# Quantize Kähler-Dirac field

A theoretical explanation for Tenet?!

Wei-Ning Deng (Cambridge) supervisor:Latham Boyle (Edinburgh) September 18, 2025



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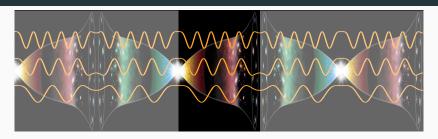
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Q1: What does time going backwards universe mean?

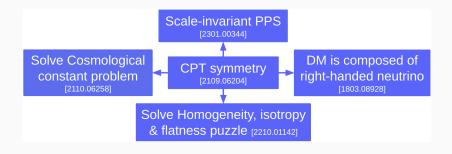
Q2: Can we travel forward in a backward going universe?

# introduction: CPT symmetric universe



- 1. Periodic solution to the Friedmann eq. in conformal time.
- 2. Physical time goes backwards in anti-universe, since the scale factor *a* is negative.
- CPT-symmetric universe assumes not just the scale factor, but all fields should be periodic, following CPT-symmetric at the Bang.

### Introduction: CPT symmetric universe



## Introduction: conventional Dirac equation

$$(i\gamma^{\mu}\partial_{\mu}-m)\psi=0$$

- 1. Describe how fermions evolve.
- 2. **Problem 1:** in curved spacetime, a spin connection term should be added.
- 3. **Problem 2:** fermion doubling problem  $\to$  prevent people from numerically simulate fermions on a lattice.

## Introduction: conventional Dirac equation

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Q:Is there any other way to write down Dirac equation?

#### Introduction: Kähler-Dirac equation

#### Original formulation:

$$(K-m)\Phi=0, \quad K=d-d^{\dagger}, \quad \Phi=(\phi,\phi_{\mu},\phi_{\mu\nu},\dots)$$

#### **Spinor formulation:**

 $\Psi$  is a 4  $\times$  4 spinor with linear combination of gamma matrices.

$$(i\gamma^{\mu}\partial_{\mu}-m)\Psi=0,\quad \Psi=\sum_{p=0}^4rac{1}{p!}\gamma^{\mu_1...\mu_p}\phi_{\mu_1...\mu_p}$$

- 1. Written in differential forms, easy to extend to curved spacetime.
- 2. Consistent with geometry on a lattice (0-form  $\leftrightarrow$  vortices, 1-form  $\leftrightarrow$  edges)  $\Rightarrow$  could naturally be put on a lattice.

# Additional $\gamma^0$ in Lagrangian

Lorentzian signature is important for understanding underlining physics.

#### Kähler-Dirac 4x4 spinor:

- Lorentz transform:  $\Psi' = U_{\Lambda} \Psi U_{\Lambda}^{-1}, \quad U_{\Lambda}^{\dagger} = \gamma^0 U_{\Lambda}^{-1} \gamma^0$
- Scalar should be Lorentz invariant:

$$\mathsf{Tr}(\bar{\Psi}'\Psi') = \mathsf{Tr}(\bar{\Psi}\Psi) o \bar{\Psi} = \gamma^0 \Psi^\dagger \gamma^0$$

• Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \text{Tr}\big[\bar{\Psi}(i\gamma^{\mu}\partial_{\mu} - m)\Psi\big] = \text{Tr}\big[\gamma^{0}\Psi^{\dagger}\gamma^{0}(i\gamma^{\mu}\partial_{\mu} - m)\Psi\big]$$

Lorentz invariance implies an additional  $\gamma^0$  in the Lagrangian!

# Quantize Kähler-Dirac equation

1. The spinor could be separated into even and odd forms part:

$$\Psi = \begin{pmatrix} E & O' \\ O & E' \end{pmatrix} = \Psi_+ + \Psi_-, \quad \Psi_+ = \begin{pmatrix} E & 0 \\ 0 & E' \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Psi_- = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & O' \\ O & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

2. Quantize the field:

$$\Psi_{\pm}(x) = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{E_p/m}} \sum_{s} (b_{s\pm}(\vec{p}) u_{s\pm} e^{-ip \cdot x} + d^{\dagger}_{s\pm}(\vec{p}) v_{s\pm} e^{ip \cdot x})$$

3. To satisfy anti-commutation relation:

$$\{\Psi_{\pm}(\vec{x},0),\Pi_{\mp}(\vec{y},0)\}=\delta^{(3)}(\vec{x}-\vec{y})$$
 a sign should be introduced  $(\varepsilon_s$  takes values  $\pm 1)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \{b_{s\pm}(\vec{p}), b_{s'\mp}^{\dagger}(\vec{p}')\} &= \varepsilon_{\mathbf{s}} \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} - \vec{p}') \delta_{ss'} \\ \{d_{s\pm}^{\dagger}(\vec{p}), d_{s'\mp}(\vec{p}')\} &= \varepsilon_{\mathbf{s}} \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p} - \vec{p}') \delta_{ss'} \end{aligned}$$

# The sign $\varepsilon_s$ causes negative energy and norm!!!

 Hamiltonian: create particles with negative energy! – ghost!!

$$H = \int d^3p \sum_s E_p \varepsilon_s (b_{s+}^{\dagger}(\vec{p})b_{s-}(\vec{p}) + b_{s-}^{\dagger}(\vec{p})b_{s+}(\vec{p}))$$

$$+ \sum_s E_p \varepsilon_s (d_{s+}^{\dagger}(\vec{p})d_{s-}(\vec{p}) + d_{s-}^{\dagger}(\vec{p})d_{s+}(\vec{p})) - \sum_s \delta^{(3)}(0) \int d^3p E_p$$

Norm: states of particles have negative probability! Nonsense!!

$$\langle 1_{s\pm}(\vec{p})|1_{s'\pm}(\vec{p}')\rangle = \frac{\varepsilon_s}{\delta_{ss'}}\delta^{(3)}(\vec{p}-\vec{p}')\langle 0|0\rangle$$

# Solution: particles/antiparticles created/annihilated together

Apply the method used by Gupta-Bleuler quantization in QED.

1. Physical states  $|\phi\rangle$  should satisfy the relation: that is, particles have positive and negative energy should be created and annihilated together in pairs.

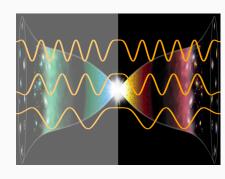
$$\begin{split} (a_{\mathsf{type},\varepsilon_s=1}^{(-)} - a_{\mathsf{type}',\varepsilon_s=-1}^{(-)})|\phi\rangle &= 0 \\ \varepsilon_s &= 1: \phi \leftrightarrow \phi_t, \quad \tilde{\phi}_{ti} \leftrightarrow \tilde{\phi}_i \\ \varepsilon_s &= -1: \tilde{\phi} \leftrightarrow \tilde{\phi}_t, \quad \phi_{ti} \leftrightarrow \phi_i \end{split}$$

2. The positive and negative terms cancel out to form zero energy and norm.

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# Physical meaning: CPT symmetric universe

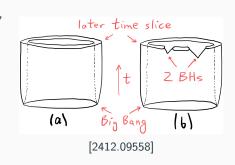
- Particles with positive and negative energy are created in universe & anti-universe, respectively.
- Since time goes backward in anti-universe it is natural to have negative energy (in our view).
- 3. Since they follow the same equation, their evolution after creation are the same.



The pair universes are symmetric not just globally, but also locally!

#### **Black Hole mirror**

- 1. Black hole interior problem.
- Latham Boyle: BH has no interior, the event horizon acts as a mirror between universe & anti-universe!
- It requires the pair universe to be locally symmetric, such that particles and antiparticles falling into the BH annihilate at the horizon.
- Pair particles falling into BH from both sides = particles fall into BH and come out of a white hole.



# Theoretical explanation for Tenet?!





# Theoretical explanation for Tenet?!

#### 1. Same:

- 1.1 Time goes forward in universe and backward in the anti-universe, where there are you and anti-you, respectively.
- 1.2 The gate connecting the pair universes are black holes.

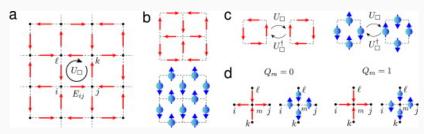
#### 2. Difference:

- 2.1 You annihilate with anti-you at the transition gate without passing through it.
- 2.2 In our universe's view, you'd emerge from a white hole and found time going backward, but you wouldn't be able to alter the past—only relive it.

# Application on lattice?

Kähler-Dirac field is famous for putting fermions on a lattice.

- 1. Additional  $\gamma^0$  makes the Lagrangian Hermitian and chiral decoupled in Euclidean space.
- 2. To build an anomaly-free theory, Latham Boyle found two-sheeted is needed, as we found in the work.
- 3. Numerical tool for understanding non-perturbative phenomenon in chiral gauge theory.



## **Remaining Questions**

- 1. There is another solution: even and odd forms created and annihilated together. Is it a physical solution?
- As a 4x4 spinor, Kahler-Dirac field has four fermions instead of one. Are they all physical or duplicated fermions? ex: Catterall shows that 4 stagger fermions cuold leads to Pati-Salam GUT (Catterall, 2024).
- 3. Unify theory: Kahler-Dirac equation can explain both bosons' and fermions' evolution. Does it has further physical implication?
- 4. Can we test the theory by observation? Fermion propagating in early universe or near BH and neutron stars.

#### **Summary**

- CPT-symmetric universe, assuming CPT-symmetry between universe pairs at the Bang, can solve lots of problems elegantly.
- 2. The Kähler-Dirac field, a powerful tool for cosmology and lattice theory, suffers from negative-energy 'ghosts' when quantized.
- Solution: particles with positive and negative energy should be created in pairs, in universe & anti-universe, respectively.
- 4. Application: put fermions on lattice to understand chiral gauge theory.

Thanks for Listening. Questions?

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