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NONCOMMUTATIVE TORUS**

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# Induced Chern-Simons action on noncommutative torus

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## Abstract

We compute a Chern-Simons term induced by the fermions on noncommutative torus interacting with two  $U(1)$  gauge fields. For rational noncommutativity  $\theta \propto P/Q$  we find a new mixed term in the action which involves only those fields which are  $(2\pi)/Q$  periodic, like the fields in a crystal with  $Q^2$  nodes.

It is known since a long time that quantum one-loop corrections due to 3-dimensional fermions generate the Chern-Simons action [1–3]. This fact has far reaching physical consequences, see [4] for a review. It is natural to consider this mechanism in the framework of noncommutative (NC) field theory. This was done in [5, 6] on the 3-dimensional Moyal plane. Different properties of NC Chern-Simons theories were studied in a number of publications, see, e.g., [7] and references therein.

The main novelty of the present work is that we consider the Dirac fermions on a *compact* NC manifold (an NC 3-torus) which are coupled to *two* independent  $U(1)$  fields which act by left and right Moyal multiplications. We calculate the parity-violating part of the effective action (which generalizes the Chern-Simons action for this case). We find a mixed contribution to this action. For a rational NC parameter,  $\theta/(2\pi) = P/Q$  this mixed term exhibits a very interesting property: it involves interactions only between the fields which are  $(2\pi)/Q$ -periodic in the NC directions. We see a kind of dynamical crystallization of the torus due to the effects of NC quantum field theory.

In this work we use the zeta-function regularization and the heat-kernel methods (applied earlier to commutative low-dimensional fermionic systems in e.g.

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[8, 9]). Physical and mathematical aspects of this very powerful machinery are reviewed in [10, 11]. For the Moyal-type noncommutativity the heat kernel expansion was constructed in [12–15].

The Moyal star-product on  $\mathbb{T}^3$  is defined as usual by

$$f_1 \star f_2(x) = \exp\left(\frac{i}{2}\Theta^{\mu\nu}\partial_\mu^x\partial_\nu^y\right) f_1(x)f_2(y)|_{y=x}. \quad (1)$$

The constant noncommutativity parameter  $\Theta$  is an antisymmetric  $3 \times 3$  matrix which is inevitably degenerate<sup>1</sup>. We can suppose that all components of  $\Theta^{\mu\nu}$  vanish, except for  $\Theta^{12} = -\Theta^{21} \equiv \theta$ .

We take classical action for the Dirac fermions in the form

$$S = \int d^3x \sqrt{g} \bar{\psi} \not{D} \psi, \quad (2)$$

where

$$\not{D} = i\gamma^\mu (\partial_\mu + iL(A_\mu^L) + iR(A_\mu^R)). \quad (3)$$

Here  $L$  and  $R$  are left and right Moyal multiplications,  $L(f)\phi = f \star \phi$ ,  $R(f)\phi = \phi \star f$ . Formal adjoints of these operators coincide with multiplications by complex conjugate functions, e.g.  $L(f)^\dagger = L(f^*)$ . It is convenient to keep the ranges for all coordinates  $x^\mu$  on the torus  $\mathbb{T}^3$  from 0 to  $2\pi$ , but to allow for a constant Euclidean metric  $g_{\mu\nu}$ . The  $\gamma$ -matrices are defined by the condition  $\gamma^\mu\gamma^\nu + \gamma^\nu\gamma^\mu = 2g^{\mu\nu}$ , and  $\text{tr}\gamma^\mu\gamma^\nu\gamma^\rho = 2i\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho}$  with  $\epsilon^{123} = g^{-1/2}$ . To simplify our discussion we impose periodic boundary conditions on the fermions on  $\mathbb{T}^3$ . A short discussion of anti-periodic boundary conditions is postponed until the end of this Letter.

As compared to previous works on induced NC Chern-Simons theory [5, 6] we have two independent vector fields instead of one. The case  $A_\mu^R = 0$  corresponds to gauge fields in the fundamental representation in the terminology of [6] or to the Dirac fermions in the terminology of [5].  $A_\mu^L = 0$  corresponds to anti-fundamental gauge fields [6], and  $A_\mu^R = -A_\mu^L$  is the adjoint representation [6] or Majorana fermions [5]. There are two gauge symmetries corresponding to two  $U(1)$  gauge fields (so that we have a double gauging of  $U(1)$  [17]):

$$\begin{aligned} \psi &\rightarrow U_L \star \psi \star U_R, & \bar{\psi} &\rightarrow U_R^\dagger \star \bar{\psi} \star U_L^\dagger, \\ iA_\mu^L &\rightarrow U_L \star \partial_\mu U_L^{-1} + iU_L \star A_\mu^L \star U_L^{-1}, \\ iA_\mu^R &\rightarrow \partial_\mu U_R^{-1} \star U_R + iU_R^{-1} \star A_\mu^R \star U_R, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where  $U_{L,R}$  are star-unitary,  $U_{L,R} \star U_{L,R}^\dagger = 1$ . The Dirac operator is transformed as  $\not{D} \rightarrow R(U_R)L(U_L)\not{D}L(U_L^{-1})R(U_R^{-1})$ . Because of these two symmetries there

<sup>1</sup>On noncompact NC manifolds degenerate  $\Theta$  may cause problems in quantum theory [16]. This is one of the reasons to prefer the NC torus over the NC plane in this work.

are two independent currents,  $j_L^\mu = \psi^b \star \bar{\psi}^a \gamma_{ab}^\mu$  and  $j_R^\mu = \bar{\psi}^a \star \psi^b \gamma_{ab}^\mu$  (with  $a, b$  being spinor indices) which are separately covariantly conserved

$$\partial_\mu j_L^\mu + iA_\mu^L \star j_L^\mu - ij_L^\mu \star A_\mu^L = 0, \quad \partial_\mu j_R^\mu - iA_\mu^R \star j_R^\mu + ij_R^\mu \star A_\mu^R = 0. \quad (5)$$

The existence of two independent vector currents is an additional motivation to introduce two vector field coupled to them, which is even necessary if one uses such vectors to study the dynamics of collective excitations of the fermions.

The Dirac operator squared is an operator of Laplace type, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{D}^2 &= -(\nabla^2 + E), \\ \nabla_\mu &= \partial_\mu + iL(A_\mu^L) + iR(A_\mu^R), \\ E &= \frac{i}{2}[\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] (L(\partial_\mu A_\nu^L + iA_\mu^L \star A_\nu^L) + R(\partial_\mu A_\nu^R + iA_\mu^R \star A_\nu^R)). \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

We are going to use the heat-kernel methods, so let us remind some basic facts [15] regarding the heat kernel expansion on NC torus for an operator of Laplace type containing both left and right Moyal multiplications. The net result of [15] is that the heat kernel expansion looks precisely as in the commutative case if one uses a modified trace operation. To define this trace we need a little bit of number theory. A real number  $\alpha$  is called Diophantine if there are two positive constants  $C$  and  $\beta$  such that

$$\inf_{P \in \mathbb{Z}} |\alpha Q - P| \geq \frac{C}{|Q|^{1+\beta}} \quad \text{for all } Q \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (7)$$

In other words, the Diophantine numbers are the numbers which cannot be too well approximated by rational numbers. We suppose that  $(\theta/2\pi)$  is either rational, or Diophantine<sup>2</sup>.

Next we define a special subset  $\mathcal{Z}$  of the Fourier momenta. A momentum  $q \in \mathbb{Z}^3$  belongs to  $\mathcal{Z}$  iff

$$(2\pi)^{-1}\Theta q \in \mathbb{Z}^3. \quad (8)$$

Let us give some examples. In the commutative case,  $\theta = 0$ , the condition (8) is satisfied by all momenta, and  $\mathcal{Z} = \mathbb{Z}^3$ . If  $\theta/(2\pi)$  is irrational (then under our assumptions it is also Diophantine), only the  $q_3$  can be non-zero, and  $\mathcal{Z} = \{0\} \otimes \{0\} \otimes \mathbb{Z}$ . The most interesting case is rational noncommutativity. Then

$$\mathcal{Z} = Q \cdot \mathbb{Z} \otimes Q \cdot \mathbb{Z} \otimes \mathbb{Z} \quad \text{for } \theta/(2\pi) = P/Q \quad (9)$$

with  $P \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $Q \in \mathbb{N}$ . (Of course,  $P/Q$  must be irreducible). The set  $\mathcal{Z}$  depends on  $Q$  but not on  $P$ . Note that two previous cases may be obtained by

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<sup>2</sup>If  $(\theta/2\pi)$  is neither this nor that, the heat kernel asymptotics are unstable, i.e. the powers of the proper time appearing in the asymptotic expansion depend on the ultra-violet behavior of the background fields, see App. B of [15]. The fact that quantum field theory on NC torus is very sensitive to the number theory nature of  $\theta$  was noted already in [18].

taking formal limits  $Q \rightarrow 1$  and  $Q \rightarrow \infty$  in (9), respectively. In the sense of this remark  $\mathcal{Z}$  is uniquely defined by a number  $Q \in \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ .

Let us now define the trace. Consider an operator which can be represented as a product of left and right Moyal multiplications  $L(l)R(r)$ , possibly with some matrix structures. Then

$$\text{Sp}(L(l)R(r)) = \sqrt{g} \sum_{q \in \mathcal{Z}} \tilde{l}(-q) \tilde{r}(q), \quad (10)$$

where  $\tilde{l}$  and  $\tilde{r}$  are the Fourier modes:

$$\tilde{l}(k) = (2\pi)^{-3/2} \int d^3x l(x) e^{-ikx}. \quad (11)$$

The definition (10) includes also trace over all matrix indices, which we do not write explicitly.

Now consider an operator  $P$  on NC  $\mathbb{T}^n$  which can be represented as  $P = -(\nabla^2 + E)$  where  $E$  and  $\omega_\mu$  in  $\nabla_\mu = \partial_\mu + \omega_\mu$  are zeroth order operators, i.e.,  $E$  and  $\omega_\mu$  are combinations of left and right Moyal multiplications. Such operators are called generalized Laplacians ( $\not{D}^2$  is an example, see eq. (6)). It was demonstrated in [15] that for such operators the heat operator  $e^{-tP}$  exists for positive  $t$  and is trace class, and there is a full asymptotic series as  $t \rightarrow +0$

$$\text{Tr} (L(l)R(r)e^{-tP}) \simeq \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} t^{(n-m)/2} a_{2m}(L(l)R(r), P). \quad (12)$$

$\text{Tr}$  is the  $L_2$  trace. In particular, first couple of the heat kernel coefficients<sup>3</sup> read

$$a_0 = (4\pi)^{-n/2} \text{Sp}(L(l)R(r)), \quad (13)$$

$$a_2 = (4\pi)^{-n/2} \text{Sp}(L(l)R(r)E). \quad (14)$$

It is easy to figure out how the eqs. (8) and (11) must be generalized to arbitrary  $n$ .

In this Letter we employ the zeta-function regularization which is a proper instrument to keep gauge invariance throughout the calculations [19]. We first use the relation [2, 3, 19] between the parity-violating part of the effective action and the eta invariant

$$\Gamma^{\text{pv}} = i \frac{\pi}{2} \eta(0), \quad (15)$$

which is defined through a sum over the eigenvalues of  $\not{D}$ ,

$$\eta(s) = \sum_{\lambda_n > 0} (\lambda_n)^{-s} - \sum_{\lambda_n < 0} (-\lambda_n)^{-s}. \quad (16)$$

<sup>3</sup>We use "inflated notations" for the heat kernel coefficients, so that only even-numbered coefficients appear usually on manifolds without a boundary. In this nomenclature no half-integer indices appear also in the presence of boundaries, see [10, 11].

This spectral function measures the spectral asymmetry of the Dirac operator. Next couple of steps repeat quite literally those of [2]. We make use of an integral representation of the eta function and replace the sum over the spectrum by Tr.

$$\eta(s) = \frac{2}{\Gamma((s+1)/2)} \int_0^\infty d\tau \tau^s \text{Tr} \left( \not{D} e^{-\tau^2 \not{D}^2} \right). \quad (17)$$

Let us vary  $A_\mu^{L,R}$  in  $\not{D}$ . The variation of  $\eta(s)$  reads

$$\delta\eta(s) = \frac{2}{\Gamma((s+1)/2)} \int_0^\infty d\tau \tau^s \frac{d}{d\tau} \text{Tr} \left( (\delta\not{D}) \tau e^{-\tau^2 \not{D}^2} \right). \quad (18)$$

Now, by taking  $s \rightarrow 0$  (and assuming that the heat kernel decays fast enough at  $\tau^2 \rightarrow \infty$ , which is usually true) one arrives at

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\eta(0) &= -\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \lim_{\tau \rightarrow 0} \text{Tr} \left( (\delta\not{D}) \tau e^{-\tau^2 \not{D}^2} \right) \\ &= -\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \text{Tr} \left( (\delta\not{D}) t^{1/2} e^{-t \not{D}^2} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

To evaluate this limit we use the heat kernel expansion (12). The coefficient  $a_0$  does not contribute because of the  $\gamma$ -trace. We are left with

$$\delta\eta(0) = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} a_2(\delta\not{D}, \not{D}^2). \quad (20)$$

This heat kernel coefficient reads

$$a_2(\delta\not{D}, \not{D}^2) = \frac{1}{8\pi^{3/2}} \text{Sp}_2 \left( \gamma^\mu (L(-\delta A_\mu^L) + R(-\delta A_\mu^R)) \cdot E \right), \quad (21)$$

where  $E$  is given by (6) and the subscript "2" reminds to calculate the trace over the spinor indices which yields

$$\begin{aligned} a_2(\delta\not{D}, \not{D}^2) &= \frac{1}{4\pi^{3/2}} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} \text{Sp} \left( (L(\delta A_\mu^L) + R(\delta A_\mu^R)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \cdot (L(\partial_\nu A_\rho^L + i A_\nu^L \star A_\rho^L) + R(\partial_\nu A_\rho^R + i A_\nu^R \star A_\rho^R)) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

To calculate the remaining trace we need a couple of relations. First,

$$\text{Sp}(L(f)) = \text{Sp}(R(f)) = \int d^3x \sqrt{g} f(x) \quad (23)$$

where to apply the definition (10) one has to write  $L(f) = L(f)R(1)$ . Next, we have the symmetry property

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Sp}(L(f)R(f_1 \star f_2)) &= \text{Sp}(L(f)R(f_2 \star f_1)) \\ \text{Sp}(L(f_1 \star f_2)R(f)) &= \text{Sp}(L(f_2 \star f_1)R(f)) \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

for any functions  $f, f_1, f_2$ . The relations (23) and (24) were derived in [15].

To derive another useful property we should first define a  $Q$ -periodic projection of functions on  $\mathbb{T}^3$

$$[f]_Q := (2\pi)^{-3/2} \sum_{k \in \mathcal{Z}} \tilde{f}(k) e^{ikx}. \quad (25)$$

This is indeed a projection,  $[[f]_Q]_Q = [f]_Q$ . For a rational  $\theta/(2\pi) = P/Q$  this operation selects a part of  $f$  which is periodic in  $x^1$  and  $x^2$  coordinates with the period  $2\pi/Q$ . In the irrational (Diophantine) case this operation (which may be denoted as  $[f]_\infty$  according to the remark below eq. (9)) selects just the average value of  $f$  on the  $\mathbb{T}^2$  spanned by  $x^1$  and  $x^2$ . In the commutative case,  $\mathcal{Z} = \mathbb{Z}^3$ , this is the identity map  $[f]_1 = f$ . By making the Fourier transform back and forth one can prove that

$$\text{Sp}(L(l)R(r)) = \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} d^3x \sqrt{g} [l]_Q \cdot [r]_Q = \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} d^3x \sqrt{g} [l]_Q \star [r]_Q. \quad (26)$$

By using (23), (24) and (26) we rewrite (22) as

$$\begin{aligned} a_2(\delta\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{I}^2) &= a_2^L + a_2^R + a_2^{\text{mixed}}, \quad (27) \\ a_2^L &= 4\pi^{-3/2} \int d^3x \sqrt{g} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} (\delta A_\mu^L) (\partial_\nu A_\rho^L + i A_\nu^L \star A_\rho^L), \\ a_2^R &= 4\pi^{-3/2} \int d^3x \sqrt{g} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} (\delta A_\mu^R) (\partial_\nu A_\rho^R - i A_\nu^R \star A_\rho^R), \\ a_2^{\text{mixed}} &= 4\pi^{-3/2} \int d^3x \sqrt{g} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} ([(\delta A_\mu^L)]_Q \partial_\nu [A_\rho^R]_Q + [(\delta A_\mu^R)]_Q \partial_\nu [A_\rho^L]_Q). \end{aligned}$$

Cubic terms in  $a_2^{\text{mixed}}$  vanish due to (24).

In the zeta function regularization (see, e.g. [8]) the parity-violating part of the effective action  $\Gamma^{\text{PV}}$  is expressed through the Chern-Simons action  $S_{\text{CS}}$  by means of the relation  $\Gamma^{\text{PV}} = \frac{1}{2} S_{\text{CS}}$ . (In the Pauli-Villars regularization, for examples, the PV masses also enter this relation). We combine (15) and (20) with (27) to obtain a generalized Chern-Simons action induced by fermionic fluctuations on the NC torus

$$S_{\text{CS}} = S_{\text{CS}}^L + S_{\text{CS}}^R + S_{\text{CS}}^{\text{mixed}}, \quad (28)$$

$$S_{\text{CS}}^L = -\frac{i}{4\pi} \int d^3x \sqrt{g} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} \left( A_\mu^L \partial_\nu A_\rho^L + \frac{2i}{3} A_\mu^L \star A_\nu^L \star A_\rho^L \right), \quad (29)$$

$$S_{\text{CS}}^R = -\frac{i}{4\pi} \int d^3x \sqrt{g} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} \left( A_\mu^R \partial_\nu A_\rho^R - \frac{2i}{3} A_\mu^R \star A_\nu^R \star A_\rho^R \right), \quad (30)$$

$$S_{\text{CS}}^{\text{mixed}} = -\frac{i}{2\pi} \int d^3x \sqrt{g} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} [A_\mu^L]_Q \partial_\nu [A_\rho^R]_Q. \quad (31)$$

Note, that the combination  $\sqrt{g}\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho}$  does not depend on the metric, so that  $S_{SC}$  is also metric-independent (topological) as in the commutative case.

The "planar" terms (29) and (30) are pretty much standard NC generalizations of the Chern-Simons action, cf. [5,6]. The mixed term (31) exhibits a rather interesting physical property. It involves interactions of only those background fields  $A_\mu^{L,R}$  which are  $(2\pi)/Q$  periodic in the  $x^1$  and  $x^2$  directions. Such fields remind us of solid state physics and correspond to a crystal consisting of  $Q \times Q$  fundamental domains. By stretching a bit the terminology we can say that the two-torus is dynamically crystallized due to NC quantum effects.

When using the spectral geometry methods one should not worry too much about the gauge invariance since the eta function (16) is manifestly gauge invariant. One can also check the gauge invariance of (29) - (31) by direct calculations. To this end the relation (24) is very useful.

The Chern-Simons action (28) does not depend smoothly on  $\theta$ . Moreover, we have calculated this action for a rational or Diophantine noncommutativity only. Nevertheless, there is a well defined commutative limit, though not an obvious one. Instead of taking  $\theta \rightarrow 0$ , we take a rational NC parameter with  $Q = 1$ . Then the star-product becomes commutative (one easily gets:  $e^{ikx} \star e^{iqx} = e^{iqx} \star e^{ikx} = \pm e^{i(k+q)x}$ ), though still not the ordinary one (unless  $P$  is even). Let us introduce two new vector fields by  $A^L = \frac{1}{2}(B + C)$ ,  $A^R = \frac{1}{2}(B - C)$ . We have

$$S_{CS}|_{Q=1} = -\frac{i}{4\pi} \int d^3x \sqrt{g}\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} B_\mu \partial_\nu B_\rho. \quad (32)$$

We see, that precisely as one would expect in the commutative limit, the field  $C_\mu$  disappears, and the action for  $B_\mu$  is the standard abelian Chern-Simons action.

To be able to use the heat kernel asymptotics from [15] we assumed that  $\psi$  is periodic on the torus. If instead one chooses (perhaps physically more preferable) anti-periodic boundary conditions in some of the coordinates, then allowed fermionic momenta in corresponding directions are shifted by  $1/2$  to form a set which we call  $\tilde{\mathbb{Z}}^3$  instead of  $\mathbb{Z}^3$  considered above. The definition (8) should be modified:  $q \in \mathcal{Z}$  iff  $q_\mu \theta^{\mu\nu} k_\nu$  is  $(2\pi)$  times an integer number for all  $k \in \tilde{\mathbb{Z}}^3$ . (Note that  $\mathcal{Z} \subset \mathbb{Z}^3$  as before since  $q$ 's are the Fourier momenta of the bosonic background fields). This is the most important modification, which, of course, also leads to some changes in the periodic projections. Qualitatively our results remain unchanged. We hope to consider anti-periodic boundary conditions in more detail in a future publication.

To summarize, in this Letter we calculated the Chern-Simons action induced by the parity anomaly of fermions on NC 3-torus. Due to the compactness<sup>4</sup> of the manifold and due to the presence of two independent gauge fields we found that there is a mixed (non-planar) contribution to the action of a rather particular

<sup>4</sup>To see that the compactness is essential it is enough to compare the heat kernel expansions on the Moyal plane [14] and on the Moyal torus [15].



form (31). This mixed term depends only on the fields which are  $(2\pi)/Q$ -periodic and thus remind us of the fields in a crystal. It would be interesting to test this result at physical applications of the NC Chern-Simons, e.g. at the model [20] of Quantum Hall Fluids.

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