

Holographic Monopole Catalysis of Baryon Decay

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Reference : JHEP 0808:018,2008 (arXiv:0804.1326 [hep-th])
with Deog Ki Hong, Ki-Myeong Lee, Cheonsoo Park

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Callan and Rubakov Effect

In the presence of magnetic monopole, baryon number can be violated by anomaly

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However, at low energy QCD, baryons are described by **topological solitons** called **Skyrmions**

Q : How can the topological solitons can decay in the presence of magnetic monopole ???

Monopole catalysis of Skyrmion decay

Callan and Witten showed that

it is possible for the Skyrmions to decay in the presence of magnetic monopole

- Skyrmions are **topological** solitons from $\pi_3(SU(2)) = \mathbb{Z}$ with the Skyrme action

$$L = \frac{f_\pi^2}{4} \text{tr} \left(U^{-1} \partial_\mu U \right)^2 + \frac{1}{32e^2} \text{tr} \left[U^{-1} \partial_\mu U, U^{-1} \partial_\nu U \right]^2$$

- There is a topologically conserved current

$$B^\mu = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \text{tr} \left(U^{-1} \partial_\nu U U^{-1} \partial_\alpha U U^{-1} \partial_\beta U \right)$$

Naturally, the topological baryon number $B = \int d^3x B^0$ is always conserved in any finite time processes.

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How about the magnetic monopole ?

- Recall that the $SU(2)$ valued group field U transforms under chiral symmetry $U(2)_L \times U(2)_R$ as

$$U \rightarrow U_L U U_R^\dagger$$

- Electromagnetism is

$$Q = \frac{B}{2} + I_3$$

where B is from $U(1)_V$ and I_3 is the third component of $SU(2)_V$. We weakly gauge these symmetries to introduce electromagnetism

- Therefore, our topological baryon current B^μ should also respect this weakly gauged symmetry to be gauge invariant. For example,

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The simplest choice

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Witten found that

$$\begin{aligned} B^\mu &= \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \text{tr} \left(U^{-1} \partial_\nu U U^{-1} \partial_\alpha U U^{-1} \partial_\beta U \right) \\ &- \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \partial_\nu \left[3A_\alpha^{EM} \text{tr} \left(Q \left(U^{-1} \partial_\beta U + \partial_\beta U U^{-1} \right) \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Monopole background is singular

- The B^μ is now both gauge invariant and conserved **only for smooth EM potential A^{EM}**
- The tricky point is that the magnetic monopole potential is **singular : Dirac string**

$$A^{EM} = \frac{-i}{2}(1 - \cos \theta)d\phi$$

- Interestingly, the baryon number conservation can be violated precisely at the center of the monopole

This is the low energy manifestation of Callan-Rubakov effect

- Charged pions are suppressed at the monopole core, but neutral pions can be non-zero $U = \exp(\frac{2i}{F_\pi}\pi^0\sigma^3)$. Then there is a radial flux

$$B^r = \frac{(\partial_t \pi^0)}{4\pi^2 F_\pi r^2}$$

which results in the baryon number violation

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = \frac{1}{\pi F_\pi} \left(\partial_t \pi^0 \right) \Big|_{r=0}$$

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Solution :

- In the presence of magnetic monopole, one is allowed to perform **singular** gauge transformation moving Dirac string from one place to another
- Under this singular gauge transformations, topological baryon number $\pi_3(SU(2)) = \mathbb{Z}$ is **not** conserved. Different $\pi_3(SU(2)) = \mathbb{Z}$ can be connected by our allowed gauge transformations, and thus **it is not physical**
- **Gauge invariant physical baryon number** is given by above, and it is not wholly given by topological numbers, and can disappear fractionally at the monopole core

Holographic QCD

- **Holographic QCD** is an alternative approach to low energy strongly coupled QCD based on large N limit
- In large N limit, the theory becomes **classical** with new variables called **master fields**
- The renormalization group survives in the large N limit. Asymptotic freedom and dimensional transmutation persist. One needs to renormalize the theory after fixing the renormalization scale.
- One ends up with a classical theory of master fields with the features of renormalization group, especially the formalism is invariant under shifts in the renormalization point, kind of **general covariance in energy direction**
- A 5 dimensional classical theory of master fields with 5'th direction roughly corresponding to energy scale is one natural realization of these aspects

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- 5 dimensional theory is a gravity theory, realizing general covariance in energy direction as a renormalization group
- When the field theory is **strongly coupled**, the 5 dimensional theory becomes a **local** theory

Symmetry mapping

One lesson we learn from this example is how to map the **global symmetry** of QCD to the 5 dimensional theory

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$$A(x^\mu, Z) = A^{(0)} + \sum_{n \geq 1} f_n(Z) A^{(n)}$$

The point is that the zero mode $A^{(0)}$ is **non-normalizable** due to the specific metric property of 5 dimensions, and therefore it is **non-dynamical**, something like external gauge potential coupled to the currents

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Important : By turning on $A^{(0)}$, we can introduce weakly gauged external gauge potential coupled to the global currents, and study how the system responds to this external potential

More concretely,

- Corresponding to $U(2)_L \times U(2)_R$ chiral symmetry in QCD, we have $U(2)_L \times U(2)_R$ gauge symmetry in 5 dimensional holographic QCD
- Electromagnetism is an external potential coupled to $Q = \frac{B}{2} + I_3$ symmetry current, so A^{EM} is encode as the zero mode $A^{(0)}$ of the corresponding 5 dimensional gauge field to $Q = \frac{B}{2} + I_3$
- Chiral symmetry breaking is realized as a gauge symmetry breaking in 5 dimensions. Goldstone pions are realized as Wilson lines along the 5'th direction
- The upshot is that
5 dimensional gauge theory encapsulates both the dynamical mesons such as pions and the external potential coupled to the symmetry currents into a single framework

$$A_\mu(x, Z) = A_\mu^{EM} + f_0(Z)(\partial_\mu \pi(x)) + \text{higher vector mesons}$$

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In fact, $B = \int_{R^3 \times Z} B^0$ can be shown to reduce to the Skyrmion number upon reduction to 4 dimensions

Holographic baryon number current

By integrating over 5'th dimension Z , one in fact gets 4 dimensional baryon current

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Important : This 4 dimensional current is both gauge invariant and conserved as the one Witten found before

Recall that the 5 dimensional gauge field $A(x, Z)$ contains both pion fields as well as external EM potential in a single framework

$$A_\mu(x, Z) = [(U^{-1}QU)\psi_+(Z) + Q\psi_-(Z)]A_\mu^{EM} + \psi_+(Z)U^{-1}\partial_\mu U + \text{higher modes}$$

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The holographic baryon current for the above expansion of pions and the A^{EM} reproduces the Witten's result

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We emphasize that holographic QCD set-up is more suitable for this purpose, because the external EM potential and the pions are summarized into a **single framework** of 5 dimensional gauge theory

Any phenomenon that involves these two, such as monopole catalysis, should find its manifestation within our set-up

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Monopole catalysis = Violation of Bianchi identity in 5D by an EM monopole field

Details...

- Recall that the external EM potential is encoded in the 5D gauge field as

$$A = QA^{EM} + \psi_+(Z)U^{-1}\partial_\mu U + \dots$$

Note that A^{EM} is a constant mode along Z

- We then put the monopole background to A^{EM} with the violation of Bianchi identity

$$-2\pi i = \int_{S^2} F^{EM} = \int_{S^2} dA^{EM} = \int_{B^3} d^2 A^{EM} \longrightarrow d^2 A^{EM} = -2\pi i \delta_3(\vec{0})$$

- The result is having a string of monopole along Z
- In 5D, Bianchi identity is violated by A^{EM}

$$\begin{aligned} DF &\equiv dF + A \wedge F - F \wedge A = Qd^2 A^{EM} = -2\pi i \delta_3(\vec{0}) \\ d\text{tr}(F \wedge F) &= 2\text{tr}(DF \wedge F) = -4\pi i \text{tr}(QF) \wedge \delta_3(\vec{0}) \end{aligned}$$

In components, this is

$$\partial_\mu \left(\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \text{tr}(F_{\nu\alpha} F_{\beta Z}) \right) = -\frac{1}{4} \partial_Z \left(\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \text{tr}(F_{\mu\nu} F_{\alpha\beta}) \right) + 4\pi i \delta^{(3)}(\vec{x}) \text{tr}(QF_{IZ})$$

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$$DF \equiv dF + A \wedge F - F \wedge A = Qd^2 A^{EM} = -2\pi i \delta_3(\vec{0})$$

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In components, this is

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- Recall that the external EM potential is encoded in the 5D gauge field as

$$A = QA^{EM} + \psi_+(Z)U^{-1}\partial_\mu U + \dots$$

Note that A^{EM} is a constant mode along Z

- We then put the monopole background to A^{EM} with the violation of Bianchi identity

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Details continued...

By integrating over Z , we precisely get the violation of baryon number

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Indeed, by plugging in the mode expansion of 5D gauge field

$$A_\mu = [(U^{-1}(QA_\mu^{EM} + A_{L\mu})U)\psi_+(Z) + (QA_\mu^{EM} + A_{R\mu})\psi_-] + \psi_+ U^{-1} \partial_\mu U + \dots$$

one finally gets

$$\partial_\mu B^\mu = \text{tr}(Q\sigma^3) \frac{(\partial_t \pi)}{\pi F_\pi} \delta^{(3)}(\vec{X}) - \frac{i\delta^{(3)}(\vec{X})}{2\pi} \text{tr}[QU^{-1}A_{Lt}U - QA_{Rt}]$$

The first piece is precisely monopole catalysis formula !!!

The second piece

$$\partial_\mu B^\mu \sim -\frac{i\delta^{(3)}(\vec{x})}{2\pi} \text{tr}[QU^{-1}A_{Lt}U - QA_{Rt}]$$

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Recall that the non-normalizable external potentials A_{Lt} and A_{Rt} couple to the chiral current density

$$J_L^0 A_{Lt} + J_R^0 A_{Rt}$$

so that they represent **chemical potential for chiral densities**

Thank you very much

- In summary, monopole catalysis in holographic QCD is simply a violation of Bianchi identity
- The reason for this simplification is that holographic QCD unifies mesons and the external weakly gauged chiral symmetry potential in a single framework of 5D gauge theory
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