

Classification and Generalization of Minimal-doubling actions

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We propose a method to control the number of species of lattice fermions, which yields new classes of minimally doubled lattice fermions with one exact chiral symmetry and exact locality. We classify all the known minimally doubled fermions into two types based on the locations of the propagator poles in the Brillouin zone. We also study higher-dimensional extension of them and show it tends to be more difficult to realize minimal-doubling in higher dimensions.

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1. Introduction

The doubling problem of fermions has been one of the notorious obstacles to QCD simulations. By now several fermion constructions to bypass it have been developed, although all of them have their individual shortcomings. There is also an alternative possibility to settle the problem. More than 20 years ago, Karsten and Wilczek proposed the minimally doubled action [1], where only two species emerge. Recently one of the authors of the present paper [2] has also proposed a two-parameter class of fermion actions. These minimally doubled fermions all possess one exact chiral symmetry and exact locality. As such they should be faster for simulation, at least for two-flavor QCD, than other chirally symmetric lattice fermions. In this paper we propose a systematic method to reduce the number of doublers, which we term twisted-ordering method [3]. In this way we obtain new classes of minimally-doubled fermions. We classify all the known minimally doubled actions into two types. By this classification we can derive several further minimally doubled actions deductively. We also study higher-dimensional extension of them and find the parameter range for minimal-doubling gets narrower with the dimension in most cases [4].

2. Twisted-ordering Method

In this section we propose a systematic way of controlling the number of species of lattice fermions within the requirement of Nielsen-Ninomiya's no-go theorem [3]. We will first discuss the 2-dimensional case to give an intuitive understanding of this mechanism. Then we will go on to the 4-dimensional case and show we can construct a new minimally doubled action by this method.

Let us begin with the following simple 2-dimensional Dirac operator in momentum space with $O(a)$ Wilson-like terms.

$$D(p) = (\sin p_1 + \cos p_1 - 1) i\gamma_1 + (\sin p_2 + \cos p_2 - 1) i\gamma_2, \quad (2.1)$$

where p_1, p_2 and γ_1, γ_2 stand for 2-dimensional momenta and Gamma matrices respectively. Here the deviation from the usual Wilson action is that the $O(a)$ terms are accompanied by Gamma matrices. There are four zeros of this Dirac operator at $(\tilde{p}_1, \tilde{p}_2) = (0, 0), (0, \pi/2), (\pi/2, 0), (\pi/2, \pi/2)$. This means that the number of the species is the same as for naive fermions.

Next we "twist" the order of the $O(a)$ terms, or equivalently, permute $\cos p_1$ and $\cos p_2$ to give

$$D(p) = (\sin p_1 + \cos p_2 - 1) i\gamma_1 + (\sin p_2 + \cos p_1 - 1) i\gamma_2. \quad (2.2)$$

Here only two of the zeros ($(0, 0)$ and $(\pi/2, \pi/2)$) remain and the other two are eliminated. Thus the number of species becomes two, the minimal number required by the no-go theorem. As seen from this example, twisting of the order of $O(a)$ terms reduces the number of species. We call this method "twisted-ordering" in the rest of this paper. We depict the appearance of zeros in the Brillouin zone for the above two cases in Fig. 1 and 2.

Now we consider excitations at the zeros. The Dirac operator is expanded about the zeros as

$$D^{(1)}(q) = i\gamma_1 q_1 + i\gamma_2 q_2 + O(q^2), \quad (2.3)$$

$$D^{(2)}(q) = -i\gamma_1 q_2 - i\gamma_2 q_1 + O(q^2). \quad (2.4)$$

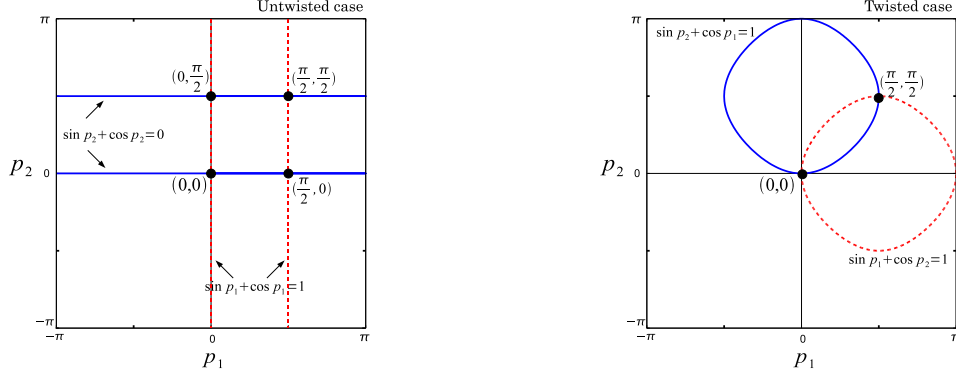


Figure 1: Red-dotted and blue-solid lines stand for zeros of the coefficients of γ_1 and γ_2 respectively. Black points stand for the four zeros of the Dirac operator.

Figure 2: Red-dotted and blue-solid curves stand for zeros of the coefficients of γ_1 and γ_2 . Black points stand for two zeros $(0,0)$ $(\pi/2, \pi/2)$ of the Dirac operator.

Here we expand with respect to q_μ defined as $p_\mu = \tilde{p}_\mu + q_\mu$ and we denote the two expansions as $D^{(1)}$ for the zero $(0,0)$ and $D^{(2)}$ for the other at $(\pi/2, \pi/2)$. Momentum bases at the zero $(0,0)$ are given by $\mathbf{b}_1^{(1)} = (1,0)$ and $\mathbf{b}_2^{(1)} = (0,1)$ while those at the other $(\pi/2, \pi/2)$ are given by $\mathbf{b}_1^{(2)} = (0,-1)$ and $\mathbf{b}_2^{(2)} = (-1,0)$. This means excitations from the two zeros describe physical fermions on the orthogonal lattice. The gamma-5 at $\tilde{p} = (0,0)$ is given by $\gamma_5^{(1)} = \gamma_1 \gamma_2$ while the gamma-5 at $\tilde{p} = (\pi/2, \pi/2)$ is given by $\gamma_5^{(2)} = \gamma_2 \gamma_1 = -\gamma_5^{(1)}$. This sign change between the species is a typical relation between two species with minimal doubling since Nielsen-Ninomiya's no-go theorem requires fermion pairs to possess chiral charges with opposite signs.

We also obtain 4d minimally doubled actions with this method. The simplest form of 4d twisted-ordering actions is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 D(p) = & (\sin p_1 + \cos p_2 - 1) i\gamma_1 \\
 & + (\sin p_2 + \cos p_3 - 1) i\gamma_2 \\
 & + (\sin p_3 + \cos p_4 - 1) i\gamma_3 \\
 & + (\sin p_4 + \cos p_1 - 1) i\gamma_4,
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.5}$$

with $O(a)$ Wilson-like terms whose order is twisted. Here exist only 2 zeros

$$(\tilde{p}_1, \tilde{p}_2, \tilde{p}_3, \tilde{p}_4) = (0,0,0,0), (\pi/2, \pi/2, \pi/2, \pi/2). \tag{2.6}$$

We have confirmed there are no other real zeros of this operator numerically. This is a new type of minimally doubled fermion on the orthogonal lattice. In this case excitations from the two zeros describe physical fermions on the orthogonal lattice again. And the two associated γ_5 's have opposite signs as $\gamma_5^{(2)} = \gamma_4 \gamma_1 \gamma_2 \gamma_3 = -\gamma_5^{(1)}$.

Gauging these theories is straightforward. One merely inserts the gauge fields as link operators in the hopping terms for the action in position space. Specifically, for the twisted-ordering

minimally doubled fermion in position space we have

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n,\mu} \left[\bar{\psi}_n \gamma_\mu (U_{n,\mu} \psi_{n+\mu} - U_{n-\mu,\mu}^\dagger \psi_{n-\mu}) + i \bar{\psi}_n \gamma_{\mu-1} (U_{n,\mu} \psi_{n+\mu} + U_{n-\mu,\mu}^\dagger \psi_{n-\mu} - 2\psi_n) \right], \quad (2.7)$$

where we define

$$\mu - 1 \equiv \begin{cases} 1, 2, 3 & (\mu = 2, 3, 4) \\ 4 & (\mu = 1) \end{cases} \quad (2.8)$$

3. Minimally-Doubled Fermions

In this section we discuss two classes of minimally doubled actions obtained from the original twisted-ordering action (2.5) [3]. The first one, which we call “dropped twisted-ordering action”, is constructed as following: We drop one of $\cos p_\mu - 1$ terms in the Dirac operator (2.5), for example, drop $\cos p_1 - 1$ as

$$\begin{aligned} D(p) &= (\sin p_1 + \cos p_2 - 1) i\gamma_1 \\ &\quad + (\sin p_2 + \cos p_3 - 1) i\gamma_2 \\ &\quad + (\sin p_3 + \cos p_4 - 1) i\gamma_3 \\ &\quad + \sin p_4 i\gamma_4. \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

This has two zeros given by

$$(\tilde{p}_1, \tilde{p}_2, \tilde{p}_3, \tilde{p}_4) = (0, 0, 0, 0), \quad (\pi, 0, 0, 0). \quad (3.2)$$

It is obviously a minimally doubled action.

Next we consider a second variety where we turn on a parameter in the action (2.5) as following,

$$\begin{aligned} D(p) &= (\sin p_1 + \cos p_2 - \alpha) i\gamma_1 \\ &\quad + (\sin p_2 + \cos p_3 - \alpha) i\gamma_2 \\ &\quad + (\sin p_3 + \cos p_4 - \alpha) i\gamma_3 \\ &\quad + (\sin p_4 + \cos p_1 - \alpha) i\gamma_4. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

Here we replace unity with a positive parameter α in the constant terms of the operator. The parameter range for minimal-doubling is given by

$$0 < \alpha < \sqrt{2}. \quad (3.4)$$

In this range two zeros of the Dirac operator, which we denote as $\tilde{p}_\mu^{(1)}$ and $\tilde{p}_\mu^{(2)}$, are given by

$$\tilde{p}_\mu^{(1)} = \arcsin \left(\frac{\alpha - \sqrt{2 - \alpha^2}}{2} \right) = \arcsin A, \quad (3.5)$$

$$\tilde{p}_\mu^{(2)} = \arcsin \left(\frac{\alpha + \sqrt{2 - \alpha^2}}{2} \right) = \arcsin \sqrt{1 - A^2}. \quad (3.6)$$

where for convenience we define a parameter A as $A \equiv (\alpha - \sqrt{2 - \alpha^2})/2$. These two zeros reduce to Eq. (2.6) with $\alpha = 1$. By expanding the Dirac operator we see momentum bases are non-orthogonal for cases of $\alpha \neq 1$; thus, the associated lattices are non-orthogonal as with the Creutz fermion[2].

4. Symmetries

In the previous section we have studied two classes of minimally doubled actions in (3.1) and (3.3), both of which are obtained from the original twisted-ordering action in (2.5). In this section we will discuss discrete symmetries of these actions and redundant operators generated by loop corrections.

Firstly we note both of the actions possess some common properties with other minimally doubled fermions: "Gamma-5 hermiticity", "Discrete translation invariance", "flavor-singlet $U(1)_V$ " and "flavor-nonsinglet $U(1)_A$." The last one is the exact chiral symmetry preventing additive mass renormalization for the neutral pion. Besides them, they have exact locality and gauge invariance when gauged by link variables. We expect every sensible minimally doubled fermion to possess these basic properties.

On the other hand, Discrete symmetries associated with permutation of the axes and C , P or T invariance depends on a class of the actions. In other words, we can identify minimally doubled actions by these discrete symmetries. Here we show discrete symmetries which the dropped twisted-ordering action possesses: 1. CP , 2. T , 3. Z_2 associated with two zeros. Here we take the p_4 direction as time. We also write the symmetries which the full twisted-ordering action possesses: 1. CPT , 2. Z_4 associated with axes permutation, 3. Z_2 associated with two zeros. Because of lack of sufficient discrete symmetries, redundant operators can be generated radiatively in these action as in the other classes [5]. For example, the case of the twisted-ordering action is similar to that of Borici-Creutz action which has S_4 symmetry [5]. We speculate the number of redundant operators generated in the twisted-ordering action is the same as those of the Borici-Creutz one shown in [5, 6].

5. Classification

In this section we discuss a classification of the known minimally doubled fermions. So far we have seen four variations on minimally doubled fermions: Karsten-Wilczek [1], Borici-Creutz [2], twisted-ordering and dropped twisted-ordering fermions [3]. Here we classify these actions into two types: One of them, which includes Karsten-Wilczek and dropped twisted-ordering actions, is given by

$$D(p) = \sum_{\mu} i\gamma_{\mu} \sin p_{\mu} + \sum_{i,j} i\gamma_i R_{ij} (\cos p_j - 1), \quad (5.1)$$

where we take $i = 1, 2, 3$ as i while $j = 2, 3, 4$ as j . The point is that indices i and j are staggered. The different actions in this class depend on the choice for the matrix R . For example, consider the following R 's

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5.2)$$

For the first R the general form (5.1) reduces to the Karsten-Wilczek action while it reduces to the dropped twisted-ordering action for the second one. The action for the third case is a new possibility.

We see that there are many options associated with possible R 's. One common property with fermions obtained in this way is that two zeros are separated along a single lattice axis and given by $(0,0,0,0)$ and $(\pi,0,0,0)$. One significance about the general form (5.1) is that a coefficient of at least one Gamma matrix has no $(\cos p_\mu - 1)$ term. It is also notable that, in a coefficient of each gamma matrix, a momentum component p_μ associated with a sin term differs from the component in any cos term. These two points seem to be essential to minimal doubling.

The second class of actions includes the twisted-ordering fermion with the α parameter and the Borici-Creutz actions. A generalized Dirac operator for this type is given by

$$D(p) = i \sum_{\mu} [\gamma_{\mu} \sin(p_{\mu} + \beta_{\mu}) - \gamma'_{\mu} \sin(p_{\mu} - \beta_{\mu})] - i\Gamma \quad (5.3)$$

where $\gamma'_{\mu} = A_{\mu\nu} \gamma_{\nu}$ is another set of gamma matrices where we define A as an orthogonal matrix with some conditions: At least one eigenvalue of A should be 1 and all four components of the associated eigenvector should have non-zero values. Here β_{μ} and Γ has a relation with this A as $\Gamma = \sum_{\mu} \gamma_{\mu} \sin 2\beta_{\mu} = \sum_{\mu} \gamma'_{\mu} \sin 2\beta_{\mu}$, which means $\sin 2\beta_{\mu}$ is an eigenvector of A as $A_{\mu\nu} \sin 2\beta_{\nu} = \sin 2\beta_{\mu}$. Thus once A is fixed, β_{μ} and Γ are determined up to a overall factor of $\sin 2\beta_{\mu}$. By imposing these conditions on A , β_{μ} and Γ , the action (5.3) can be a minimally doubled action. In such a case β_{μ} indicates locations of two zeros as $\tilde{p}_{\mu} = \pm\beta_{\mu}$. Adjusting β , we can control the locations of two zeros. Note that the first and second terms in (5.3) are nothing but naive fermion actions. We can eliminate some species by combining two naive actions with different zeros in one action.

Now let us show this action includes minimally doubled actions. (5.3) reduces to the Borici action and the twisted-ordering action by choosing A 's as

$$\gamma'_{\mu} = A_{\mu\nu} \gamma_{\nu},$$

$$A = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (5.4)$$

where we fix $\beta_{\mu} = \pi/4$ and Γ is given by $\Gamma = \sum_{\mu} \gamma_{\mu}$. Finally we have classified all the known minimally doubled fermions into the two types. Now we can derive a lot of varieties from these general forms deductively as we have shown in (5.2).

6. Higher-dimensional Extensions

In this section we discuss higher-dimensional extensions of minimally doubled actions. As two of the present authors showed in [4], we can extend minimally doubled fermions to general dimensions. The main observation in this generalization is that the parameter range for minimal-doubling tends to get narrower in higher dimensions. For example, one of d -dimensional generalizations of Karsten-Wilczek fermion is given by

$$D_{KW} = \sum_{\mu}^d [i\gamma_{\mu} \sin p_{\mu} + i\gamma_d (r - \cos p_{\mu})], \quad (6.1)$$

where r is a parameter which will be fixed to realize minimal-doubling. Here the parameter range for minimal-doubling is given by

$$\frac{d + \sqrt{2} - 3}{d} < r < \frac{d + \sqrt{2} - 1}{d}. \quad (6.2)$$

It is obvious that this range gets narrower with the dimension (d) getting larger. This is also the case with even-dimensional generalization of Borici-Creutz action, which has two parameters B and C . The minimal-doubling range for C is given by

$$\frac{d - 2}{d} < C < 1 \quad (6.3)$$

where we concentrate only on the case $d = 2m$ ($m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$). Here this range gets narrower with the dimension. As seen from these two examples, it is more difficult to realize minimal-doubling in higher dimensions. It is natural since the number of species increases with the dimension and we need to impose a stronger condition to obtain only two species in higher dimensions. On the other hand things are a little different in the twisted-ordering fermion. In this case the minimal-doubling parameter range for α in Eq. (3.4) holds even in higher dimensions [3]. This is because the mechanism ‘‘Twisted-ordering’’ itself reduces the number of species in this case while adjusting the parameter controls them in the other cases. This fact may imply the twisted-ordering fermion is the most fundamental type among all the known minimally-doubled fermions.

7. Conclusion

In this paper we propose a method to control the number of species of lattice fermions and obtain new classes of minimally-doubled fermions. We also classify all the known minimally doubled actions into two types. By this classification we can derive several further minimally doubled actions deductively. We also study a higher-dimensional extension of them and find a parameter range for minimal-doubling gets narrower with the dimension in most cases except for the twisted-ordering fermion. With several varieties of minimally doubled fermion actions available, a goal is to apply these actions to numerical simulations and study their relative advantages. Such studies [6] so far focused only on Karsten-Wilczek and Borici-Creutz fermions. One can now explore other varieties such as ones in this paper.

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