ‘‘physical’’ branch because the Wilson fermion action itself possesses the hypercubic symmetry.⁶ In addition, the above NG boson propagator recovers

⁶Although the third term in (16) seems to break Lorentz invariance in the continuum limit, it is just an expressional artifact: The spin-flavor representation does not respect space-time symmetries of the original action [46]. Actually such a term cannot exist by itself because of the original translational invariance. This representation is not suitable for study of Lorentz symmetry although it gives good insight into other symmetries.

the Lorentz-covariant dispersion relation in the naive $a \rightarrow 0$ limit even in the strong coupling, which is far from the continuum limit. We also suggest that the Wilson fermion at $M_W = 0$ may be applicable to the simulation of the six-flavor QCD without any fine-tunings since the additive mass renormalization is forbidden by the additional U(1) symmetry. At this point ($M_W = 0$), while the chiral condensate σ is zero, the pion condensate π is non-zero and its magnitude becomes maximal.

4 Minimally doubled fermions

Having discussed the naive and the Wilson fermion, now we move on to the analysis on minimally doubled fermions. Minimally doubled fermions are a class of lattice fermions with only two physical fermion modes. Continuous symmetries and their spontaneous breaking for these fermions have not yet been investigated enough. Therefore, in this section, we study two canonical examples of minimally doubled fermions, the Karsten-Wilczek and the Boriçi-Creutz fermion, with emphasis on symmetry and its spontaneous breaking.

4.1 Karsten-Wilczek fermion

4.1.1 Action and symmetries

The action for the Karsten-Wilczek fermion [24] is given by

$$S = S_{\text{nf}} + S_{\text{KW}} + S_{\text{KW}}^{(3)} + S_{\text{KW}}^{(4)}, \quad (35)$$

with

$$S_{\text{KW}} = -\frac{ir}{2} \sum_n \sum_{k=1}^3 \bar{\psi}_n \gamma_4 (\psi_{n+\hat{k}} - 2\psi_n + \psi_{n-\hat{k}}), \quad (36)$$

$$S_{\text{KW}}^{(3)} = id_3 \sum_n \bar{\psi}_n \gamma_4 \psi_n, \quad S_{\text{KW}}^{(4)} = \frac{d_4}{2} \sum_n \bar{\psi}_n \gamma_4 (\psi_{n+\hat{4}} - \psi_{n-\hat{4}}), \quad (37)$$

where $S_{\text{KW}}^{(3)}$ and $S_{\text{KW}}^{(4)}$ are counter terms of dimension three and four, respectively [28]. This fermion action possesses the cubic subgroup of the hypercubic symmetry. We also note it has CT and P invariance while each of C and T is broken [26].

In the free theory, the Dirac operator in the momentum space becomes

$$D_{\text{KW}}(p) = i \sum_{\mu} \gamma_{\mu} \sin p_{\mu} - ir \gamma_4 \sum_k (\cos p_k - 1) + id_4 \gamma_4 \sin p_4 + m + id_3 \gamma_4, \quad (38)$$

whose zero modes appear at $p = (0, 0, 0, 0)$ and $(0, 0, 0, \pi)$ in the absence of the mass and counter terms, namely $m = d_3 = 0$, though such a fermionic mode can be well-defined only

when we consider the free theory. Note that we work on the dimensionless action as shown in (36) and (37); thus r , m , d_3 and d_4 all stand for dimensionless parameters. In the analogy of the Wilson fermion, d_3 corresponds to the mass parameter m because both are parameters for the dimension three terms in the action while the parameter r corresponds to the Wilson parameter. Thus, although the purpose of tuning d_3 is to recover the hypercubic symmetry, it will be tuned in a similar way to the tuning of the mass parameter m for the chiral limit in the Wilson fermion in Sec. 3. On the other hand, d_4 is also tuned to recover the hypercubic symmetry, but there is no corresponding parameter in the Wilson fermion.

We first consider the symmetries of the Karsten-Wilczek term S_{KW} . In terms of the spin-flavor representation, S_{KW} is written as

$$S_{\text{KW}} = -\frac{ir}{2} \sum_{N,k} \left[2\bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_4 \otimes \gamma_4^T \gamma_k^T \otimes \gamma_4 \gamma_k) \Psi(N) + \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_4 \otimes \gamma_4^T \gamma_k^T \otimes \gamma_4 \gamma_k) \nabla_k^2 \Psi(N) \right. \\ \left. + \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_4 \gamma_k \gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_4^T \gamma_5^T \otimes \gamma_4 \gamma_k) \nabla_k \Psi(N) \right] + 3ir \sum_N \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_4 \otimes \gamma_4^T \otimes \gamma_4) \Psi(N). \quad (39)$$

The first three terms on the right-hand side of (39) are invariant under the ordinary axial U(1) symmetry $U(1)_A$ defined by

$$\Psi(N) \rightarrow \Psi'(N) = \exp [i\theta(\gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_5^T \otimes \gamma_5)] \Psi(N), \quad (40)$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(N) \rightarrow \bar{\Psi}'(N) = \bar{\Psi}(N) \exp [i\theta(\gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_5^T \otimes \gamma_5)], \quad (41)$$

$$\psi_n \rightarrow \psi'_n = e^{i\theta\gamma_5} \psi_n, \quad \bar{\psi}_n \rightarrow \bar{\psi}'_n = \bar{\psi}_n e^{i\theta\gamma_5}, \quad (42)$$

and the site dependent axial U(1) transformation $U(1)_A^{\dagger}$ ⁷ defined by

$$\Psi(N) \rightarrow \Psi'(N) = \exp [i\theta(\mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \gamma_5)] \Psi(N), \quad (43)$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(N) \rightarrow \bar{\Psi}'(N) = \bar{\Psi}(N) \exp [-i\theta(\mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \gamma_5)], \quad (44)$$

$$\psi_n \rightarrow \psi'_n = e^{i\theta(-1)^{n_1+\dots+n_4}\gamma_5} \psi_n, \quad \bar{\psi}_n \rightarrow \bar{\psi}'_n = e^{-i\theta(-1)^{n_1+\dots+n_4}\gamma_5} \bar{\psi}_n, \quad (45)$$

in addition to the $U(1)_V$ and $U(1)_{\bar{V}}$, introduced in the previous section. On the other hand, the last term on the right-hand side of (39) is invariant only under the $U(1)_V$ and $U(1)_A$ transformations. Therefore the Karsten-Wilczek term S_{KW} possesses only the ordinary vector and axial-vector U(1) symmetries, $U(1)_V$ and $U(1)_A$.

Next let us consider the counter terms $S_{\text{KW}}^{(3)}$ and $S_{\text{KW}}^{(4)}$. In terms of spin-flavor representation, they are written as

$$S_{\text{KW}}^{(3)} = id_3 \sum_N \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_4 \otimes \gamma_4^T \otimes \gamma_4) \Psi(N), \quad (46)$$

⁷Here “site dependent” and “axial” refer to original fermion fields ψ and $\bar{\psi}$.

$$S_{\text{KW}}^{(4)} = \frac{d_4}{2} \sum_N \left[\bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4) \nabla_4 \Psi(N) + \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_4^T \gamma_5^T \otimes \mathbf{1}_4) \nabla_4^2 \Psi(N) \right]. \quad (47)$$

We notice that the dimension three counter term $S_{\text{KW}}^{(3)}$ takes the same form as the last term on the right-hand side of (39). Therefore, the dimension three counter term is invariant under $U(1)_V$ and $U(1)_A$. On the other hand, the dimension four counter term $S_{\text{KW}}^{(4)}$ is invariant under all of the $U(4) \times U(4)$ transformations.

From the above discussions, the Karsten-Wilczek fermion action possesses only the $U(1)_V$ symmetry for general values of m , r , d_3 and d_4 , and it acquires the $U(1)_A$ symmetry at $m = 0$. If $d_3 + 3r = 0$ and $m = 0$ are simultaneously satisfied, it further acquires the $U(1)_V^-$ and the $U(1)_A^+$ symmetry in addition to $U(1)_V$ and $U(1)_A$.

4.1.2 Strong coupling analysis

In the case of the Karsten-Wilczek fermion, we have $\hat{M} = m\mathbf{1}_4 + i(d_3 + 3r)\gamma_4^T$ and

$$P_\mu^+ = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_\mu + ir\gamma_4) & \mu = 1, 2, 3 \\ \frac{1}{2}\gamma_4(1 + d_4) & \mu = 4 \end{cases}, \quad P_\mu^- = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_\mu - ir\gamma_4) & \mu = 1, 2, 3 \\ \frac{1}{2}\gamma_4(1 + d_4) & \mu = 4 \end{cases}. \quad (48)$$

As we discussed in the previous subsection, r corresponds to the Wilson parameter while d_3 corresponds to the mass parameter m in the analogy of Wilson fermion. Thus, in the following, d_3 will be tuned as the mass parameter m in the Wilson fermion was tuned as $m + 4r = 0$ in Sec. 3.

By taking $M_0 = \sigma\mathbf{1}_4 + i\pi_4\gamma_4$, the corresponding gap equations become

$$\frac{3(1 + r^2) + (1 + d_4)^2}{2} \sigma + m - \frac{\sigma}{\sigma^2 + \pi_4^2} = 0, \quad (49)$$

$$\frac{3(1 - r^2) - (1 + d_4)^2}{2} \pi_4 - (d_3 + 3r) - \frac{\pi_4}{\sigma^2 + \pi_4^2} = 0. \quad (50)$$

Since the VEV of π_4 would violate the Lorentz invariance, we would like to consider a solution with $\sigma \neq 0$ and $\pi_4 = 0$. To obtain a solution with $\pi_4 = 0$, we need to tune $d_3 + 3r = 0$ for the dimension three counter term. In this case we need to impose

$$\frac{2}{\sigma^2} = \frac{2m}{\sigma} + 3(1 + r^2) + (1 + d_4)^2. \quad (51)$$

As discussed in the last subsection, at $m = 0$ and $d_3 + 3r = 0$, the action is invariant under an additional $U(1)_V^-$ and $U(1)_A^+$ symmetries in addition to $U(1)_V$ and $U(1)_A$. Since the chiral condensate $\langle \bar{\psi}_n \psi_n \rangle \neq 0$ spontaneously breaks $U(1)_A$ and $U(1)_V^-$, we expect two massless NG bosons at $m = 0$. Note that the number of fermion zero modes at $d_3 + 3r = 0$ is not two but does depend on the values of r and d_4 . At $r = 1$ and $d_4 = 0$, for example, there appear six

zero modes at $p = (0, 0, \pi, \pi/2), (0, \pi, 0, \pi/2), (\pi, 0, 0, \pi/2), (0, \pi, \pi, -\pi/2), (\pi, \pi, 0, -\pi/2)$ and $(\pi, 0, \pi, -\pi/2)$.

The inverse meson propagator matrix for S - P - $T_{\alpha\beta}$ sector can be factorized as

$$D^{SPT} = \begin{pmatrix} D^{ST} & 0 \\ 0 & D^{PT} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (52)$$

where the matrix D^{ST} is defined by

$$D_{XY}^{ST}(p) = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{ab}D_a(p) & -i\frac{r}{2}s_a \\ i\frac{r}{2}s_b & D_S(p) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (53)$$

$$D_a(p) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{4} \left[\sum_k \{(1+r^2) - 2\delta_{ka} - 2r^2\}c_k - (1+d_4)^2c_4 \right], \quad (54)$$

$$D_S(p) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{4} \left[\sum_k (1+r^2)c_k + (1+d_4)^2c_4 \right], \quad (55)$$

for $X = (T_{a4}, S)$ and $Y = (T_{b4}, S)$, and the matrix D^{PT} is defined by

$$D_{XY}^{PT}(p) = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{ac}\delta_{bd}D_{ab}(p) & -i\varepsilon^{abe}\frac{r}{2}s_e \\ i\frac{r}{2}\varepsilon^{cde}s_e & D_P(p) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (56)$$

$$D_{ab}(p) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{1}{4} \left[\sum_k \{(1+r^2) - 2\delta_{ka} - 2\delta_{kb}\}c_k + (1+d_4)^2c_4 \right], \quad (57)$$

$$D_P(p) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{1}{4} \left[\sum_k (1+r^2)c_k + (1+d_4)^2c_4 \right], \quad (58)$$

for $X = (T_{ab}, P)$ and $Y = (T_{cd}, P)$. Here $s_a = \sin(p_a)$ and $c_a = \cos(p_a)$. Since $D^{ST}(\pi+p) = D^{PT}(p)$, it is enough to first consider $D^{PT}(p)$ only and then double the degeneracy of the spectrum.

By taking $p = (0, 0, 0, im_P)$, we obtain

$$\cosh(m_P) = 1 + \frac{1}{(1+d_4)^2} \frac{2m}{\sigma}. \quad (59)$$

This mode corresponds to a massless NG boson at $m = 0$. Together with the corresponding mode in the S sector, totally two NG bosons appear at $m = 0$ as expected.

If we introduce a small but non-zero spatial momentum, energy of the meson in the $P - T$ sector becomes $E^2 = m_P^2 + X(\vec{p})^2$ where

$$X = \frac{m_P}{\sinh(m_P)} \times \frac{1}{(1+d_4)^2} \left[(1+r^2) - \frac{2r^2}{T} \right], \quad (60)$$

$$T = \frac{m}{2\sigma} + \frac{1}{2} \{1 + 3r^2 + (1+d_4)^2\}. \quad (61)$$

To require the Lorentz covariance for the dispersion relation at $m = 0$, we need to choose d_4 as

$$(1 + d_4)^2 = -r^2 + \sqrt{1 + 4r^4}. \quad (62)$$

If we use the exact form of $f(x)$ in the large N_c limit, we then obtain

$$\cosh m_P = 1 + \frac{m}{A\sigma}, \quad (63)$$

$$A = \frac{(1 + d_4)^2}{4\sqrt{1 - \sigma^2(1 + d_4)^2}}, \quad (64)$$

which again corresponds to a massless Goldstone boson at $m = 0$. The introduction of small but finite spatial momenta results in

$$E^2 = m_P^2 + X(\vec{p})^2, \quad (65)$$

$$X = \frac{m_P}{A \sinh m_P} \left(B - \frac{2B^2}{T'} \right), \quad (66)$$

$$T' = 2 \left(A + \frac{m}{\sigma} \right) + 4(B - C), \quad (67)$$

$$B = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{1 - 4\sigma^2}}, \quad (68)$$

$$C = \frac{\sigma^2}{(1 + \sqrt{1 - 4\sigma^2})^2 \sqrt{1 - 4\sigma^2}}. \quad (69)$$

This shows that we can recover the relativistic dispersion by tuning d_4 . As the discussion here is only on the strong coupling limit, the above results are not directly related to the properties of the continuum limit. However, the strong coupling analysis in this subsection exhibits several important features, such as the rotational symmetry breaking and its restoration by tuning counter terms, which are expected to appear also in the study of the continuum limit. We thus consider that our study is useful, at least qualitatively, for the investigation of the continuum limit of the minimally doubled fermions at $d_3 + 3r = 0$.

4.2 Boriçi-Creutz fermion

4.2.1 Action and symmetries

The action for the Boriçi-Creutz fermion [25] is given by

$$S = S_{\text{nf}} + S_{\text{BC}} + S_{\text{BC}}^{(3)} + S_{\text{BC}}^{(4)}, \quad (70)$$

with

$$S_{\text{BC}} = \frac{ir}{2} \sum_{n,\mu} \bar{\psi}_n (\Gamma - \gamma_\mu) (\psi_{n+\hat{\mu}} - 2\psi_n + \psi_{n-\hat{\mu}}), \quad (71)$$

$$S_{\text{BC}}^{(3)} = ic_3 \sum_n \bar{\psi}_n \Gamma \psi_n, \quad S_{\text{BC}}^{(4)} = \frac{c_4}{2} \sum_{n,\mu} \bar{\psi}_n \Gamma (\psi_{n+\hat{\mu}} - \psi_{n-\hat{\mu}}), \quad (72)$$

$$\Gamma = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mu} \gamma_{\mu}, \quad \gamma'_{\mu} = \Gamma \gamma_{\mu} \Gamma = \Gamma - \gamma_{\mu}, \quad (73)$$

where $S_{\text{BC}}^{(3)}$ and $S_{\text{BC}}^{(4)}$ are counter terms of dimension three and four, respectively [29, 30], and Γ satisfies $\Gamma^2 = 1$ and $\{\Gamma, \gamma_{\mu}\} = 1$. This action has the S_4 subgroup of the hypercubic symmetry while C, P and T symmetries are broken to the combined CPT [26].

In the free theory, the Dirac operator in the momentum space can be expressed as

$$D_{\text{BC}}(p) = i \sum_{\mu} [\gamma_{\mu} \sin p_{\mu} + r \gamma'_{\mu} (\cos p_{\mu} - 1) + c_4 \Gamma \sin p_{\mu}] + m + ic_3 \Gamma. \quad (74)$$

If we consider the case with $m = c_3 = 0$, $D_{\text{BC}}(p)$ has one zero mode at $p = (0, 0, 0, 0)$, and another one at $p = (\pi/2, \pi/2, \pi/2, \pi/2)$ if

$$\sum_{\mu} (\gamma_{\mu} + c_4 \Gamma - r \gamma'_{\mu}) = 2\Gamma + 4c_4 \Gamma - 2r\Gamma = 0, \quad (75)$$

which determines $c_4 = (r-1)/2$. We note there are generically two zero modes in the momentum space, but their positions depend on the choice of parameters. As with the Karsten-Wilczek fermion, c_3 corresponds to m while r corresponds to the Wilson parameter in the analogy of the Wilson fermion. Thus c_3 will be tuned as m for the Wilson fermion and d_3 for the Karsten-Wilczek fermion.

First we consider the symmetries of the Boriçi-Creutz term S_{BC} . In terms of the spin-flavor representation, it is written as

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{BC}} = & \frac{ir}{4} \sum_{N,\mu,\nu} \left[2\bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_{\nu} \otimes \gamma_{\nu}^T \gamma_{\mu}^T \otimes \gamma_{\nu} \gamma_{\mu}) \Psi(N) + \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_{\nu} \otimes \gamma_{\nu}^T \gamma_{\mu}^T \otimes \gamma_{\nu} \gamma_{\mu}) \nabla_{\mu}^2 \Psi(N) \right. \\ & \left. + \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_{\nu} \gamma_{\mu} \gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_{\nu}^T \gamma_5^T \otimes \gamma_{\nu} \gamma_{\mu}) \nabla_{\mu} \Psi(N) \right] \\ & - \frac{ir}{2} \sum_{N,\mu} \left[2\bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_{\mu} \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4) \Psi(N) + \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_{\mu} \otimes \mathbf{1}_4 \otimes \mathbf{1}_4) \nabla_{\mu}^2 \Psi(N) \right. \\ & \left. + \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_{\mu}^T \gamma_5^T \otimes \mathbf{1}_4) \nabla_{\mu} \Psi(N) \right] \\ & - ir \sum_{N,\mu} \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_{\mu} \otimes \gamma_{\mu}^T \otimes \gamma_{\mu}) \Psi(N). \end{aligned} \quad (76)$$

While the first six terms on the right-hand side of (76) are invariant under $U(1)_V$, $U(1)_A$, $U(1)_{\bar{V}}$, and $U(1)_A^+$, the last term is invariant only under $U(1)_{\bar{V}}$ and $U(1)_A^+$. Therefore the Boriçi-Creutz term S_{BC} possesses only the ordinary vector and axial-vector $U(1)$ symmetry, $U(1)_V$ and $U(1)_A$.

In terms of spin-flavor representation, the counter terms $S_{\text{BC}}^{(3)}$ and $S_{\text{BC}}^{(4)}$ are written as

$$S_{\text{BC}}^{(3)} = \frac{ic_3}{2} \sum_{N,\mu} \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_\mu \otimes \gamma_\mu^T \otimes \gamma_\mu) \Psi(N), \quad (77)$$

$$S_{\text{BC}}^{(4)} = \frac{c_4}{4} \sum_{N,\mu,\nu} \left[\bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_\nu \otimes \gamma_\nu^T \gamma_\mu^T \otimes \gamma_\nu \gamma_\mu) \nabla_\mu \Psi(N) \right. \\ \left. + \bar{\Psi}(N) (\gamma_\nu \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \otimes \gamma_\nu^T \gamma_5^T \otimes \gamma_\nu \gamma_\mu) \nabla_k^2 \Psi(N) \right]. \quad (78)$$

We notice that the dimension three counter term $S_{\text{BC}}^{(3)}$ takes the same form as the last term on the right-hand side of (76). Therefore, the dimension three counter term is invariant only under $U(1)_V$ and $U(1)_A$. On the other hand, the dimension four counter term, $S_{\text{BC}}^{(4)}$, is invariant under $U(1)_V$, $U(1)_A$, $U(1)_V^-$, and $U(1)_A^+$.

From the above discussions, the Boriçi-Creutz fermion action possesses only the $U(1)_V$ symmetry for general values of m , r , c_3 and c_4 , and it acquires the $U(1)_A$ symmetry at $m = 0$. If $c_3 - 2r = 0$ is satisfied at the same time, it possesses $U(1)_V^-$ and $U(1)_A^+$ in addition to the ordinary vector and axial-vector $U(1)$ symmetries, $U(1)_V$ and $U(1)_A$.

4.2.2 Strong coupling analysis

For the Boriçi-Creutz fermion we have $\hat{M} = m\mathbf{1}_4 + i(c_3 - 2r)\Gamma^T$ and

$$P_\mu^+ = \frac{1}{2} \{ \gamma_\mu(1 + ir) + (c_4 - ir)\Gamma \}, \quad P_\mu^- = \frac{1}{2} \{ \gamma_\mu(1 - ir) + (c_4 + ir)\Gamma \}. \quad (79)$$

We note c_3 will be tuned as with d_3 for the Karsten-Wilczek fermion. By taking $M_0 = \sigma\mathbf{1}_4 + i\pi_\Gamma\Gamma$, the corresponding gap equations become

$$2(1 + r^2 + c_4^2 + c_4)\sigma + m - \frac{\sigma}{\sigma^2 + \pi_\Gamma^2} = 0, \quad (80)$$

$$(1 + r^2 - 2c_4^2 - 2c_4)\pi_\Gamma - (c_3 - 2r) - \frac{\pi_\Gamma}{\sigma^2 + \pi_\Gamma^2} = 0, \quad (81)$$

To have $\pi_\Gamma = 0$, we need $c_3 - 2r = 0$. In this case, σ is determined by

$$\frac{1}{\sigma^2} = \frac{m}{\sigma} + 2(1 + r^2 + c_4^2 + c_4). \quad (82)$$

As discussed in the last subsection, at $m = 0$ and $c_3 - 2r = 0$, the action is invariant under the $U(1)_V^-$ and the $U(1)_A^+$ symmetries in addition to $U(1)_V$ and $U(1)_A$. Since the chiral condensate $\langle \bar{\psi}_n \psi_n \rangle \neq 0$ breaks $U(1)_A$ and $U(1)_V^-$, we expect two massless NG bosons at $m = 0$. Note that the number of fermion zero modes at $c_3 - 2r = 0$ depends on r and c_4 . For example, at $r = 1$ and $c_4 = -1$, there are sixteen zero modes at $p_\mu = \pi/2$ or π for each μ .

In the strong coupling limit, there exists non-trivial mixing between mesons, which complicates the analysis on the meson mass. Fortunately, by taking $c_4 + 1 = 0$, we can avoid such mixing. For this choice, the inverse propagator for the S or P sector can be expressed as

$$D_{SS}(p) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{1+r^2}{4} \sum_{\mu} \cos p_{\mu}, \quad (83)$$

$$D_{PP}(p) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{1+r^2}{4} \sum_{\mu} \cos p_{\mu}. \quad (84)$$

Note that to derive the above expressions we have already used $c_4 + 1 = 0$. By solving $D_{XX}(p + \Delta_X \pi) = 0$ for $X = S$ or P with $p = (\vec{p}, E_X)$, $\Delta_S^{\mu} = 1$ and $\Delta_P^{\mu} = 0$, we obtain

$$2(\cosh(E_X) - 1) = \frac{2m}{\sigma} \frac{2}{1+r^2} + (\vec{p})^2, \quad (85)$$

which has the relativistic dispersion relation at $m = 0$. These two modes correspond to NG bosons associated with the breakdown of two $U(1)$ symmetries as expected.

5 Summary and Discussion

In this paper we clarify the detailed structure of continuous symmetry and its spontaneous breaking in four types of lattice fermion using the spin-flavor representation and the strong coupling analysis.

We begin by reviewing the $U(4) \times U(4)$ symmetries of the naive fermion from the viewpoint of the spin-flavor representation. These symmetries can be interpreted as generalizations of $U(1) \times U(1)$ symmetry of the staggered fermion and are a subgroup of the $U(16) \times U(16)$ symmetries, which are expected to be restored in the continuum limit. We then apply the same method to the Wilson fermion and discover an incidental symmetry enhancement in the central branch of the Dirac spectrum (or equivalently, at the third cusp in the parity-broken phase). In this branch, on-site terms cancel out between the Wilson term and the mass term and an extra $U(1)$ symmetry emerges in addition to the ordinary vector $U(1)$ symmetry. Using the strong coupling analysis, we show that this extra symmetry is spontaneously broken by the pion condensate. We also discuss two types of minimally doubled fermions, the Karsten-Wilczek and the Boriçi-Creutz fermions. The symmetry enhancement and its breaking also occur in these fermions when on-site terms are absent. Enhanced symmetries are spontaneously broken by the ordinary chiral condensate in this case.

Now let us discuss possible applications of our results. First, we suggest that the central branch with six species of doublers in the Wilson fermion is potentially useful for the simulation

of many flavor QCD, especially for the simulation with six or twelve flavors. As elucidated in this paper, the action of the Wilson fermion without on-site terms has the enhanced $U(1)$ symmetry. Since this symmetry will prohibit appearance of mass terms through quantum correction, we are free from additive mass renormalization in this case. In this branch, the roles of σ and π mesons are interchanged. The enhanced $U(1)$ symmetry, which is broken by the pion condensate, is considered as a counterpart of the flavor non-singlet chiral symmetry. Although this $U(1)$ is expected to enhance to $U(6) \times U(6)$ in the continuum limit of the free theory, it is not clear at present whether this flavor symmetry is intact also in the presence of gauge fields. If we could take a continuum limit of the Wilson fermion at the central cusp which restores the flavor symmetry, it would be valuable since it would give an alternative approach to the twelve flavor QCD: there is still a controversy on whether this theory is in the conformal window or not [33–39].

Second, we comment on the implication of our results on simulations with minimally doubled fermions. When one uses minimally doubled fermions, one needs to fine-tune several parameters to restore the Lorentz covariance, broken by the actions, in the continuum limit. To clarify this parameter tuning process and restoration of the Lorentz covariance, several works on the nonperturbative renormalization have already been done [28–30]. However restorations of the Lorentz covariance in the absence of on-site terms, discussed in this paper, is not directly relevant to the nonperturbative renormalization of *minimally doubled* fermions, since a number of fermion zero modes is actually *not* minimal without on-site terms. To study the non-perturbative renormalization of minimally doubled fermions by the strong-coupling analysis, we need to find other tuning points at which the number of fermion zero modes is truly minimal. At such points, the condensate $\langle \bar{\psi} \gamma_4 \psi \rangle$ or $\langle \bar{\psi} \Gamma \psi \rangle$ is generally nonzero. Investigations into such parameter regions are currently in progress.

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A Spin-flavor representation of fermion actions

In this appendix, we present some details on how we rewrite fermion actions in terms of the spin-flavor representation.

Let us first describe the case of naive fermions. The action of the naive fermion, expressed by χ as in (7), can be recast in the following form.

$$S_{\text{nf}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{N, \mu, A, B} \eta_\mu(A) \bar{\chi}_A(N) \left((\delta_{A+\hat{\mu}, B} + \delta_{A-\hat{\mu}, B}) \nabla_\mu \chi_B(N) - (\delta_{A+\hat{\mu}, B} - \delta_{A-\hat{\mu}, B}) \nabla_\mu^2 \chi_B(N) \right) + m \sum_{N, A} \bar{\chi}_A(N) \chi_A(N), \quad (86)$$

where A_μ and B_μ take zero or one, and the definitions of ∇_μ and ∇_μ^2 are given in (13) and (14). In order to further rewrite the above action using the field Ψ , defined in (9) and (10), the following formulas are useful;

$$\sum_{A, B} \eta_\mu(A) (\delta_{A+\hat{\mu}, B} + \delta_{A-\hat{\mu}, B}) \left(\frac{\gamma_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha, f_1} \left(\frac{\bar{\gamma}_B}{2} \right)_{\alpha', f'_1} = \sum_A \left(\frac{\gamma_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha, f_1} \left(\gamma_\mu^T \frac{\bar{\gamma}_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha', f'_1} \quad (87)$$

$$= (\gamma_\mu)_{\alpha, \alpha'} \delta_{f_1, f'_1},$$

and

$$\sum_{A, B} \eta_\mu(A) (\delta_{A+\hat{\mu}, B} - \delta_{A-\hat{\mu}, B}) \left(\frac{\gamma_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha, f_1} \left(\frac{\bar{\gamma}_B}{2} \right)_{\alpha', f'_1} = \sum_A \left(\gamma_5 \frac{\gamma_A}{2} \gamma_5 \right)_{\alpha, f_1} \left(\frac{\bar{\gamma}_A}{2} \gamma_\mu^T \right)_{\alpha', f'_1} \quad (88)$$

$$= (\gamma_5)_{\alpha, \alpha'} (\gamma_5^T \gamma_\mu^T)_{f_1, f'_1}.$$

To derive (87) and (88), it is convenient to first consider the cases when $A_\mu = 0$ and $A_\mu = 1$ separately and put them together at the end. Using these formulas one obtains the expression (11) for the naive fermion.

In the case of Wilson fermions, we also need to re-express the Wilson term, which can be represented in terms of $\chi_A(N)$ as

$$S_W = -\frac{r}{2} \sum_{N, \mu, A, B} \tilde{\eta}_\mu(A) \bar{\chi}_A(N) \gamma_\mu \left[2(\delta_{A+\hat{\mu}, B} + \delta_{A-\hat{\mu}, B}) \chi_B(N) - (\delta_{A+\hat{\mu}, B} - \delta_{A-\hat{\mu}, B}) \nabla_\mu \chi_B(N) + (\delta_{A+\hat{\mu}, B} + \delta_{A-\hat{\mu}, B}) \nabla_\mu^2 \chi_B(N) \right] + 4r \sum_{N, A} \bar{\chi}_A(N) \chi_A(N). \quad (89)$$

To derive the expression in terms of Ψ , this time one needs the variants of (87) and (88);

$$\sum_{A, B} \tilde{\eta}_\mu(A) (\delta_{A+\hat{\mu}, B} + \delta_{A-\hat{\mu}, B}) \left(\frac{\gamma_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha, f_1} \left(\frac{\bar{\gamma}_B}{2} \right)_{\alpha', f'_1} = \sum_A \left(\frac{\gamma_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha, f_1} \left(\frac{\bar{\gamma}_A}{2} \gamma_\mu^T \right)_{\alpha', f'_1} \quad (90)$$

$$= \delta_{\alpha, \alpha'} (\gamma_\mu^T)_{f_1, f'_1},$$

and

$$\sum_{A, B} \tilde{\eta}_\mu(A) (\delta_{A+\hat{\mu}, B} - \delta_{A-\hat{\mu}, B}) \left(\frac{\gamma_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha, f_1} \left(\frac{\bar{\gamma}_B}{2} \right)_{\alpha', f'_1} = \sum_A \left(\gamma_5 \frac{\gamma_A}{2} \gamma_5 \right)_{\alpha, f_1} \left(\gamma_\mu^T \frac{\bar{\gamma}_A}{2} \right)_{\alpha', f'_1} \quad (91)$$

$$= (\gamma_5 \gamma_\mu)_{\alpha, \alpha'} (\gamma_5^T)_{f_1, f'_1}.$$

Applying these formulas one can re-express the Wilson term and obtain (16).

The actions of minimally doubled fermions can also be re-expressed by Ψ in a similar way and the resultant expressions are (39) and (76).

B Strong coupling analysis for Boriçi-Creutz fermion

In this appendix, some details of our analysis in the strong coupling limit for Boriçi-Creutz fermion are given.

Before calculating the inverse propagator, it is useful to consider the following trace formulas.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}(\Gamma_{V_a} P_\mu^+ \Gamma_{V_b} P_\mu^-) &= -\text{tr}(\Gamma_{A_a} P_\mu^+ \Gamma_{A_b} P_\mu^-) = \frac{\delta_{ab}}{4} \{(1+r^2)(2\delta_{a\mu} - 1) - c_4^2 - c_4\} \\ &+ \frac{c_4^2 + r^2}{8} + \frac{c_4 - r^2}{4} (\delta_{a\mu} + \delta_{b\mu}), \end{aligned} \quad (92)$$

$$\text{tr}(\Gamma_{V_a} P_\mu^+ \Gamma_{A_b} P_\mu^-) = -\text{tr}(\Gamma_{A_b} P_\mu^+ \Gamma_{V_a} P_\mu^-) = \frac{r(1+c_4)}{4} \sum_\nu \epsilon^{ab\mu\nu}, \quad (93)$$

$$\text{tr}(\Gamma_S P_\mu^+ \Gamma_S P_\mu^-) = -\text{tr}(\Gamma_P P_\mu^+ \Gamma_P P_\mu^-) = \frac{1+r^2+c_4^2+c_4}{4}, \quad (94)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}(\Gamma_{T_{ab}} P_\mu^+ \Gamma_{T_{cd}} P_\mu^-) &= \frac{\delta_{ac}\delta_{bd}(1+r^2)(1-2\delta_{a\mu}-2\delta_{b\mu}) + (c_4^2+r^2) + (c_4-r^2)}{4} \\ &+ \frac{c_4^2+r^2}{8} (\delta_{ad} + \delta_{bc} - \delta_{bd} - \delta_{ac}) + \frac{c_4-r^2}{4} \{(\delta_{a\mu}(\delta_{bc} - \delta_{bd}) + \delta_{b\mu}(\delta_{ad} - \delta_{ac})) \\ &+ \delta_{c\mu}(\delta_{ad} - \delta_{bd}) + \delta_{d\mu}(\delta_{bc} - \delta_{ac})\}, \end{aligned} \quad (95)$$

$$\text{tr}(\Gamma_S P_\mu^+ \Gamma_{T_{ab}} P_\mu^-) = -\text{tr}(\Gamma_{T_{ab}} P_\mu^+ \Gamma_S P_\mu^-) = \frac{r(1+c_4)}{4} (\delta_{a\mu} - \delta_{b\mu}), \quad (96)$$

$$\text{tr}(\Gamma_P P_\mu^+ \Gamma_{T_{ab}} P_\mu^-) = -\text{tr}(\Gamma_{T_{ab}} P_\mu^+ \Gamma_P P_\mu^-) = \frac{r(1+c_4)}{4} \sum_\nu \epsilon^{ab\mu\nu}. \quad (97)$$

Since eqs. (93), (96) and (97) produce mixing among several sectors, which complicates our analysis on the meson mass, we tune c_4 in order to avoid such mixings: $c_4 + 1 = 0$.

Then, an inverse propagator for the S or P sector is given by

$$D_S(p) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{1+r^2}{4} \sum_\mu \cos p_\mu, \quad (98)$$

$$D_P(p) = \frac{1}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{1+r^2}{4} \sum_\mu \cos p_\mu, \quad (99)$$

where we have already used $c_4 + 1 = 0$.

An inverse propagator matrix for V or A sector is given by

$$D_{V_a V_b}(p) = \delta_{ab} \left[\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} + \frac{1+r^2}{4} (2c_a - \sum_\mu c_\mu) \right] + \frac{1+r^2}{8} \sum_\mu c_\mu - \frac{1+r^2}{4} (c_a + c_b), \quad (100)$$

$$D_{A_a A_b}(p) = \delta_{ab} \left[\frac{1}{2\sigma^2} - \frac{1+r^2}{4} (2c_a - \sum_{\mu} c_{\mu}) \right] - \frac{1+r^2}{8} \sum_{\mu} c_{\mu} + \frac{1+r^2}{4} (c_a + c_b), \quad (101)$$

so that $D_{V_a V_b}(\pi + p) = D_{A_a A_b}(p)$.

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