

Organizing Non-Equilibrium Photon Dynamics from Symmetry Principles

Based on: JHEP 06 (2026) 051

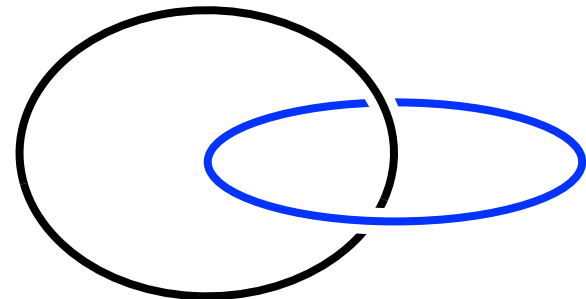
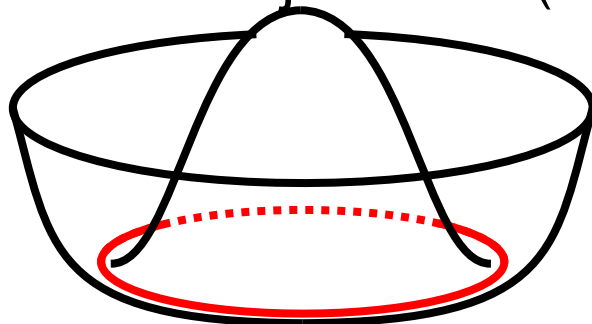
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Effective Field Theory (EFT)

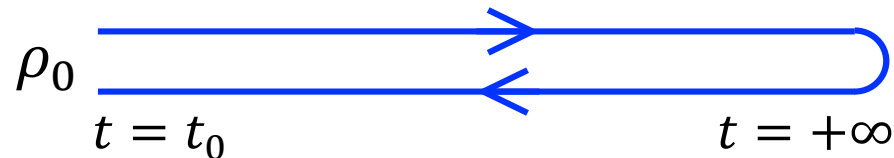
Organizing effective dynamics from **symmetry principles**
Universal description independent of microscopic details

Example: Chiral Symmetry Breaking $\rightarrow$ Chiral EFT

EFT on Schwinger–Keldysh contour
 organizes **non-equilibrium dynamics** from symmetries

Example: Global U(1) $\rightarrow$ Charge Diffusion

Crossley et al, JHEP 2015.



Higher-Form Symmetry

Gaiotto et al, 1412.5148

A generalization of conventional global symmetry

New symmetry principles for EFTs

Local
charged operators

$$\phi(x) \mapsto \phi'(x)$$

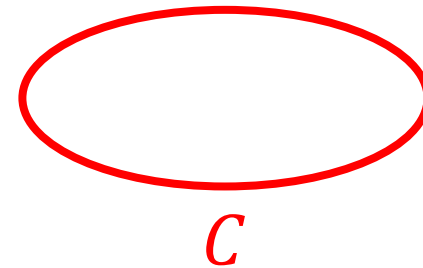
x
x

“**0**-form symmetry”

Nambu–Goldstone modes
e.g., Pions

1-dimensional (line)
charged operators

$$W(C) \mapsto W'(C)$$



1-form symmetry

Nambu–Goldstone modes
e.g., **Photons**

Non-Equilibrium EFT × Higher-Form Symmetry

Q. How does **higher-form symmetry** constrain **local-equilibrium** dynamics?

- ❑ What dissipative effects emerge?
- ❑ Does the number of low-energy modes change?
- ❑ How are the dispersion relation modified?

Outline

Introduction & Motivation

How to Construct Effective Lagrangian

1. Identify IR-DoF based on SSB
2. Organize Constraints
3. Construct Effective Lagrangian

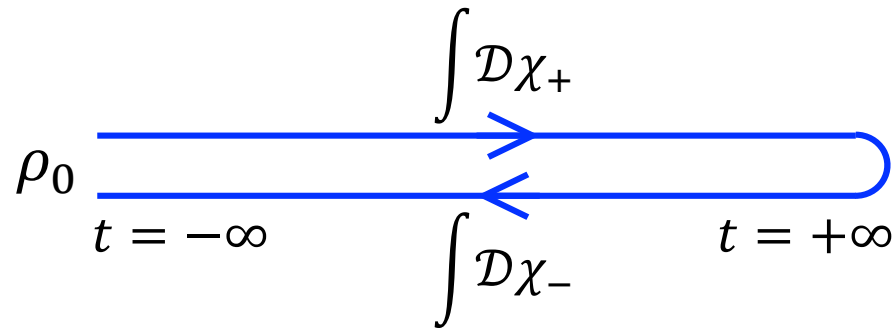
Physical Properties

Doubled DoF in SK-EFT

Review: Glorioso, Liu, 1805.09331

χ : Low-energy effective DoF

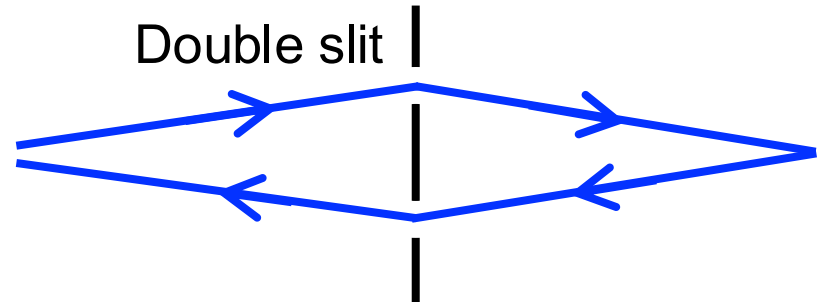
Time evolution of
density matrix



$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int \mathcal{D}\chi_+ \mathcal{D}\chi_- \mathcal{O} \exp(i I_{\text{eff}}[\chi_+, \chi_-])$$

Classical: $\chi_r = \frac{\chi_+ + \chi_-}{2}$

Fluctuation: $\hbar \chi_a = \chi_+ - \chi_-$

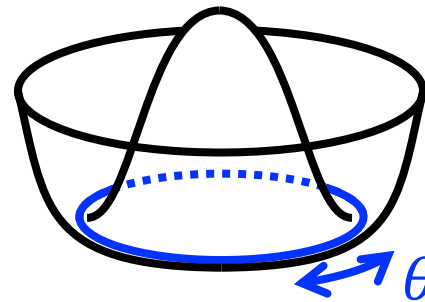
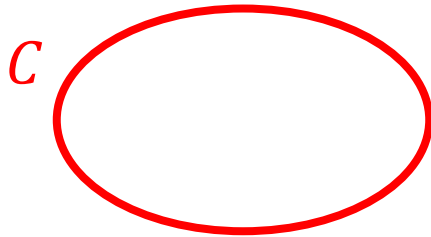


Doubled Symmetry in SK-EFT

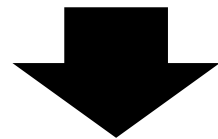
U(1) 1-form SSB in SK: $U(1)_+ \times U(1)_- \longrightarrow 1$

Non-locality from 1-form

$U(1)_\pm$ SSB



Broken direction: $W_\pm(C) = e^{i\theta}$



Parametrize by Local NG fields

$$W_\pm(C) = \exp \left[i \oint_C A_{\pm\mu}(x) dx^\mu \right]$$

Settings of EFT

- **DoF:** $\{A_+, A_-\}$

Classical: $A = \frac{A_+ + A_-}{2}$ Fluctuation: $\hbar a = A_+ - A_-$

- **Spacetime:** 3+1 dimension, uniform, isotropic
* Lorentz symmetry is absent

- **Symmetry:** $U(1)_+ \times U(1)_-$ 1-form $\longrightarrow 1$

Invariants under symmetry

	Electric	Magnetic
Classical	$\textcolor{red}{E} := -\nabla A^0 - \dot{A}$	$\textcolor{red}{B} := \nabla \times A$
Fluctuation	$\textcolor{red}{e} := -\nabla a^0 - \dot{a}$	$\textcolor{red}{b} := \nabla \times a$

- **Nonequilibrium constraints:** KMS, Unitarity

Dynamical KMS Symmetry

Sieberer et al, PRB 2015

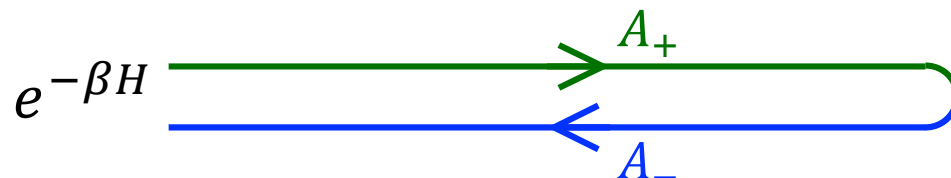
- Emergent symmetry characterizing **local equilibrium**
- Combination of KMS condition and time-reversal symmetry

KMS condition: $\langle X(t_1) Y(t_2) \rangle_\beta = \langle Y(t_2 - i\beta/2) X(t_1 + i\beta/2) \rangle_\beta$

time-reversal sym. Θ : $\langle YX \rangle_\beta = \langle \Theta X^\dagger Y^\dagger \Theta^{-1} \rangle_\beta$

dynamical KMS sym: $\langle X(t_1) Y(t_2) \rangle_\beta = \langle \tilde{X}(t_1) \tilde{Y}(t_2) \rangle_\beta$

generating functional: $e^{W[J_+, J_-]} \propto \langle U^\dagger(+\infty, -\infty; J_-) U(+\infty, -\infty; J_+) \rangle_\beta$



Dynamical KMS Transformation

Sieberer et al, PRB 2015

$$\tilde{A}_{\pm}(t_1) := \eta_A A_{\pm}(-t_1 \pm i\hbar\beta/2)$$

- $\eta_A = \pm 1$ from time-reversal Θ
- Imaginary time shift from KMS

In classical lim. $\hbar \rightarrow 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{E} &= \pm E & \tilde{e} &= \pm(e + i\beta\dot{E}) \\ \tilde{B} &= \pm B & \tilde{b} &= \pm(b + i\beta\dot{B}) \end{aligned}$$

Construction of Effective Lagrangian

✓ 1-form sym. ✓ Uniform & isotropic ✓ Local equilibrium

Allowed terms (higher-derivatives omitted)

$$\mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{E} \quad \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{B} \quad \mathbf{e} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{B}} - \mathbf{b} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{E}} \quad e^2 + i\beta \mathbf{e} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{E}} \quad b^2 + i\beta \mathbf{b} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{B}}$$

Unitarity conditions

- Involve at least one a
- a^{2n+1} : Real, a^{2n} : Pure imaginary
- $\text{Im}(\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[a, A]) \geq 0$

Effective Lagrangian GY, Akamatsu, Hirono, 2601.00605

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[A, a] = & \epsilon \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{E} - \mu^{-1} \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \gamma \left(\mathbf{e} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{B}} - \mathbf{b} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{E}} \right) \\ & + i \frac{\tau_E}{\beta} \mathbf{e} \cdot (\mathbf{e} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{E}}) + i \frac{\tau_B}{\beta} \mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{b} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{B}}) \end{aligned}$$

Outline

Introduction & Motivation

How to Construct Effective Lagrangian

Physical Properties

1. Overview of Effective Lagrangian
2. Fluctuation-Dissipation Relation
3. Dispersion Relation
4. Entropy Production

Overview of Effective Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[A, a] = \epsilon \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{E} - \mu^{-1} \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \gamma \left(\mathbf{e} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{B}} - \mathbf{b} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{E}} \right) \\ + i \frac{\tau_E}{\beta} \mathbf{e} \cdot \left(\mathbf{e} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{E}} \right) + i \frac{\tau_B}{\beta} \mathbf{b} \cdot \left(\mathbf{b} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{B}} \right)$$

Maxwell Part

ϵ : Electric permittivity μ : Magnetic permeability

Magneto-Electric Cross Coupling (Parity violating)

γ : Coefficient

Fluctuation & Dissipation Part

$\tau_{E,B} \geq 0$: Relaxation times

Fluctuation–Dissipation Relation (FDR)

$$\text{Langevin EoM. } \begin{cases} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{D} = 0 \\ \dot{\mathbf{D}} - \nabla \times \mathbf{H} = \mathbf{0} \end{cases} \quad \text{Bianchi id. } \begin{cases} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0 \\ \dot{\mathbf{B}} + \nabla \times \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{0} \end{cases}$$

Electric flux density $\mathbf{D} := \epsilon \mathbf{E} - \tau_E \dot{\mathbf{E}} + \gamma \dot{\mathbf{B}} + \xi_E$

Magnetic field $\mathbf{H} := \mu^{-1} \mathbf{B} + \tau_B \dot{\mathbf{B}} + \gamma \dot{\mathbf{E}} + \xi_B$

White Gaussian noise $\left\langle \xi_{E,B}^i(x) \xi_{E,B}^j(y) \right\rangle = \frac{2\tau_{E,B}}{\beta} \delta^{ij} \delta^{(4)}(x - y)$

$\mathbf{D}$ lags $\mathbf{E} \Rightarrow$ Dielectric loss

$\mathbf{B}$ lags $\mathbf{H} \Rightarrow$ Magnetic loss

Relaxation time $\propto$ Noise strength² — FDR

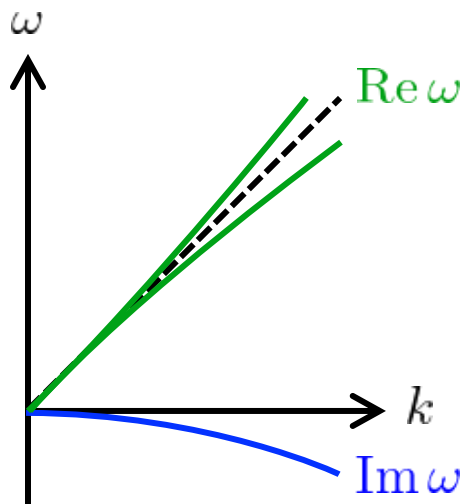
Dispersion Relation

Helicity eigenmode

$$\mathbf{E}(t, \mathbf{x}) = E_0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \pm i \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \exp(-i\omega t + ikz), \quad \mathbf{B}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \frac{E_0}{v} \begin{pmatrix} \mp i \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \exp(-i\omega t + ikz)$$

v : Speed of light in medium

$$\omega(k) = \pm vk + \left(\pm \gamma v - i \frac{\tau_E + \tau_B}{2} \right) v^2 k^2 + \mathcal{O}(k^3)$$



Linear dispersion: NG Photon in medium

Entropy Current

$$\begin{cases} s^0 = \frac{1}{2}\beta(\epsilon \mathbf{E}^2 - \mu^{-1} \mathbf{B}^2) - \beta \mathbf{E} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{D}} - \beta A^0 \nabla \cdot \bar{\mathbf{D}} \approx -\beta \times (\text{Energy density}) \\ \mathbf{s} = -\beta \mathbf{E} \times \bar{\mathbf{H}} - \beta A^0 (\dot{\bar{\mathbf{D}}} - \nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{H}}) \approx -\beta \times (\text{Energy flux}) \end{cases}$$

Entropy production $\langle \partial_\mu s^\mu \rangle \propto$ **Energy dissipation rate**

$$\partial_\mu s^\mu[A] = \beta \dot{A}^0 \nabla \cdot \bar{\mathbf{D}} + \beta \dot{\mathbf{A}} \cdot (\dot{\bar{\mathbf{D}}} - \nabla \times \bar{\mathbf{H}}) + \beta(\tau_E \dot{\mathbf{E}}^2 + \tau_B \dot{\mathbf{B}}^2)$$

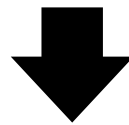
$$\bar{\mathbf{D}} := \epsilon(\mathbf{E} - \tau_E \dot{\mathbf{E}} + v^2 \gamma \dot{\mathbf{B}})$$

$$\bar{\mathbf{H}} := \mu^{-1}(\mathbf{B} + \tau_B \dot{\mathbf{B}} + \gamma \dot{\mathbf{E}})$$

Mean parts

Gauge dependent terms are suppressed up to thermal noise

Unitarity condition $\text{Im}(\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}) \geq 0$



Non-decreasing $\langle \partial_\mu s^\mu \rangle \geq 0$

Conclusion

Nonequilibrium EFT for U(1) 1-form Symmetry

SSB:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[A, a] = \epsilon \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{E} - \mu^{-1} \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \gamma \left(\mathbf{e} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{B}} - \mathbf{b} \cdot \dot{\mathbf{E}} \right) + i \frac{\tau_E}{\beta} \mathbf{e} \cdot (\mathbf{e} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{E}}) + i \frac{\tau_B}{\beta} \mathbf{b} \cdot (\mathbf{b} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{B}})$$

Unbroken:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[a, A] = \mathbf{e} \cdot (\epsilon \mathbf{E} + \gamma \dot{\mathbf{B}}) - \mathbf{b} \cdot (\tau_B \dot{\mathbf{B}} + \gamma \dot{\mathbf{E}} + \kappa \mathbf{E} \times \dot{\mathbf{B}}) + \frac{i}{\beta} \tau_B \mathbf{b}^2$$

- ✓ Symmetry-based approach for higher-form
- ✓ Unitarity and KMS symmetry are implemented
- ✓ Applicable to both of broken/unbroken phases

Applicability of EFTs is broadened

Thank You!

Unbroken Phase

SSB: $U(1)_+^{[p]} \times U(1)_-^{[p]} \longrightarrow 1$

Unbroken: $U(1)_+^{[p]} \times U(1)_-^{[p]} \longrightarrow U(1)_r^{[p]}$

Dimension of G/H decreases

but r-a fields should make pair

—— Gauge redundancy appears

Unbroken Phase (0-form)

Gauging $U(1)_r^{[0]}$: $I_{\text{eff}}[d\pi_r, d\pi_a] \mapsto I_{\text{eff}}[A + d\pi_r, d\pi_a]$

Gauge transformation:
$$\begin{cases} A \mapsto A + d\lambda(t, \mathbf{x}) \\ \pi_r \mapsto \pi_r - \lambda(t, \mathbf{x}) \end{cases}$$

$A_0 = \mu$ has physical meaning in hydro-EFT
 — Gauge transformation preserving A_0

$$\pi_r \mapsto \pi_r - \lambda'(\mathbf{x})$$

Building block for EFT: $\dot{\pi}_r$, $\nabla \dot{\pi}_r$, $\dot{\pi}_a$, $\nabla \pi_a$

Unbroken Phase (1-form)

Gauging $U(1)_r^{[1]}$: $I_{\text{eff}}[dA, da] \mapsto I_{\text{eff}}[G + dA, da]$

Gauge transformation:
$$\begin{cases} G \mapsto G + d\Lambda(t, \mathbf{x}) \\ A \mapsto A - \Lambda(t, \mathbf{x}) \end{cases}$$

Correspondent of chemical potential: G_{0i}

—— Gauge transformation preserving G_{0i}

$$\mathbf{E} \mapsto \mathbf{E}$$

$$\mathbf{B} \mapsto \mathbf{B} - \boldsymbol{\Lambda}_B(\mathbf{x})$$

Building block for EFT: $\mathbf{E}$, $\dot{\mathbf{B}}$, $\mathbf{e}$, $\mathbf{b}$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[a, A] = \mathbf{e} \cdot (\epsilon \mathbf{E} + \gamma \dot{\mathbf{B}}) - \mathbf{b} \cdot (\tau_B \dot{\mathbf{B}} + \gamma \dot{\mathbf{E}} + \kappa \mathbf{E} \times \dot{\mathbf{B}}) + \frac{i}{\beta} \tau_B \mathbf{b}^2$$

1-Form Symmetries in Electromagnetism

Generalized conservation laws

$$U(1)_E \quad \partial_\nu F^{\mu\nu} = j^\mu \quad \longleftarrow \text{Charged matter}$$

$$U(1)_M \quad \partial_\nu \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

Systems	Plasma	Insulator ($j^\mu = 0$)
$U(1)_E$	explicitly broken	SSB
$U(1)_M$	unbroken	SSB
Nonequilibrium EFT	S. Vardhan, et al. 2408.12868	GY et al. (2026) 2601.00605
Phenomenology	“Magnetohydrodynamics”	Electromagnetism in media
Low-energy modes	Diffusion of magnetic flux $\omega = -iDk^2$	Electromagnetic waves $\omega = vk$

Identification of IR-DoF

NG modes: Oscillation of **broken direction** $W_{\pm}(C_1)$

Parametrize the oscillation.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Local NG fields} & \xrightarrow{\text{Integration}} & W_{\pm}(C_1) \\ A_{\pm}(x) & \int_{C_1} dx^{\mu} & \end{array}$$

	c.f., 0-form	1-form
Parametrization	$\Omega(x) = \exp[i\pi(x)]$	$W_{\pm}(C_1) = \exp \left[i \oint_{C_1} A_{\pm\mu}(x) dx^{\mu} \right]$
Symmetry Transformation	$\pi_{\pm} \mapsto \pi_{\pm} + h_{\pm}$ where $dh_{\pm} = 0$	$A_{\pm} \mapsto A_{\pm} + \Lambda_{\pm}$ where $d\Lambda_{\pm} = 0$

1-Form Symmetries in Electromagnetism

0-form conservation law: $\partial_\mu J^\mu = 0$

1-form conservation law: $\partial_\nu J^{\mu\nu} = 0$

e.g., Maxwell theory in vacuum $\partial_\nu F^{\mu\nu} = 0, \quad \partial_\nu \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = 0$

$$\implies \omega = \pm ck$$

Photon: Nambu–Goldstone (NG) modes from $U(1)_E$ and $U(1)_M$

D. Gaiotto, et al. (2015).

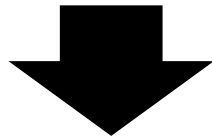
Symmetry	Transformation	SSB	Conservation
$U(1)_E$	$A \longmapsto A + \Lambda, \quad d\Lambda = 0$	$\langle W \rangle \neq 0$	$\partial_\nu F^{\mu\nu} = 0$
$U(1)_M$	$\tilde{A} \longmapsto \tilde{A} + \tilde{\Lambda}, \quad d\tilde{\Lambda} = 0$	$\langle T \rangle \neq 0$	$\partial_\nu \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = 0$

cf) $U(1)$ 0-form: $\pi \longmapsto \pi + \lambda, \quad d\lambda = 0$

Unitarity Conditions

Review: Glorioso, Liu, 1805.09331

UV theory should be **unitary**



Integrate out high-energy DoF

SK-EFT is not unitary

but **imprints of unitarity** still exist

- $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[a = 0, A] = 0$ Involve at least one a
- $\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[a, A] = -\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}^*[-a, A]$ a^{2n+1} : Real, a^{2n} : Pure Imag
- $\text{Im}(\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[a, A]) \geq 0$ Positive semidefinite

Higher Extension of Maurer-Cartan Form

Maurer-Cartan (MC) form describes change of broken direction and serves as a **building block** in the coset construction.

$\Omega(x)$: broken direction for 0-form symmetry (coset variable)

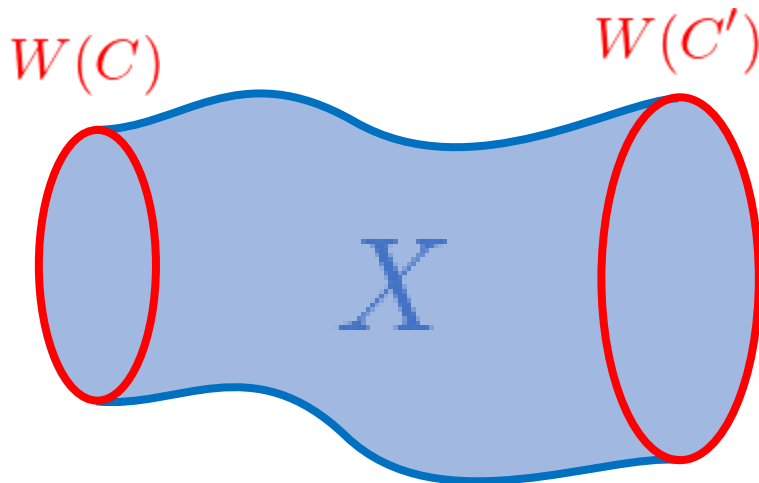


$$\Omega(x') = \exp \left(i \int_x^{x'} \omega \right) \Omega(x)$$

Maurer-Cartan 1-form

$$\omega = \Omega^\dagger d\Omega$$

$W(C)$: broken direction for 1-form symmetry (Wilson loop)



$$W(C') = \exp \left(i \int_X F \right) W(C)$$

$$\partial X = C \cup (-C')$$

Maurer-Cartan 2-form

$$F = dA$$

Dynamical KMS Transformation

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &\mapsto \Theta A & \partial_t &\mapsto -\partial_t \\
 a &\mapsto \Theta(a + i\beta \dot{A}) & (\text{e.g., } \Theta = \text{time reversal})
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{array}{l|l}
 \text{KMS}[\mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{E}] - \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{E} & \text{KMS}[\mathbf{e} \cdot (\mathbf{e} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{E}})] - \mathbf{e} \cdot (\mathbf{e} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{E}}) \\
 = (\mathbf{e} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{E}}) \cdot \mathbf{E} - \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{E} & = (\mathbf{e} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{E}}) \cdot \mathbf{e} - \mathbf{e} \cdot (\mathbf{e} + i\beta \dot{\mathbf{E}}) \\
 = \partial_t \left(\frac{i\beta}{2} \mathbf{E}^2 \right) & = 0
 \end{array}$$

Maxwell Equation in Nonequilibrium

To clarify thermal noise, introduce auxiliary field $\xi_{E,B}$

$$\int \mathcal{D}a \mathcal{D}A \mathcal{O} \exp \left\{ i \int \left[\mathbf{e} \cdot (\dots)_{E,B} - \mathbf{b} \cdot (\dots)_{E,B} + \frac{i}{\beta} (\tau_E \mathbf{e}^2 + \tau_B \mathbf{b}^2) \right] \right\}$$

$$\propto \int \mathcal{D}a \mathcal{D}A \mathcal{D}\xi_E \mathcal{D}\xi_B \mathcal{O} \exp \left\{ i \int \left[\mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{D} - \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{H} + \frac{i\beta}{4} \left(\frac{1}{\tau_E} \xi_E^2 + \frac{1}{\tau_B} \xi_B^2 \right) \right] \right\}$$

White Gaussian noise $\left\langle \xi_{E,B}^i(x) \xi_{E,B}^j(y) \right\rangle = \frac{2\tau_{E,B}}{\beta} \delta^{ij} \delta^{(4)}(x - y)$

Electric flux density $\mathbf{D} := \epsilon \mathbf{E} - \tau_E \dot{\mathbf{E}} + \gamma \dot{\mathbf{B}} + \xi_E$

Magnetic field $\mathbf{H} := \mu^{-1} \mathbf{B} + \tau_B \dot{\mathbf{B}} + \gamma \dot{\mathbf{E}} + \xi_B$

Instability from Chiral Magnetic Effect

Is the constriction only with E, B enough?

—— Unique exception: $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{B}$

- Parity-odd
- Induces electric current $\mathbf{j}_e = \frac{\delta I_{\text{eff}}}{\delta \mathbf{a}} \propto \mathbf{B}$

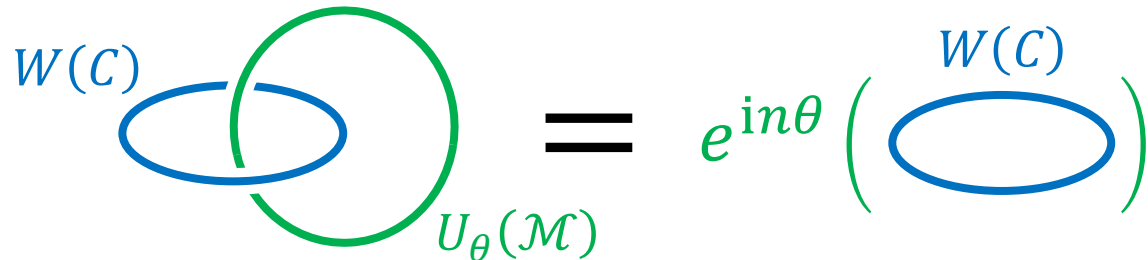
Includes “**Chiral Magnetic Effect**”: $\mathbf{j}_e \propto \mu_5 \mathbf{B}$

$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{B}$ induces **instability**

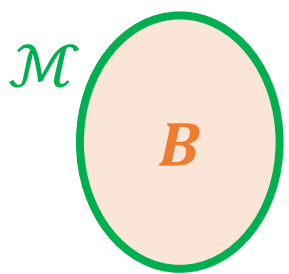
Dispersion
(weak-field region) $\omega(k) = \pm i \sqrt{\frac{\chi}{\epsilon}} k^{1/2} \quad \text{Im } \omega > 0 \text{ Blow up}$

Nonlinear effect becomes essential for steady state

Ward-Takahashi Identity



$$W(C) \bigcirc U_\theta(\mathcal{M}) = e^{in\theta} \left(W(C) \right)$$



$$\begin{aligned}
 \left\langle W(C) \exp \left(-i\theta \int_{\mathcal{M}} \star j \right) \right\rangle &= \int \mathcal{D}a \, \mathcal{D}A \, W(C) \exp \left(-i\theta \int_{\mathcal{M}} \star j \right) e^{iI_{\text{eff}}} \\
 &= \int \mathcal{D}a \, \mathcal{D}A \, W(C) \exp \left(-i\theta \int_B d \star j \right) e^{iI_{\text{eff}}} \\
 &= \int \mathcal{D}a \, \mathcal{D}A \, W(C) \exp \left(-i\theta \int_B \star \frac{\delta I_{\text{eff}}}{\delta A} \right) e^{iI_{\text{eff}}} \\
 &= \int \mathcal{D}a \, \mathcal{D}A \, W(C) \exp \left(-\theta \int_B \star \frac{\delta}{\delta A} \right) e^{iI_{\text{eff}}} \\
 &= \int \mathcal{D}a \, \mathcal{D}A \, e^{iI_{\text{eff}}} \exp \left(\theta \int_B \star \frac{\delta}{\delta A} \right) W(C) \\
 &= \int \mathcal{D}a \, \mathcal{D}A \, e^{iI_{\text{eff}}} \exp \left(\theta \int_B \star i\delta[C] \right) W(C) \\
 &= \int \mathcal{D}a \, \mathcal{D}A \, e^{iI_{\text{eff}}} \exp(i\theta \text{Link}[\mathcal{M}, C]) W(C) \\
 &= \exp(in\theta) \langle W(C) \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

Stokes's theorem

$$\star \frac{\delta I_{\text{eff}}}{\delta A} =: d \star j$$