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The mass of  $\eta'$  (958), CP and P conservation in QCD,  
manifestations of a Josephson effect

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Peter Minkowski<sup>+</sup>)

Max-Planck-Institut für Physik und Astrophysik, München (Fed. Rep. of Germany)

Abstract:

The ground state of QCD reveals among others a spontaneous phase parameter in connection with gauge field configurations with nontrivial topological charge. It is shown to share the basic associated features with the Josephson effects pertaining to electromagnetic gauges in a superconductor.

True and trial groundstates are shown to be distinguishable, the latter showing P(CP) violating effects but not the former.

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On leave from Inst. for Theoretical Physics, University of Bern,  
Bern, Switzerland

The masses and mixing pattern of the pseudoscalar meson nonet

$$\{(\pi^\pm, \pi^0); (K^\pm, K^0, \bar{K}^0); \eta; \eta'\}$$

as opposed e.g. to the associated vector meson nonet  $\{(P^\pm, P^0); \omega; (K^{*\pm}, K^{*0}, \bar{K}^{*0}); \varphi\}$  are thought to reflect the approximate realization of spontaneously broken  $SU3_{fl} \times SU3_{fl}$  chiral symmetry<sup>1)</sup>. In the symmetry limit the eight axial vector currents

$$\sum_c \bar{q}_s^c \left(\frac{\lambda^a}{2}\right)_{st} \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 q_t^c; \quad \text{Tr } \lambda^a = 0 \quad a=1, \dots, 8 \quad (1)$$

(s,t) = (up, down, strange)

c = (red, yellow, blue)

connect the groundstate to eight massless pseudoscalar Nambu-Goldstone-bosons

$$\{(\pi^\pm, \pi^0); (K^\pm, K^0, \bar{K}^0); \eta\}_{(0)}$$

The nature of color exchange forces between a color octet of vector gluons and color triplet quarks<sup>2)</sup> was conjectured to provide a mechanism to split the  $\eta'$ -meson from the eight Goldstone modes such that

$$(m_{\eta'})_{(0)} \simeq 880 \text{ MeV} \neq 0 \quad (2)$$

(o): referring to the chiral limit

Difficulties connected with the theoretical understanding of this mechanism have become known as the U1-problem<sup>3)</sup>.

In Quantumchromodynamics (QCD)<sup>2)4)</sup> the chiral limit is realised by the vanishing of the quark mass term  $\mathcal{L}_m$  in the total Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \mathcal{L}_0 + \mathcal{L}_m + \mathcal{L}_g + (\mathcal{L}_{\text{gauge fixing}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{ghost}}) \\ \mathcal{L}_0 &= \frac{1}{2g^2} \text{Tr} \left( B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} \right) + \bar{q}_s^c i \gamma^\mu \left[ \frac{1}{2} \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu + B_{\mu}^{cc'} \right] q_s^{c'} \\ -\mathcal{L}_m &= \bar{q}_s^c \left[ m_{st} \frac{1+\gamma_5}{2} + \bar{m}_{ts} \frac{1-\gamma_5}{2} \right] q_t^c \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_g = -g \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \text{Tr} (B_{\mu\nu} \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu}); \quad g: \text{real arbitrary}$$

$$B_\mu = i B_\mu^a \chi^a; \quad B_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\nu B_\mu - \partial_\mu B_\nu + [B_\nu, B_\mu]$$

$$\left[ \frac{\chi^a}{2}, \frac{\chi^b}{2} \right] = i f_{abc} \frac{\chi^c}{2}; \quad \text{Tr} \chi^a \chi^b = 2\delta^{ab}$$

$$\tilde{B}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} B^{\alpha\beta} \quad a, b, c = 1, \dots, 8$$

In eq. 3  $m_{st}$  are arbitrary complex parameters conveyed by spontaneous break-down of weak gauges.

The dynamics of the flavor singlet  $(\eta'_{(0)})_{J^P = 0^-}$  channel is connected to the axial current anomaly<sup>5)</sup>

$$\partial_\mu \left( \bar{q} \gamma_5 \gamma_{\mu\nu} q \right) = \partial_\mu J_\nu^5 = (2n_{fl}) \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \text{Tr} (B_{\mu\nu} \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu}) + \bar{q} \left[ i(m-m^\dagger) + (m+m^\dagger) \gamma_5 \right] q \quad (4)$$

The expression not vanishing for  $m \rightarrow 0$  on the right-hand side of eq. 4

$$- \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \text{Tr} B_{\mu\nu} \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{g} \mathcal{L}_g$$

is a total divergence of a gauge variant current

$$- \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \text{Tr} (B_{\mu\nu} \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu}) = \partial_\mu \Delta^\mu (B) \quad (5)$$

$$\Delta_\mu = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \epsilon_{\mu\alpha\beta\gamma} \text{Tr} \left( B^\alpha B^{\beta\gamma} + \frac{2}{3} B^\alpha B^\beta B^\gamma \right)$$

The conserved current

$$\tilde{F}_\mu^5 = J_\mu^5 + (2n_{fl}) \Delta_\mu (B) \quad (6)$$

gives rise to a conserved charge (in the limit of  $m \rightarrow 0$ )

$$Q_5 = \int d^3x \widehat{f}_c^5 \quad (7)$$

This charge is not gauge invariant<sup>6)7)</sup>. For fixed time  $t$  the mapping

$$S_3 \longrightarrow R_3 \xrightarrow{(n)} SU3_c \quad (8)$$

$$\begin{matrix} \vec{e} = e_0 + i \vec{e} \cdot \vec{\sigma} \\ e_0^2 + \vec{e}^2 = 1 \end{matrix} \longrightarrow \vec{X}(\vec{e}) \xrightarrow{(n)=0, \pm 1, \pm 2} \Omega^{(n)}(t, \vec{x}) \sim \left(\frac{\vec{e}}{e_0}\right)^n$$

into a subgroup of the gauge group  $SU3^c$  defines associated topological classes of gauge transformations with  $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$ . Any representative of class  $n$  has the property

$$Q_5(B_\alpha \Omega^{(n)}) = Q_5(B_\alpha) + 2n_{fl} \left(\frac{n}{4n}\right) \quad (9)$$

$$B_\alpha \Omega^{(n)} = \Omega^{(n)} B_\alpha (\Omega^{(n)})^{-1} + \Omega^{(n)} \partial_\alpha (\Omega^{(n)})^{-1}$$

$n$ : independent of time.

The two inequivalent embeddings of  $SU2 \rightarrow SU3^c$  yield  $2n_{fl} \cdot n$ ,  $8n_{fl} \cdot n$  in eq. 9 respectively.

In close analogy with QED in two dimensions (Schwinger model)<sup>8)9)</sup> there exist formally unitary transformations  $T_n$  associated with  $\Omega^{(n)}$ , mandatory for the local representation of quark and gluon fields, with the property

$$T_n = (T)^n, \quad T^{-1} Q_5 T = Q_5 + 2n_{fl}$$

$$T = \exp[-i(2n_{fl}) \cdot S_5] \quad [Q_5, S_5] = i(2n_{fl}) \mathbb{1} \quad (8)$$

The conjugate pair  $(Q_5, S_5)$  can be represented on a circle as

$$Q_5 \leftrightarrow i \frac{\partial}{\partial \Theta} (2n_{fl}), \quad S_5 \leftrightarrow \Theta \quad (9)$$

The formal construction of the groundstate functional proceeds in close analogy to the representation in eq. (9)<sup>6)</sup>:

$$|\omega_n\rangle \leftrightarrow e^{-in\Theta} \quad n=0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

$$Q_5 |\omega_n\rangle = (2nfc) \cdot n |\omega_n\rangle$$

$$T |\omega_n\rangle = |\omega_{n+1}\rangle$$

$$|\Omega_{\Theta_V}\rangle = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-in\Theta_V} |\omega_n\rangle \leftrightarrow \delta(\Theta - \Theta_V) \quad (10)$$

$$\langle \Omega_{\Theta'_V} | \Omega_{\Theta_V} \rangle = (2\pi) \delta(\Theta'_V - \Theta_V)$$

We will argue that it is indeed necessary to minimize the action integral with respect to the trial states  $|\Omega_{\Theta_V}\rangle$ , varying  $\Theta_V$  to determine the minimum, if the energy of the groundstate corresponds to a true, isolated minimum of energy<sup>10)</sup>.

The action functional due to instanton effects has been shown by t'Hooft<sup>12)</sup> to correspond to the individual contributions

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Omega_{\Theta'_V} | \left( \int \mathcal{D}[B_\mu, \xi_{ghost}, q^+, q] \exp i S \right) | \Omega_{\Theta_V} \rangle &= \\ &= (2\pi) \delta(\Theta'_V - \Theta_V) \exp(-W(\Theta_V)) \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \exp(-W(\Theta_V)) &= \sum_{\Delta n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \exp(i \Delta n \Theta_V) \langle \omega_{\Delta n} | \int \mathcal{D}[X] e^{iS} | \omega_0 \rangle \\ &= \sum_{\Delta n} \exp[i(\Theta_V - \bar{\vartheta}) \Delta n] K_{\Delta n} \end{aligned}$$

In eq. (11)  $\bar{\vartheta} = \vartheta - \arg \det m$ , and  $K_{\Delta n}$  denote functions depending only on the  $n_{fl}$  chiral invariants of the quark mass matrix (if spontaneous  $SU_{fl} \times SU_{fl}$  symmetry breaking is neglected)

$$K_{\Delta n} = K_{\Delta n}(x_1, \dots, x_{n_{fl}}) = K_{-\Delta n} \quad (\text{by CPT invariance}) \quad (12)$$

$$x_\nu = \text{Tr} (m^\dagger m)^\nu; \quad \nu=1, \dots, n_{fl}$$

We consider the operators

$$\begin{aligned}
 U_\alpha &= \exp(-i\alpha Q_5), \quad U_5 = U(d = \frac{\pi}{h_{fl}}) \\
 \Omega_{\theta_V} &\longleftrightarrow \sum_n \exp[i n (\theta - \theta_V)] \quad (13) \\
 U_\alpha \Omega_{\theta_V} &= \Omega_{\theta_V + 2\pi h_{fl} \alpha} \longleftrightarrow \sum_n \exp[i n (\theta - \theta_V - 2\pi h_{fl} \alpha)]
 \end{aligned}$$

The gauge invariant discrete symmetry generated by  $Q_5$  corresponds to a phase shift of  $2\pi$ .

For small values of  $m$  with respect to the renormalization group invariant mass characterising the chiral limit

$$\mu^* = \lim_{\substack{\mu \rightarrow \infty \\ m \rightarrow 0}} \mu \exp - \frac{8\pi^2}{b g^2(\mu)} \quad (14)$$

$$K_{\Delta n} \quad b = 11 - \frac{2}{3} n_{fl} \quad \text{vanishes proportionally to } \left| \text{Det}^2 \left( \frac{m}{\mu^*} \right) \right|^{|\Delta n|}$$

if we neglect all effects due to spontaneous symmetry breaking of  $SU_{fl} \times SU_{fl}$ . We shall denote the part of  $K_{\Delta n}$  pertaining to the limit of vanishing spontaneous  $SU_{fl} \times SU_{fl}$  breaking parameters (not to be confused with quark masses) by  $k_{\Delta n}$ . These parameters are the BCS-like pairing strengths of quark-antiquark pairs in the groundstate<sup>13)</sup>.

The spontaneous breaking of the  $U_1$  symmetry generated by  $Q_5$  can be made explicit considering a variation of  $e^{-W}$  with respect to  $m$ , and involves the nonvanishing matrix element of the operators<sup>1)12)</sup>

$$F_{L(R)} = \text{Det}_{s,t} \left( \bar{q}_s^c \frac{1+\gamma_5}{2} q_t^c \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\langle \Omega_{\theta_V'} | \text{Det}_{s,t} \left( \bar{q}_s^c \frac{1+\gamma_5}{2} q_t^c \right) | \Omega_{\theta_V} \rangle_{(0)} = \\
 &= (2\pi) \delta(\theta_V' - \theta_V) e^{i n [\theta_V - \theta_V']} \lim_{m \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{k_1}{|\text{Det} m|} \right) \quad (15)
 \end{aligned}$$

We propose to call this collection of quarks and antiquarks (in the ground-state) flavor cycle.

The action functional when varied with respect to  $\tilde{v}$  with fixed  $\Theta_V$  (or  $-\Theta_V$  with fixed  $\tilde{v}$ ) yields the vacuum expectation value of the operator  $B_{\mu\nu} \sim B_{\mu\nu}^a$ :

$$\left( \frac{\partial W}{\partial \Theta_V} \right)_{\tilde{v}, m} = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \langle B_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu a} \rangle_{\Theta_V} \quad (16)$$

We now use the Ward identity involving the axial anomaly

$$\partial_\mu J_5^\mu = - (2i\eta) \frac{1}{32\pi^2} B_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{B}^{\mu\nu a} + \bar{q} [i(m-m^+) + (m+m^+)i\gamma_5] q \quad (17)$$

and evaluate it with respect to the groundstate. If the latter is an eigenstate of momentum (with vanishing eigenvalues) then

$$\langle \partial_\mu J_5^\mu \rangle_{\Theta_V} = 0 \quad (18)$$

Now either the simple pairing strengths

$$\left\langle \sum_c \bar{q}_s^c \frac{1+\gamma_5}{2} q_t^c \right\rangle_{\Theta_V} = \overline{M}_{ts} \quad (19)$$

are zero, in which case eq. (16), (17) and (18) yield

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \Theta_V} (W_{\Theta_V}) = 0 \quad (20)$$

This condition determines the phase  $\Theta_V$  dynamically such as to minimize the action. It was pointed out in ref. 13) that neglecting effects due to  $M_{ts} \neq 0$  in eq. (19), at least for the light flavors, is incorrect

$$M_{ts} \xrightarrow{(m \rightarrow 0)} \delta_{ts} M \quad \text{for } t, s = \text{up, down} \quad (21)$$

$$(m_u^* + m_d^*) / |M| = \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{2} \frac{m_\pi^2}{f_\pi} \rightarrow (|M|)^{1/3} \approx 200 \text{ MeV}$$

for  $m_u^* + m_d^* = 11 \text{ MeV}$  <sup>7)14)</sup>

$m_s^*$  denote the nonnegative eigenvalues of the matrix  $(mm^+)^{1/2}$ .

For  $m \rightarrow 0$  there still is tunneling from  $|\omega\rangle$  to  $|\omega_{n+\Delta n}\rangle$  due to single  $q\bar{q}$ -pairs breaking  $SU_{fl} \times SU_{fl}$  invariance<sup>15)</sup>.

Thus in the chiral limit ( $m = 0$ ) the same argument as before yields

$$\partial_{\Theta_V} W_{\Theta_V}(M) = 0, \quad (22)$$

$$K_{\Delta n} = K_{\Delta n}(M, m=0) \neq 0, \quad \Delta n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

In eq. (22) the dependence of  $W_{\Theta_V}$  on  $M$  comes entirely from the dependence of the trial groundstate  $|\Omega_{\Theta_V}(M)\rangle$  on  $M$ .

For general externally given (fixed) mass matrix  $m$  and nontrivial vacuum expectation values  $M$  the action functional is a function of the variables  $\Theta_V, M, m, \bar{\nu}$

$$e^{-W_{\Theta_V}} = \sum_{\Delta n} e^{i\Delta n (\Theta_V - \bar{\nu})} K_{\Delta n} \left[ \begin{matrix} m^+ m, m^+ M, \\ M^+ m, M^+ M \end{matrix} \right] \quad (23)$$

In eq. (23) we have specialised to one flavor. The following discussion is not dependent on the number of flavors. One obtains the equations

$$\left( \frac{\partial W}{\partial m^+} \right)_{\Theta_V, \bar{\nu}, M} = M \quad (24)^{FN1}$$

Now eq. (17) takes the form

$$i \left[ m \frac{\partial}{\partial m} - m^+ \frac{\partial}{\partial m^+} \right] W = (2n_f e) \frac{\partial}{\partial \Theta_V} W \quad (25)$$

Since  $K_{\Delta n}$  depends nontrivially on  $m^+ M, M^+ m$ , the above equation is by no means a consequence of  $U(1)_5$ -covariance. In general the solutions to eq. (24) and (25), of which the previously discussed limits  $M = 0$  and  $m = 0$  are special cases demand the two conditions

$$m M^+ = m^+ M \quad ; \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \Theta_V} W = 0 \quad (26)$$

It is the conflict of the implementation of both energy and momentum conservation and the candidate symmetry denoted  $S_5$  here which forces the phase  $\Theta_V$  to cancel the phases  $\bar{\nu} = \bar{\nu} - \arg \det m$ . The associated phase fluctuations forcing a candidate superselection rule to choose a phase bear all similarity to the Josephson effect<sup>16) FN2)</sup>.



As a consequence of eq. (24), (26) we can perform the following joint change of spontaneous and explicit parameters

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Theta_V = \bar{\nu} &\longrightarrow 0 \\
 M = V_R M^* V_L^{-1} &\longrightarrow M^* = \begin{pmatrix} M_u^* & & 0 \\ & M_d^* & \\ 0 & & M_s^* \dots \end{pmatrix} \\
 & \quad M_q^* : \text{real} \quad (27) \\
 m = V_R m^* V_L^{-1} &\longrightarrow m^* = \begin{pmatrix} m_u^* & & 0 \\ & m_d^* & \\ 0 & & m_s^* \dots \end{pmatrix} \\
 \nu &\longrightarrow 0 \\
 & \quad m_q^* \geq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

It is only after this change of variables that the discrete symmetries P, CP take the form of simple transformation rules on the quark and gluon fields. They are although not symmetries of the forced groundstates, exact symmetries of the true groundstate when weak effects are neglected.

The dynamically constrained nature of  $\Theta_V$  was first stated by Peccei and Quinn<sup>17)</sup>. As a matter of principle it also follows from their work, that  $\Theta_V$  is not without constraint relative to the scalar vacuum expectation values  $\phi_\alpha = \langle \Omega / \varphi_\alpha / \Omega \rangle$  in the true groundstate.

Finally the Schwinger model<sup>8)</sup> does admit the analogy of  $\Theta_V$  in two-dimensional massless QED<sup>9)</sup>. In the sector with even fermion number which contains all the forced groundstates there is no genuine interaction to distinguish among them.

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Footnotes

FN1) The meaning of eq. (24) is the following:

The variation with respect to  $m$  should be performed not varying the spontaneous parameters  $(\Theta_V, M)$  characterising a true or forced groundstate  $|\Omega(\Theta_V, M)\rangle$ . Even if  $M$  happens to be the true value of  $M$  for a given  $m$ , it will not remain so while  $m$  is varied. Thus it is mandatory to compute the action functional for unconstrained values of  $(\Theta_V, M)$  first:

$$2\pi\delta(\Theta_V' - \Theta_V)e^{-W} = \langle \Omega(\Theta_V', M) | \int \mathcal{D}X \exp i S[X, \mathcal{V}, m] | \Omega(\Theta_V, M) \rangle$$

$$W = W(\Theta_V, M; \mathcal{V}, m)$$

The values pertaining to the true groundstate are subsequently determined through equations of the logical structure of eq. (24) (equilibrium conditions in statistical mechanics).

In this sense the parameters in the Lagrangian  $(\mathcal{V}, m)$  and the spontaneous parameters characterising the groundstate  $(\Theta_V, M)$  are conjugate variables. This is best seen when eq. (24) is replaced by the associated Legendre transform

$$T(\Theta_V, M; \mathcal{V}, m) = W - \text{Tr}[m M^+ + M^+ m]$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial T}{\partial m} \right)_{\Theta_V, \mathcal{V}, M} = 0$$

Symmetries which are broken explicitly and spontaneously e.g. rotations in the Heisenberg ferromagnet in the presence of a fixed external magnetic field, can differentiate between forced and true groundstate.

In the ferromagnet the critical symmetry is a rotation around the axis of the magnetic field. The forced groundstate corresponds to all spins aligned in a direction forming an angle  $\Theta$  with the magnetic field. The true groundstate has  $\Theta = 0$  and the critical symmetry is recovered. The critical symmetry in our case is CP (or P). The fact that it takes infinite energy to force the above family of trial groundstates is immaterial.

FN2) We conjecture that the  $\eta'$  meson (and similarly the  $\eta_c$  (2830)) is actually associated with another value of  $\Theta$  :

$$\Theta_{\eta'} - \Theta_V = \pm(2\pi) / (2\mu\pi e)$$

and that it is this fact which causes the hadronic width of  $\eta'$  to be reduced

$$\Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow \eta\pi\pi} < 1 \text{ MeV}$$

whereas despite the essential mass difference

$$\langle \Omega / f_M^{(s)} / \eta' \rangle \simeq \langle \Omega / (\bar{u}\gamma_\mu\gamma_5 u - \bar{d}\gamma_\mu\gamma_5 d) \sqrt{\frac{4\pi e}{2}} / \pi^0 \rangle$$

yielding

$$\Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow 2\pi} \simeq \left( \frac{m_{\eta'}}{m_\pi} \right)^3 \left( \frac{F_{\eta'}^2}{F_\pi^2} \right) \frac{8}{3} \Gamma_{\pi^0 \rightarrow 2\pi} \simeq 7.5 \text{ keV}$$

convoluting with the known branching fraction

$$\Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow 2\pi} / \Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow \text{all}} = (2.0 \pm 0.3) 10^{-2} \text{ one then obtains}$$

$$\Gamma_{\eta' \rightarrow \text{hadrons}} \simeq 250 \text{ keV}$$

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