

Massive Fermions in Lattice Gauge Theory

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a formulation of lattice fermions applicable to all quark masses, large and small. We incorporate interactions from previous light-fermion and heavy-fermion methods, and thus ensure a smooth connection to these limiting cases. The couplings in improved actions are evaluated for arbitrary fermion mass m_q , without expansions around small- or large-mass limits. We treat both the action and external currents. By interpreting on-shell improvement criteria through the lattice theory's Hamiltonian, one finds that cutoff artifacts factorize into the form $b_n(m_q a)[\mathbf{p}a]^{s_n}$, where \mathbf{p} is a momentum characteristic of the system under study, s_n is related to the dimension of the n th interaction, and $b_n(m_q a)$ is a bounded function, numerically always $O(1)$ or less. In heavy-quark systems \mathbf{p} is typically rather smaller than the fermion mass m_q . Therefore, artifacts of order $(m_q a)^s$ do not arise, even when $m_q a \gtrsim 1$. An important by-product of our analysis is an interpretation of the Wilson and Sheikholeslami-Wohlert actions applied to nonrelativistic fermions.

1 Introduction

The most promising avenue for a quantitative understanding of nonperturbative quantum chromodynamics—and other field theories—is via numerical (Monte Carlo) integration of functional integrals defined on a lattice [1]. Like any numerical technique this method has uncertainties that must be understood and controlled before the results are useful. In particular, although the continuum theory is defined by the limit of a sequence of lattice theories, the numerical calculations are never carried out at the limit. Because the Monte Carlo introduces statistical errors, the extrapolation to the continuum limit is imperfect. The results for physical quantities are consequently contaminated by lattice artifacts. For a practical result, this uncertainty must be smaller than, say, relevant experimental uncertainties.

The way to reduce lattice artifacts is based on the renormalization group [2]. One starts with a general action

$$S = \sum_n c_n S_n, \quad (1.1)$$

where the S_n include all interactions with the desired field content and the appropriate symmetries. One approach to the continuum limit, which might be called brute force, is to choose the c_n in any way that drives the lattice spacing to zero. An ideal approach would be to choose the c_n to lie on a renormalized trajectory [2], where there are no lattice artifacts even though the lattice spacing $a \neq 0$. In the space of all possible actions specified by eq. (1.1), the renormalized trajectories lie in a subspace, whose dimension equals the number of relevant parameters. Once the relevant parameters have been fixed by physics, they and the renormalization scheme determine all the c_n .

Unfortunately, a renormalized trajectory is mostly of abstract value, because on one infinitely many c_n are nonzero. All practical schemes, such as blocking fields [3] or Symanzik improvement [4] use criteria such as locality [3] or the scaling dimension [4] to truncate the space of actions. (For an asymptotically free theory, such as QCD, these two criteria are not very different.) Furthermore, the calculations of the c_n are, in practice, only approximate. For these reasons an improved action is only partially renormalized. Nevertheless, any practical action can be written

$$S = \mathcal{S}_{\text{RT}} - \delta S, \quad (1.2)$$

where \mathcal{S}_{RT} denotes (an action on) the renormalized trajectory. Usually the truncations and/or approximations used to generate S will also yield estimates for the remaining cutoff effects δS .

This paper treats massive fermions coupled to non-Abelian gauge fields. The relevant couplings are the fermion masses and the gauge coupling. So the renormalized trajectory takes the form

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{RT}}(m_q/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}a) = \sum_n c_n(m_0a, g_0^2) S_n, \quad (1.3)$$

where m_q denotes the fermion mass,¹ Λ_{QCD} is the scale characteristic of the gauge theory, and the argument $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}a$ labels the renormalization point. The S_n are gauge-invariant combinations of four-component fermion and anti-fermion fields (ψ and $\bar{\psi}$) and the lattice gauge field (U_μ). For later calculational convenience we choose the bare, rather than some physical, fermion mass m_0a and gauge coupling g_0^2 to parameterize the couplings c_n .

As $a \rightarrow 0$ the fermion mass m_qa is formally smaller than g_0^2 . (By asymptotic freedom $g_0^2 = [\beta_0 \log(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 a^2)]^{-1}$ as $a \rightarrow 0$.) It is therefore tempting to expand the couplings $c_n(m_0a, g_0^2)$ in m_0a , as in previous analyses [5, 6, 7]. But there may be fermions satisfying $m_q/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \gg 1$; the charm, bottom, and top quarks are examples in nature. If, in practice, m_qa is not small, perturbation theory in m_0a need not be useful, even though perturbation theory in g_0^2 might be. Indeed, this regime includes the charm and bottom quarks at currently accessible lattice spacings.

The static [8, 9] and nonrelativistic [10, 11, 12] effective theories address the problems of heavy fermions. Their restriction to $m_q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ implies that couplings of interactions between particle and antiparticle states may be chosen to vanish, and the remaining interactions in eq. (1.1) are organized according to a \mathbf{p}/m_q expansion. But for some $m_q \sim 2\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ the expansion is no longer useful. Furthermore, radiative corrections induce power-law terms, e.g. $g_0^2/(m_qa)$, which must be canceled by adjusting the c_n . These terms, which diverge as $a \rightarrow 0$, are a reminder that the effective theories are to be used at scales below (large) m_q . Their presence implies that cutoff effects in the effective theories should be removed not by brute force, but by keeping $a \sim m_q^{-1}$ and constructing actions systematically closer to the renormalized trajectory [11, 12].

This paper presents a way to encompass both the small and large mass formulations. The doubling problem is handled by Wilson's method [13]. In addition to treating the m_0a dependence of the couplings exactly, the central idea is to enlarge the class of interactions considered in eq. (1.3) to include those from both the small m_0a and the large m_q/Λ_{QCD} limits. In particular, we do not impose a symmetry between couplings of interactions that would be related by interchanging the time axis with a spatial axis. For any m_qa , the four-momentum of a quark in most interesting physical systems satisfies $[E(\mathbf{p}) - E(\mathbf{0})]a \ll 1$ whenever $\mathbf{p}a \ll 1$. But when $m_qa > 1$ the characteristic four-momentum of the physics does not respect time-space axis interchange. Under such circumstances it is inconvenient and unnecessary to choose an axis-interchange symmetric action.²

¹We use m_q for a quark mass defined by a physical condition and m_0a for the coupling appearing in the action.

²Relinquishing axis-interchange symmetry is common in treatments of heavy quarks with momentum-space and dimensional regulators. It is possible to derive deviations from heavy-quark symmetry from the Dirac action [14, 15], while maintaining time-space axis interchange invariance as a corollary to Euclidean invariance. But usually the derivations are easier with a nonrelativistic action [10, 16], the so-called the heavy-quark effective theory [17].

In the appropriate limits, our formulation of lattice fermions shares properties of previous ones. On one hand, at dimension five or less, couplings related by axis interchange become identical in the limit $m_0a \rightarrow 0$: the Wilson action and the improved action of ref. [6] are recovered. But when $m_0a \neq 0$ the mass-dependent renormalization leaves lattice artifacts that are proportional to $\mathbf{p}a$ and $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}a$, not m_qa . At higher dimension, however, we retain Wilson’s time derivative and incorporate “spatial-only” interactions into eq. (1.1).

On the other hand, for $m_q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ one can interpret the lattice theory in a nonrelativistic light. Indeed, all members of our class of actions approach a universal static limit as $m_0a \rightarrow \infty$. For m_0a large but finite, the $1/m_q^s$ corrections to the static limit can be recovered systematically, provided the fermion mass is defined through the kinetic energy, and provided the general action, eq. (1.3), is truncated only at dimension $4 + s$ (or higher). Unlike previous implementations of nonrelativistic fermions, however, our approach crosses smoothly over into the regime of tiny lattice spacings, where $m_0a \ll 1$ even for a heavy quark. Thus, after several c_n have been tuned close to a renormalized trajectory, thereby removing the worst lattice artifacts, a little brute force can remove the rest.

Because we make no assumptions about the ratio of fermion masses to other scales, our formulation is especially well suited to fermions too heavy for small m_0a methods yet too light for large m_q/Λ_{QCD} methods. With the actions given below one can test whether a given fermion is heavy enough to be treated nonrelativistically, without resorting to brute-force simulations. A practical example might be the charm quark, which has a mass only a few times Λ_{QCD} , yet even on the finest lattices available today $m_{\text{ch}}a$ is largish, at least $\frac{1}{3}$.

For a concrete determination of the c_n , one must choose a renormalization group, a criterion for truncating the sum in eq. (1.3), and a strategy for determining the c_n . For illustration we adopt here a Symanzik-like procedure [4], organizing the interactions by dimension. Carrying out this program to arbitrarily high dimension would produce a renormalized trajectory of a renormalization group generated by infinitesimal changes in a . For simplicity, however, most of this paper treats interactions only up to dimension five. Although a nonperturbative determination of the couplings is possible in principle, this paper makes the further approximation of perturbation theory in g_0^2 , that is

$$c_n(m_0a, g_0^2) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} g_0^{2l} c_n^{[l]}(m_0a). \quad (1.4)$$

Except for sect. 8 we work to tree level, so we often abbreviate $c_n^{[0]}(m_0a)$ by $c_n(m_0a)$. (Explicit one-loop calculations are in progress [18].) Within these approximations we determine the c_n by insisting that on-shell quantities take their desired values, as first suggested by Lüscher and Weisz [19].

One calculational procedure is to work out n -point on-shell Green functions via Feynman diagrams and tune them to the continuum limit, to the appropriate order in \mathbf{p} . An example is in sect. 4. Because this strategy is limited to a

finite number of quantities, it is nontrivial to assume that other quantities are improved too [4]. An alternative is developed in sect. 5. Starting from the transfer matrix we derive an expression for the fermion Hamiltonian, valid (at tree level) for states with $\mathbf{p}a \ll 1$. Because the Hamiltonian is an operator, improving it to some accuracy guarantees the improvement to the same accuracy of infinitely many c -numbers. We show that by adjusting the couplings $c_n(m_0a)$ correctly, and allowing physically unobservable redefinitions of the fermion field, one can tune the Hamiltonian to the continuum limit, i.e. to the Dirac Hamiltonian, to the appropriate order in \mathbf{p} .

In addition to equations for the c_n , the analysis of the Hamiltonian yields two important results. One is that the Wilson time derivative needs no improvement. The other is a canonically normalized fermion field that, to the accuracy of the improvement, obeys Dirac's (continuum) equation of motion. This field is a potent ingredient in calculations of matrix elements involving heavy-quark systems; see sect. 7.

Owing to the approximations introduced—the truncation of interactions and perturbation theory—some cutoff effects remain. If these errors are small, they may be estimated by insertions of δS in correlation functions. If the series for $c_n(m_0a, g_0^2)$ has been developed to L_n -th order

$$\delta S = \sum_n \sum_{l=L_n+1}^{\infty} g_0^{2l} c_n^{[l]}(m_0a) S_n. \quad (1.5)$$

A typical term in δS distorts an on-shell correlation function by an amount of order $g_0^{2l} c_n^{[l]}(m_0a) (\mathbf{p}a)^{s_n}$, where $s_n = \dim S_n - 4$, and $l \geq L_n + 1$. (If S_n is omitted from the action altogether, then here $l = 0$.) The analysis presented below shows that the tree-level, lower-dimension $c_n^{[0]}(m_0a)$ are well-behaved for all masses. We also show that loop diagrams have the same or more benign behavior at large mass. In particular, as $m_0a \rightarrow \infty$ the $c_n^{[l]}(m_0a)$ either approach a constant or fall as $(m_0a)^{-s}$, for some $s \leq s_n$. These results provide evidence that the higher-dimension $c_n(m_0a)$ are well-behaved too.

In Monte Carlo programs it is customary to parameterize the action by the hopping parameter instead of the mass. In this notation the dimension-three and -four interactions are written

$$S_0 = \sum_n \bar{\psi}_n \psi_n - \kappa_t \sum_n \left[\bar{\psi}_n (1 - \gamma_0) U_{n,0} \psi_{n+\hat{0}} + \bar{\psi}_{n+\hat{0}} (1 + \gamma_0) U_{n,0}^\dagger \psi_n \right] - \kappa_s \sum_{n,i} \left[\bar{\psi}_n (r_s - \gamma_i) U_{n,i} \psi_{n+\hat{i}} + \bar{\psi}_{n+\hat{i}} (r_s + \gamma_i) U_{n,i}^\dagger \psi_n \right]. \quad (1.6)$$

Some terms of dimension five—to solve the doubling problem [13]—are included here too. The relation between the bare mass m_0a and the hopping parameters κ_t and κ_s is given below in sect. 2. Eq. (1.6) illustrates how our program subsumes properties of the familiar small-mass and large-mass formulations. Imposing axis-interchange invariance would set $\kappa_s = \kappa_t$ and $r_s = 1$, and then S_0

reduces to the Wilson action [13]. Rewriting $r_s \kappa_s = c_s$ and setting κ_s to zero with $c_s \neq 0$ produces the simplest nonrelativistic action [11].

This pattern continues for dimension-five interactions. Aside from the Wilson terms in S_0 , the other dimension-five interactions are the chromomagnetic interaction

$$S_B = \frac{i}{2} c_B \kappa_s \sum_{n;i,j,k} \varepsilon_{ijk} \bar{\psi}_n \sigma_{ij} B_{n;k} \psi_n, \quad (1.7)$$

and the chromoelectric interaction

$$S_E = i c_E \kappa_s \sum_{n;i} \bar{\psi}_n \sigma_{0i} E_{n;i} \psi_n, \quad (1.8)$$

where B and E are suitable functions of the lattice gauge field U , as in sect. 2. The light-quark formalism of refs. [6, 7] considers the special case $c_B = c_E$, whereas the heavy-quark formalism of refs. [11, 12] sets $c_E = 0$.

The couplings r_s , $\zeta = \kappa_s/\kappa_t$, c_B , and c_E are specific examples of the couplings c_n in eq. (1.3). On the renormalized trajectory they are, therefore, all functions of $m_0 a$. Sect. 4 shows how to adjust r_s and ζ so that the relativistic energy-momentum relation $E = \sqrt{m_q^2 + \mathbf{p}^2} + \delta E_{\text{lat}}$ is obtained for all $m_q a$. With the correct choice, for which $\zeta \neq 1$ when $m_0 a \neq 0$, the (tree-level) lattice artifact δE_{lat} is proportional to $\mathbf{p}^4 a^3$ for $m_q a \ll 1$ and $\mathbf{p}^4 a/m_q^2$ for $m_q a \gg 1$. Similarly, results in sect. 5 include functions $c_B(m_0 a)$ and $c_E(m_0 a)$ that reduce lattice artifacts in the quark-gluon vertex functions to $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}^2 a^2)$ for $m_q a \ll 1$, or (yet smaller) $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}^2 a/m_q)$ for $m_q a \gg 1$.

In their on-shell improvement program refs. [19, 6] introduced changes of variables, or isospectral transformations, to expose redundant interactions. Since the coupling of a redundant interaction does not influence physical quantities, one can choose it according to theoretical or computational criteria distinct from improvement. Sect. 3 examines the isospectral transformations when time-space axis-interchange symmetry is not imposed. In our formulation many isospectral transformations are exploited to keep the time discretization, and hence the transfer matrix, as simple as possible.

The remaining redundant directions can be classified in the Hamiltonian approach developed in sect. 5. In a Euclidean version of the standard Dirac-matrix basis, given in sect. 2, matrices are either block diagonal or block off-diagonal. Block-diagonal transformations are absorbed into a generalized field normalization. On the other hand, block-*off*-diagonal transformations (called Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani transformations [20] in atomic physics) generate leeway in choosing the mass dependence of associated couplings.³ For example, in the action $S_0 + S_B + S_E$ one may freely choose r_s , as long as the choice circumvents the doubling problem.

³The off-diagonal interactions are precisely the ones usually omitted from nonrelativistic formulations, yet their presence in our formulation permits a smooth transition from large to small mass.

Our approach breaks down, just as any lattice theory does, when $\mathbf{p}a$ is too large. Fortunately, the typical momenta and mass splittings of hadronic systems usually are bounded; the energy scale around the fermion mass is dynamically unimportant. In quarkonia the typical energy-momentum scales are $m_q v$ and $m_q v^2/2$, i.e. 200–800 MeV for charmonium and 200–1400 MeV for bottomonium. Similarly, in light and heavy-light hadrons the typical momentum scale is Λ_{QCD} , i.e. 100–300 MeV. In some processes, such as a decaying heavy-quark system that transfers all its energy into light hadrons, a large three-momentum $|\mathbf{p}| \approx m_q$ does arise. Then our formulation and its predecessors all require further extensions. One should appreciate, however, that the breakdown arises not from the large fermion mass per se, but from the large momentum of the decay products.

A by-product of our formalism applies to existing numerical calculations, done with axis-interchange invariant actions. For $m_q a \gtrsim 1$ (and, furthermore, $m_q/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \gg 1$) we derive in sect. 9 a nonrelativistic interpretation of such actions. One then sees that, with a proper definition of the fermion mass, any action described by $S_0 + S_B + S_E$, including the Wilson and Sheikholeslami-Wohlert fermion actions, has the lattice-spacing and/or relativistic inaccuracies of a typical nonrelativistic action. A practical bonus of the nonrelativistic regime is that it is no longer necessary to adjust κ_s differently from κ_t . In heavy-light systems, one may also set $c_B = c_E$.

This paper is organized as follows: Sect. 2 introduces some notation, including a form of the action better suited to perturbation theory, and the Dirac-matrix convention used in later sections. The isospectral transformation of ref. [6] is reviewed and generalized in sect. 3, to determine which couplings are redundant. Then, to derive improvement conditions, Feynman-diagram methods are discussed in sect. 4, and the Hamiltonian method in sect. 5. With a Hamiltonian description of the lattice theory in hand, sect. 6 estimates cutoff effects in various hadronic systems. Sect. 7 considers perturbations from the electroweak interactions, needed for the phenomenology of the Standard Model [21]. Some of the issues beyond tree level are outlined in sect. 8. The relationship of our work, for $m_q/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \gg 1$, to nonrelativistic QCD is pursued in sect. 9. We discuss a few phenomenologically relevant applications more thoroughly in sect. 10. Finally, sect. 11 contains selected concluding remarks, and the appendices contain various technical details.

2 Notation

We shall call the form of the action in eq. (1.6) the “hopping-parameter form.” For studying the continuum limit and developing perturbation theory it is useful to present a different form. Let us introduce some notation. The lattice spacing is a and the site labels are $n = x/a$. Rescale the fields:

$$\psi_n = \frac{a^{3/2}}{\sqrt{2\kappa_t}} \psi(x) \tag{2.1}$$

and similarly for $\bar{\psi}_n$. The bare mass is

$$m_0 a = \frac{1}{2\kappa_t} - [1 + r_s \zeta(d-1)], \quad (2.2)$$

where $d (= 4)$ is the spacetime dimension, and $\zeta = \kappa_s/\kappa_t$. With these substitutions the action reads

$$\begin{aligned} S_0 = m_0 \int \bar{\psi}(x)\psi(x) + \int \left[\bar{\psi}(x)\frac{1}{2}(1 + \gamma_0)D_0^- \psi(x) - \bar{\psi}(x)\frac{1}{2}(1 - \gamma_0)D_0^+ \psi(x) \right] \\ + \zeta \int \bar{\psi}(x)\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}\psi(x) - \frac{1}{2}ar_s\zeta \int \bar{\psi}(x)\Delta^{(3)}\psi(x), \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

where the integral sign abbreviates $a^4 \sum_x$. The covariant difference operators are conveniently defined via covariant translation operators

$$T_{\pm\mu}\psi(x) = U_{\pm\mu}(x)\psi(x \pm a\hat{\mu}), \quad \bar{\psi}(x)\bar{T}_{\pm\mu} = \bar{\psi}(x \mp a\hat{\mu})U_{\pm\mu}(x \mp a\hat{\mu}), \quad (2.4)$$

where $U_{-\mu}(x) = U_{\mu}^\dagger(x - a\hat{\mu})$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} D_0^+ \psi &= a^{-1}(T_0 - 1)\psi, \\ D_0^- \psi &= a^{-1}(1 - T_{-0})\psi, \\ D_i \psi &= (2a)^{-1}(T_i - T_{-i})\psi, \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

$$\Delta^{(3)}\psi = a^{-2} \sum_{i=1}^3 (T_i + T_{-i} - 2)\psi,$$

define various covariant difference operators and the three-dimensional discrete Laplacian. We shall call the form of the action in eq. (2.3) the ‘‘mass form.’’

The temporal kinetic energy in eq. (2.3) is written in a way that does not make the temporal Wilson term explicit. Eq. (2.3) is more convenient, however, for constructing the transfer matrix, and for comparing with nonrelativistic QCD. The spacelike Wilson term, the one proportional to r_s , is needed to prevent doubling. A convenient choice in computer programs is $r_s = 1$, but we keep it arbitrary, because other choices may have other advantages.

For constructing the transfer matrix and for examining the nonrelativistic limit, a useful representation of the Euclidean gamma matrices is

$$\gamma_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \boldsymbol{\gamma} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \boldsymbol{\sigma} \\ \boldsymbol{\sigma} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (2.6)$$

satisfying $\{\gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu\} = 2\delta_{\mu\nu}$. Another convention that we use is $\sigma_{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{2}[\gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu]$ so that $\sigma_{\mu\nu}^\dagger = +\sigma_{\mu\nu}$. Using eq. (2.6), $\sigma_{0i} = i\alpha_i$ and $\sigma_{ij} = -\varepsilon_{ijk}\Sigma_k$, where

$$\boldsymbol{\alpha} = \gamma_0 \boldsymbol{\gamma} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \boldsymbol{\sigma} \\ -\boldsymbol{\sigma} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \boldsymbol{\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\sigma} & 0 \\ 0 & \boldsymbol{\sigma} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.7)$$

The following split into upper and lower two-component spinors

$$\psi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi \\ \chi^* \end{pmatrix}, \quad \bar{\psi} = (\phi^\dagger \quad -\chi^\text{T}) \quad (2.8)$$

follows from eq. (2.6). This convention is chosen so that (the operators corresponding to) ϕ and χ annihilate particle and anti-particle states, respectively. With these two-component fields the mass form of the action is

$$\begin{aligned} S_0 = m_0 \int & \left[\phi^\dagger(x)\phi(x) + \chi^\dagger(x)\chi(x) \right] \\ & + \int \left[\phi^\dagger(x)D_0^-\phi(x) + \chi^\dagger(x)D_0^-\chi(x) \right] \\ & - \frac{1}{2}ar_s\zeta \int \left[\phi^\dagger(x)\Delta^{(3)}\phi(x) + \chi^\dagger(x)\Delta^{(3)}\chi(x) \right] \\ & + \zeta \int \left[\phi^\dagger(x)\boldsymbol{\sigma}\cdot\mathbf{D}\chi^*(x) - \chi^\text{T}(x)\boldsymbol{\sigma}\cdot\mathbf{D}\phi(x) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

This form of the action exhibits explicitly that particles and anti-particles are treated on the same footing. (Anti-particles transform under the complex-conjugate representation of the gauge group, however, so U^* appears instead of U in the rules (eqs. (2.4)) for covariant translations acting on χ .)

Writing $\mathbf{B}_n = a^2\mathbf{B}(x)$ and $\mathbf{E}_n = a^2\mathbf{E}(x)$, the four- and two-component mass forms of the chromomagnetic and chromoelectric interactions are

$$\begin{aligned} S_B = -\frac{i}{2}ac_B\zeta \int & \bar{\psi}(x)\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\cdot\mathbf{B}(x)\psi(x) \\ = -\frac{i}{2}ac_B\zeta \int & \phi^\dagger(x)\boldsymbol{\sigma}\cdot\mathbf{B}(x)\phi(x) - \chi^\dagger(x)\boldsymbol{\sigma}^*\cdot\mathbf{B}(x)\chi(x), \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S_E = -\frac{1}{2}ac_E\zeta \int & \bar{\psi}(x)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\cdot\mathbf{E}(x)\psi(x) \\ = -\frac{1}{2}ac_E\zeta \int & \phi^\dagger(x)\boldsymbol{\sigma}\cdot\mathbf{E}(x)\chi^*(x) + \chi^\text{T}(x)\boldsymbol{\sigma}\cdot\mathbf{E}(x)\phi(x), \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

respectively. Except in a technical step in sect. 5 we take the ‘‘four-leaf clover’’ lattice approximant to the field strength

$$F_{\mu\nu}(x) = \frac{1}{8a^2} \sum_{\substack{\bar{\mu}=\pm\mu \\ \bar{\nu}=\pm\nu}} \text{sign}(\bar{\mu}\bar{\nu}) T_{\bar{\mu}}T_{\bar{\nu}}T_{-\bar{\mu}}T_{-\bar{\nu}} - \text{h.c.}, \quad (2.12)$$

as introduced in ref. [22]. In eqs. (2.10) and (2.11), $B_i = \frac{1}{2}\varepsilon_{ijk}F_{jk}$ and $E_i = F_{0i}$. As defined here, $F_{\mu\nu}$, B_i , and E_i are anti-Hermitian; similarly we take anti-Hermitian gauge-group generators $t^{a\dagger} = -t^a$.

Table 1: Interactions that could appear in the action, with and without axis-interchange symmetry (a.i.s.).

dim	w/ a.i.s.	w/o a.i.s.	
3	$\bar{\psi}\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\psi$	
4	$\bar{\psi}\not{D}\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\gamma_0 D_0\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}\psi$
5	$\bar{\psi}\not{D}^2\psi$	$\bar{\psi}D_0^2\psi$	$\bar{\psi}(\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D})^2\psi$
	$i\bar{\psi}\sigma_{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu}\psi$	$i\bar{\psi}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\cdot\mathbf{B}\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\boldsymbol{\alpha}\cdot\mathbf{E}\psi$
		$\bar{\psi}[\gamma_0 D_0, \boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}]\psi$	

3 Redundant Couplings

Before trying to determine the mass dependence of the couplings ζ , r_s , c_B , and c_E , one should establish which combinations are physical. The fields in functional integrals are integration variables, and a change of variables cannot change the integrals. Interactions that are induced by changes of variables are *redundant*; their couplings can be chosen with some leeway, dictated by calculational or technical convenience, rather than by physical criteria.

A subtle example of a redundancy in the space of interactions is wavefunction (re)normalization, which multiplies the field by a constant. For fermions, for example, it is sometimes convenient to fix the kinetic energy $\bar{\psi}\not{D}\psi$ to have coefficient unity, which is the mass form of the action, and sometimes to fix the local term $\bar{\psi}\psi$ to have coefficient unity, which is the hopping-parameter form. But neither interaction is redundant, even though the normalization convention drops out of physical quantities.

Otherwise redundant directions are exposed by redefinitions of the field. In the analysis of ref. [6], with axis-interchange symmetry, one considers the transformation

$$\psi \mapsto e^{\varepsilon a(\not{D}+m)}\psi, \quad \bar{\psi} \mapsto \bar{\psi}e^{\bar{\varepsilon}a(\not{D}+m)}, \quad (3.1)$$

where a is chosen so that $a(\not{D}+m)$ is “small.” After carrying out the transformation on the target action $\int \bar{\psi}(\not{D}+m)\psi$, one expands the transformed action to $O(a)$. One finds changes in the normalization of the lower-dimension terms and the additional interaction $a(\varepsilon+\bar{\varepsilon})\bar{\psi}\not{D}^2\psi$: from the two independent transformation parameters, only one combination survives. Hence, of the dimension-five interactions listed in Table 1, one (i.e. $\bar{\psi}\not{D}^2\psi$) is redundant, and the other is not.

On the lattice the nearest-neighbor discretization of \not{D} suffers from the doubling problem. Wilson’s prescription adds a nearest-neighbor discretization of D^2 to eliminate the unwanted states. By the preceding analysis [6], using instead $\not{D}^2 = D^2 - i\sigma_{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu}$ would not change the spectrum at $O(a)$. When the discretization is chosen to solve the doubling problem, however, the D^2 interaction does change the spectrum of high-momentum states. Since they

communicate with the low-momentum states through virtual processes, lattice artifacts proportional to g_0^2 remain. They can be eliminated with the other dimension-five interaction, $i\bar{\psi}\sigma_{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu}\psi$, with a coupling proportional to g_0^2 .

Thus, with axis-interchange symmetry there are four interactions up to dimension five, one of which goes with wavefunction normalization (e.g. $\bar{\psi}\mathcal{D}\psi$). One coupling is redundant, and it can be chosen to solve species doubling ($\bar{\psi}\mathcal{D}^2\psi$). The other couplings are fixed by the fermion mass ($\bar{\psi}\psi$) and a physical improvement condition ($i\bar{\psi}\sigma_{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu}\psi$).

When axis-interchange symmetry is given up, the transformation in eq. (3.1) should be generalized to

$$\begin{aligned}\psi &\mapsto \exp\left(\varepsilon a(\mathcal{D} + m) + \delta a\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}\right)\psi, \\ \bar{\psi} &\mapsto \bar{\psi} \exp\left(\bar{\varepsilon} a(\mathcal{D} + m) + \bar{\delta} a\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}\right).\end{aligned}\tag{3.2}$$

Applying this transformation to the target action induces the dimension-five interactions listed in Table 1. From the four independent transformation parameters, only three combinations survive: $\varepsilon + \bar{\varepsilon}$, $\delta + \bar{\delta}$, and $\delta - \bar{\delta}$. Therefore, the coefficients of $\bar{\psi}D_0^2\psi$, $\bar{\psi}(\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D})^2\psi$, and $\bar{\psi}[\gamma_0 D_0, \boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}]\psi$ can be chosen arbitrarily. The last of these has no redeeming features, so $\delta - \bar{\delta}$ should be chosen so that it never appears.

The other two redundant interactions are again used to solve the doubling problem. The D_0^2 term is used to eliminate states that would make contributions to the fermion propagator proportional to $(-1)^t$; the factors $1 \pm \gamma_0$ in eqs. (1.6) or (2.3) provide the unique choice. Low-energy states with $p_i \sim \pi/a$ are lifted by adding the interaction proportional to r_s in eqs. (1.6) or (2.3). When the mass is nonzero, it may prove convenient choose r_s to be a function of $m_0 a$, so we leave it arbitrary.

As with axis-interchange symmetry, the chromomagnetic and chromoelectric interactions are not redundant. Their couplings can be used to remove cutoff effects once the doubling problem has been eliminated.

Thus, without axis-interchange symmetry there are eight interactions up to dimension five, one of which goes with wavefunction normalization (e.g. $\bar{\psi}\gamma_0 D_0\psi$). Three couplings are redundant; two can be used to solve species doubling ($\bar{\psi}D_0^2\psi$ and $\bar{\psi}(\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D})^2\psi$), and the other to eliminate $\bar{\psi}[\gamma_0 D_0, \boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}]\psi$. The other couplings are fixed by the fermion mass ($m_0\bar{\psi}\psi$) and three physical improvement conditions ($\zeta\bar{\psi}\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}\psi$, $i c_B\bar{\psi}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\cdot\mathbf{B}\psi$, and $c_E\bar{\psi}\boldsymbol{\alpha}\cdot\mathbf{E}\psi$).

Redundant combinations of higher-dimension interactions can be exposed by generalizing the transformation of eq. (3.2). In particular, after dispensing with axis-interchange symmetry, it is possible to transform away interactions with higher time derivatives of ψ and $\bar{\psi}$, in favor of spatial derivatives of ψ and $\bar{\psi}$, \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{E} , and time derivatives of the latter. Indeed, any action with the Wilson time difference—the first line of eq. (2.3)—has an easy-to-construct transfer matrix. (This is reviewed in sect. 5.) Consequently, it is possible to implement eq. (1.3) by adding “spatial-only” interactions to S_0 .

4 On-shell Correlation Functions

We now turn to the mass dependence of the tree-level couplings, generically denoted $c_n^{[0]}(m_0a)$ in eq. (1.4), needed to bring the action closer to the renormalized trajectory. This section uses the fermion propagator to obtain the relation between the physical mass and the coupling m_0a , the correct tuning of the coupling $\zeta(m_0a)$, and the normalization of the field $\psi(x)$. Since we are interested in the full mass dependence, we do not expand in the fermion mass. Sect. 5 uses the Hamiltonian of the lattice theory to clarify and extend the analysis to c_B and c_E .

A well-known procedure for determining the couplings [4] is to calculate n -point correlation functions and expand in momentum p . In gauge theories, however, it is not known whether lattice artifacts can be removed systematically from Green functions off mass shell. Hence, one expands “on-shell” quantities instead [19]. The (lattice) mass shell specifies the energy at given spatial momentum \mathbf{p} , so on-shell improvement amounts to an expansion in $\mathbf{p}a$. Previous analyses [5, 6, 7] also expanded in the coupling m_0a . We simply avoid the latter expansion, and thus obtain the full mass dependence.

The simplest on-shell correlation function is the fermion propagator as a function of time and spatial momentum. It is used to relate the bare mass to a physical mass and to derive the mass dependence of ζ . In the language of sect. 3, it probes the interactions $\bar{\psi}\psi$ and $\bar{\psi}\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}\psi$, relative to $\bar{\psi}\gamma_0 D_0\psi$.

Define $C(t, \mathbf{p})$ through

$$\langle \psi(t', \mathbf{p}') \bar{\psi}(t, \mathbf{p}) \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta(\mathbf{p}' - \mathbf{p}) C(t' - t, \mathbf{p}), \quad (4.1)$$

where $\psi(t, \mathbf{p}) = a^3 \sum_{\mathbf{x}} e^{-i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \psi(t, \mathbf{x})$ and similarly for $\bar{\psi}(t, \mathbf{p})$. Then from eq. (2.3)

$$C(t, \mathbf{p}) = \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \frac{dp_0}{2\pi} \frac{e^{ip_0 t}}{i\gamma_0 \sin p_0 + i\zeta \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{S} + m_0 + 1 - \cos p_0 + \frac{1}{2} r_s \zeta \hat{\mathbf{p}}^2}, \quad (4.2)$$

where $S_i = a^{-1} \sin p_i a$ and $\hat{p}_i = 2a^{-1} \sin(p_i a/2)$, but for brevity eq. (4.2) is given in lattice units. To integrate over p_0 , proceed as follows: rationalize the denominator; for $t \geq 0$ let $z = e^{ip_0}$, and for $t < 0$ let $z = e^{-ip_0}$, yielding a contour integral over the circle $|z| = 1$; apply the residue theorem to obtain

$$C(t, \mathbf{p}) = \mathcal{Z}_2 e^{-E|t|} \frac{\gamma_0 \text{sign } t \sinh E - i\zeta \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{S} + m_0 + 1 - \cosh E + \frac{1}{2} r_s \zeta \hat{\mathbf{p}}^2}{2 \sinh E} \quad (4.3)$$

for $t \neq 0$,⁴ where (restoring a)

$$\cosh Ea = 1 + \frac{(m_0a + \frac{1}{2} r_s \zeta \hat{\mathbf{p}}^2 a^2)^2 + \zeta^2 \mathbf{S}^2 a^2}{2(1 + m_0a + \frac{1}{2} r_s \zeta \hat{\mathbf{p}}^2 a^2)} \quad (4.4)$$

⁴To obtain $C(0)$ from eq. (4.3), replace $\gamma_0 \text{sign } t$ by 1 on the right-hand side.

implicitly defines the energy of a state with momentum \mathbf{p} . The residue $\mathcal{Z}_2(\mathbf{p})$ is given below in eq. (4.12).

Expanding the energy-momentum relation in powers of $\mathbf{p}a$ yields

$$E^2 = M_1^2 + \frac{M_1}{M_2} \mathbf{p}^2 + \dots, \quad (4.5)$$

where the “rest mass”

$$M_1 = E(\mathbf{0}), \quad (4.6)$$

and the “kinetic mass”

$$M_2^{-1} = (\partial^2 E / \partial p_i^2)_{\mathbf{p}=\mathbf{0}}. \quad (4.7)$$

(Any axis i will do to define M_2 , by spatial axis-interchange symmetry.) The relativistic mass shell has $m_q = M_1 = M_2$, and it terminates at \mathbf{p}^2 . From the tree-level eq. (4.4)

$$M_1 = a^{-1} \log(1 + m_0 a), \quad (4.8)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{M_2 a} = \frac{2\zeta^2}{m_0 a(2 + m_0 a)} + \frac{r_s \zeta}{1 + m_0 a}. \quad (4.9)$$

Eq. (4.8) shows how to adjust $m_0 a$ so that $m_q = M_1$. Similarly, eq. (4.9) shows how to adjust ζ and r_s so that $m_q = M_2$.⁵ Setting $M_1 = M_2$ and solving for ζ yields the (tree-level) condition (setting $a = 1$ again)

$$\zeta = \sqrt{\left(\frac{r_s m_0(2 + m_0)}{4(1 + m_0)}\right)^2 + \frac{m_0(2 + m_0)}{2 \log(1 + m_0)} - \frac{r_s m_0(2 + m_0)}{4(1 + m_0)}}. \quad (4.10)$$

The dimension-five coupling r_s is treated here as redundant; it is determined not by physics, but to solve the doubling problem. To alleviate doubling any $r_s(0) > 0$ will do, and the most natural choice is $r_s(0) = 1$.

For small mass the Taylor expansion of eq. (4.10) is

$$\zeta = 1 + \frac{1}{2}(1 - r_s(0))m_0 - \frac{1}{24}[1 - 3r_s(0)(2 + r_s(0)) + 12r_s'(0)]m_0^2 + \mathcal{O}(m_0^3). \quad (4.11)$$

At $m_0 = 0$ the redundant coupling r_s drops out, leaving $\zeta(0) = 1$ unambiguously. On the other hand, the full mass dependence of ζ can only be prescribed hand-in-hand with r_s . The origin of the link between the two couplings is that both the kinetic ($\bar{\psi}\boldsymbol{\gamma}\mathbf{D}\psi$) and Wilson ($\bar{\psi}\Delta^{(3)}\psi$) terms contribute to E^2 at $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}^2)$. This and analogous links between couplings’ mass dependence are examined further in sect. 5 and Appendix A.

Beyond tree level (in perturbation theory or in Monte Carlo calculations) one would tune ζ according to the same physical principle that led to eq. (4.10): determine the momentum dependence of the energy of a suitable state and demand that $M_1 = E(\mathbf{0})$ and $M_2 = (\partial^2 E / \partial p_i^2)_{\mathbf{p}=\mathbf{0}}^{-1}$ be equal.

⁵In the $\kappa_t\text{-}\kappa_s$ parametrization (eliminate m_0 with eq. (2.2)) this condition is an implicit transcendental equation. In the $m_0\text{-}\zeta$ parametrization one can solve for ζ explicitly.

When ζ and m_0a have been adjusted so that $M_1 = M_2 = m_q$, one can rewrite eq. (4.5) as $E = \sqrt{m_q^2 + \mathbf{p}^2} + \delta E_{\text{lat}}$. Expanding eq. (4.4) to \mathbf{p}^4 , one finds the lattice artifact $\delta E_{\text{lat}} \sim \mathbf{p}^4 a^3$ at small mass and $\delta E_{\text{lat}} \sim \mathbf{p}^4 a / M_2^2$ at large mass. To reduce δE_{lat} further, one must incorporate higher-dimension interactions into the analysis.

Finally, let us return to the residue \mathcal{Z}_2 in eq. (4.3). In general, the residue is a scalar function of four-momentum p , evaluated on shell. With a Euclidean invariant cutoff, scalar functions can depend only on p^2 ; on shell, with $p^2 = -m^2$, the spatial momentum \mathbf{p} drops out. With the lattice cutoff, however, the mass shell is distorted, cf. eq. (4.4), so three-momentum \mathbf{p} dependence can remain. Indeed, after integrating eq. (4.2) over p_0 one finds

$$\mathcal{Z}_2(\mathbf{p}) = \left(1 + m_0a + \frac{1}{2}r_s\zeta\hat{\mathbf{p}}^2a^2\right)^{-1}. \quad (4.12)$$

Normally one identifies the residue with a (re)normalization of the fermion field. Now, however, it is appropriate to expand $\mathcal{Z}_2(\mathbf{p}) = Z_2 + \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}^2)$, where

$$Z_2 = (1 + m_0a)^{-1} = e^{-M_1a}. \quad (4.13)$$

Then $Z_2^{-1/2}\psi(x) = e^{M_1a/2}\psi(x)$ has the canonical normalization. In the hopping-parameter notation the canonically normalized field is $\sqrt{1 - 6r_s\kappa_s}\psi_n$. This notation shows clearly that the approach to the static limit, $\kappa_s \ll 1$, is smooth. Indeed, eq. (4.13) captures the dominant mass dependence of the field normalization to all orders in perturbation theory, cf. sect. 8 and ref. [18].

One might ask what to make of the momentum dependence of \mathcal{Z}_2 , when the action is improved to higher dimensions. The residue itself is not observable; physical quantities are given by ratios of n -point functions and the propagator. With the correct on-shell improvement, the \mathbf{p}^2 dependence of untruncated n -point functions combines with that of \mathcal{Z}_2 to yield the desired results (to the order considered).

5 The Hamiltonian

This section introduces another method for deriving conditions on the couplings in the action. The strategy is to obtain an expansion in the lattice spacing for the Hamiltonian. For concreteness, we focus on the action $S = S_0 + S_B + S_E$. The couplings are then adjusted so that the Hamiltonian of the lattice theory is equivalent to the Dirac Hamiltonian. The idea is conceptually the same as on-shell improvement, because the ‘‘spectral quantities’’ of ref. [19] are just eigenvalues of the Hamiltonian. But since the Hamiltonian is an operator, it contains the information of infinitely many quantities, rather than the finite number accessible when one computes correlation functions.

This approach reproduces the $c_n(m_0a)$ derived with on-shell correlation functions. But the analysis is explicitly relativistic, if noncovariant, so one sees

clearly that the results are general. On the other hand, we have not attempted to extend the method to four-fermion operators, or to higher orders in g_0^2 . The calculations required by those extensions seem simpler with Feynman diagrams.

There is a further conceptual advantage to the Hamiltonian. Lattice field theories are almost always formulated in imaginary time. The interpretation of the results in real time hinges on a good Hamiltonian fixing the dynamics of the Hilbert space of states [2]. Hence the implicit, but seldom stated, goal of improvement is an improved Hamiltonian; this section merely takes direct aim on that goal. Moreover, once one accepts the central role of the Hamiltonian, one appreciates why a satisfactory Hamiltonian \hat{H} implies a satisfactory time evolution $e^{-\hat{H}a}$, no matter how large $\hat{H}a$ is.

In lattice field theory the Hamiltonian is defined through the time evolution operator, or “transfer matrix” [2]. Therefore, sect. 5.1 starts by reviewing and extending the construction of ref. [24] to the actions S_0 and $S = S_0 + S_B + S_E$. A by-product of this analysis is the demonstration that there is no need to improve the temporal derivative in eq. (2.3). This feature is familiar from the static and nonrelativistic formulations. It is a special blessing here, because a temporal next-nearest-neighbor interaction would introduce unphysical states [6], and at large m_0a the physical and unphysical levels cross. With the transfer matrix in hand, sects. 5.2 and 5.3 develop an expansion in a for the Hamiltonian itself.

5.1 Construction of the transfer matrix

The transfer-matrix construction with two hopping parameters differs little from the usual case [24]. The transfer matrix acts as an integral operator in the space of gauge fields; in the $U_0 = 1$ axial gauge a wave functional $\Omega_t(U)$ at time t evolves to

$$\Omega_{t+1}(V) = \int \prod_{n,i} dU_{n,i} \mathcal{K}(V, U) \Omega_t(U) \quad (5.1)$$

at time $t + 1$. The wave functional $\Omega_t(U)$ is also a vector in the fermion Hilbert space. For the standard gauge action the kernel may be written

$$\mathcal{K}(V, U) = \hat{\mathcal{T}}_F^\dagger(V) \mathcal{T}_G^\dagger(V) \mathcal{K}_G(V, U) \mathcal{T}_G(U) \hat{\mathcal{T}}_F(U). \quad (5.2)$$

The factors arising from the fermion action $\hat{\mathcal{T}}_F^{(\dagger)}$ are operators in the fermion Hilbert space. The factors arising from the gauge field, \mathcal{T}_G and \mathcal{K}_G , are given in ref. [24]; in the following, they do not play a crucial role, so we do not discuss them further.⁶

⁶Different from ref. [24] is the convention for the factors $(1 \pm \gamma_0)$ in the action (compare eq. (1.6) with eq. (2) of ref. [24]). With our convention it is natural for time-ordering to place later times to the *left*. Thus, the kernel $\mathcal{K}(V, U)$ transfers the field from U at time t to V at time $t + 1$.

The fermion operator for action S_0 can be written

$$\hat{T}_F(U) = e^{-\hat{H}_I(U)} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\hat{H}_0(U)} \det(2\kappa_t \mathcal{B}_U)^{1/4} \quad (5.3)$$

where (cf. ref. [24])

$$\hat{H}_0(U) = \hat{\Psi} \mathcal{M}_U \hat{\Psi}, \quad (5.4)$$

$$\hat{H}_I(U) = \zeta \hat{\Psi} \frac{1}{2} (1 - \gamma_0) \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}_U \hat{\Psi}, \quad (5.5)$$

in a matrix notation in which Ψ and $\bar{\Psi}$ are vectors and \mathcal{B}_U , \mathbf{D}_U , and \mathcal{M}_U are matrices depending on gauge field U . The vectors and matrices of this notation are labeled by spin, color, and space. The covariant difference operator \mathbf{D} is as in eq. (2.5) and

$$\mathcal{B} = 1 - r_s \kappa_s \sum_i (T_i + T_{-i}), \quad (5.6)$$

$$e^{\mathcal{M}} = \frac{\mathcal{B}}{2\kappa_t} = 1 + m_0 - \frac{1}{2} r_s \zeta \Delta^{(3)}. \quad (5.7)$$

The operators $\hat{\Psi}$ and $\hat{\bar{\Psi}} = \hat{\Psi}^\dagger \gamma_0$ obey canonical anti-commutation relations

$$\{\hat{\Psi}_{\mathbf{m}a}, \hat{\bar{\Psi}}_{\mathbf{n}b}\} = \delta_{\mathbf{m}\mathbf{n}} \delta_{ab}, \quad (5.8)$$

where \mathbf{m} and \mathbf{n} label spatial sites and a and b are multi-indices for spin and color. The fields corresponding to these operators are related to the original fields by

$$\Psi_{\mathbf{m}a} = \mathcal{B}_{\mathbf{m}a, \mathbf{n}b}^{1/2} \psi_{\mathbf{n}b}. \quad (5.9)$$

This discrepancy in normalization between the integration variables in the functional integral and the canonical operators in Hilbert space demonstrates again that the normalization convention for the field $\psi(x)$, cf. eq. (2.1), is arbitrary. On the other hand, the propagator of Ψ has *unit* residue at tree level, and a perturbative series $Z_{2\Psi} = 1 + g_0^2 Z_{2\Psi}^{[1]}(m_0 a) + \dots$ beyond tree level.

The generalization of eqs. (5.2)–(5.9) to include the chromoelectric interactions suffers from a technical difficulty. Usually one uses the “four-leaf clovers” in eq. (2.12) as the lattice approximants to the chromomagnetic and chromoelectric fields. For the chromomagnetic interaction, this choice poses no problem, because \mathbf{B} involves link variables from one timeslice only. For the chromoelectric interaction, however, the time-space four-leaf clover involves link variables from three timeslices. In that case, the construction of the gauge-field transfer matrix is more complicated, and, if the improved gauge action is any indication, it may no longer be positive [25].

To avoid this complication one can define a chromoelectric field on only two timeslices. Consider

$$S_{E2} = -c_E \kappa_s \sum_{\mathbf{n}, t} \bar{\psi}_{\mathbf{n}, t} \left[\frac{1}{2} (1 + \gamma_0) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{n}, t-1/2} + \frac{1}{2} (1 - \gamma_0) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{E}_{\mathbf{n}, t+1/2} \right] \psi_{\mathbf{n}, t}, \quad (5.10)$$

where

$$E_{\mathbf{n},t\pm 1/2;i} = \pm \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\bar{i}=\pm i} \text{sign}(\bar{i}) T_{\pm 0} T_{\bar{i}} T_{\mp 0} T_{-\bar{i}} - \text{h.c.}, \quad (5.11)$$

is defined on a *two-leaf* clover. The projection operators $\frac{1}{2}(1 \pm \gamma_0)$ in eq. (5.10) are chosen by analogy with the Wilson time derivative, cf. eq. (2.3), and as a result the standard transfer-matrix construction goes through with minor modifications. The two-leaf version S_{E2} differs from the four-leaf version S_E by an interaction of dimension six, so it should not alter the tree-level tuning of c_E .

Extending the transfer-matrix construction to $S_0 + S_B + S_{E2}$ (eqs. (1.6), (1.7), and (5.10)), one finds the following changes. The chromomagnetic interaction modifies the matrices \mathcal{B} and \mathcal{M} to

$$\mathcal{B} = 1 - r_s \kappa_s \sum_i (T_i + T_{-i}) - i c_B \kappa_s \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \cdot \mathbf{B}, \quad (5.12)$$

$$e^{\mathcal{M}} = \frac{\mathcal{B}}{2\kappa_t} = 1 + m_0 - \frac{1}{2} \zeta \left(r_s \Delta^{(3)} + i c_B \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \cdot \mathbf{B} \right). \quad (5.13)$$

Except for the new \mathcal{B} , eqs. (5.8) and (5.9) still hold. The chromoelectric interaction, eq. (5.10), modifies the fermion operator \hat{T}_F so that it depends on initial and final gauge fields U and V :

$$\hat{T}_F(V, U) = e^{-\hat{H}_I(V, U)} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \hat{H}_0(U)} \det(2\kappa_t \mathcal{B}_U)^{1/4} \quad (5.14)$$

with \hat{H}_0 as in eq. (5.4) and \mathcal{M} from eq. (5.13), but

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H}_I(V, U) &= \zeta \hat{\Psi} \frac{1}{2} (1 - \gamma_0) (\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}_U - \frac{1}{2} c_E \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{E}_{V, U}) \hat{\Psi}, \\ \hat{H}_I^\dagger(V, U) &= \zeta \hat{\Psi}^\dagger \frac{1}{2} (1 + \gamma_0) (\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}_V - \frac{1}{2} c_E \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{E}_{V, U}) \hat{\Psi}, \end{aligned} \quad (5.15)$$

where the subscripts on \mathbf{D} and \mathbf{E} specify the spatial link fields, out of which they are constructed. The sign of the chromoelectric term in \hat{H}_I^\dagger can be checked as follows: in our sign and i conventions $t^{a\dagger} = -t^a$ and Euclidean electric fields are anti-Hermitian operators in the gauge-field Hilbert space, $\hat{\mathbf{E}}^{a\dagger} = -\hat{\mathbf{E}}^a$.

Comparing eqs. (5.13) and (5.15) with eqs. (5.7) and (5.5), respectively, one notices a pattern emerging. Interactions with block-diagonal Dirac matrices append to $e^{\mathcal{M}}$, whereas those with block-off-diagonal Dirac matrices modify H_I . This pattern depends only on the special Wilson time derivative and the technical assumption that all interactions live on only one or two timeslices. It proves that there is no need to alter the temporal derivative in eq. (2.3): higher-dimension “spatial” interactions are enough to achieve on-shell improvement, as asserted at the end of sect. 3.

5.2 Small a expansion (general considerations)

From the transfer matrix one would like to derive the exact lattice Hamiltonian $\hat{H} = -\log \hat{\mathcal{K}}$. Of course, with this definition the Hamiltonian cannot be represented by a finite number of local operators. According to the Symanzik philosophy, however, one ought to expand it in powers of the lattice spacing. After obtaining the transfer matrix, (higher) time derivatives are no longer a concern, so the lattice-spacing expansion will hold if the quantities $\mathbf{D}a$, $\mathbf{B}a^2$, $\mathbf{E}a^2$, \dots , are small.

One can anticipate the expansion by enumerating the terms allowed by symmetry:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{H} = \hat{\Psi} & \left[b_0(m_0a)m_q + b_1(m_0a)\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}_{\text{cont}} + ab_2(m_0a)\mathbf{D}_{\text{cont}}^2 \right. \\ & \left. +iab_B(m_0a)\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\cdot\mathbf{B}_{\text{cont}} + ab_E(m_0a)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\cdot\mathbf{E}_{\text{cont}} + \dots \right] \hat{\Psi}, \end{aligned} \quad (5.16)$$

where the subscript “cont” refers to an underlying continuum gauge field; below we usually suppress this subscript, for brevity. The coefficients b_i depend on m_0a , and since eq. (5.16) is to be interpreted as an expansion in a (rather than $1/m_0$), the b_i for small m_0a must be $\mathcal{O}((m_0a)^p)$, with p nonnegative. The coefficients for the action $S_0 + S_B + S_E$, given in sect. 5.3, satisfy this requirement.

The general objective is to adjust the couplings so that eq. (5.16) takes the relativistic Dirac form, i.e. $b_0 = b_1 = 1$ and $b_2 = b_B = b_E = \dots = 0$. But, based on the considerations of sect. 3, there must be some leeway in the redundant directions. In the operator formalism adopted here, unitary changes of variables are possible, and these play the role of the isospectral transformation, eq. (3.2). Under a change of variables the Hamiltonian becomes

$$\hat{H}' = \hat{\mathcal{U}}(\hat{H} + \partial_t)\hat{\mathcal{U}}^{-1}, \quad (5.17)$$

where ∂_t is a derivative with respect to imaginary time, and $\hat{\mathcal{U}}$ is the unitary operator implementing the change of variables in Hilbert space. Consider, for example, the following transformation:

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi & \mapsto \exp(-a\xi_1\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D})\Psi, \\ \bar{\Psi} & \mapsto \bar{\Psi} \exp(-a\xi_1\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}), \end{aligned} \quad (5.18)$$

for which

$$\hat{\mathcal{U}} = \exp\left(a\xi_1\hat{\Psi}^\dagger\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}\hat{\Psi}\right). \quad (5.19)$$

Such transformations are familiar from studies of the nonrelativistic limit of the Dirac equation, where they are called Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani transformations [20]. Their characteristic feature is that the exponent is always a block-off-diagonal Dirac matrix.

The transformed Hamiltonian \hat{H}' has an expansion of the same form as in eq. (5.16), but with transformed coefficients:

$$\begin{aligned}
b'_0 &= b_0, \\
b'_1 &= b_1 - 2m_q a b_0 \xi_1, \\
b'_2 &= b_2 - 2b_1 \xi_1 + 2m_q a b_0 \xi_1^2, \\
b'_B &= b_B - 2b_1 \xi_1 + 2m_q a b_0 \xi_1^2, \\
b'_E &= b_E - \xi_1.
\end{aligned} \tag{5.20}$$

In light of the transformations, it is, therefore, enough to adjust $m_0 a$, ζ , r_s , c_B , and c_E , so that for some (hidden) value of ξ_1 the transformed Hamiltonian takes the Dirac form $\hat{H}' = \hat{\Psi}(m_q + \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D})\hat{\Psi}$. That means that one wants $b'_0 = b'_1 = 1$ and $b'_2 = b'_B = b'_E = \dots = 0$.

The Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani parameter ξ_1 drops out of on-shell quantities. It is preferable, therefore, to parameterize the redundant direction by one of the couplings. To this end, it is efficient to note that the following combinations of the b_i 's do not depend on ξ_1 :

$$\begin{aligned}
B_0 &\equiv b_0 &&= b'_0, \\
B_1 &\equiv b_1^2 - 2m_q a b_0 b_2 = b_1'^2 - 2m_q a b_0' b_2', \\
B_B &\equiv b_2 - b_B &&= b_2' - b'_B.
\end{aligned} \tag{5.21}$$

A Hamiltonian unitarily equivalent to the Dirac Hamiltonian is then obtained whenever

$$\begin{aligned}
B_0 &= B_1 = 1, \\
B_B &= 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{5.22}$$

Eqs. (5.21) do not contain an invariant corresponding to b_E . This is analogous to the result, eq. (4.11), that the general mass dependence of ζ can only be determined hand-in-hand with r_s . In the present language, that connection arises as follows. Consider truncating eq. (5.16) at dimension four. Then only b_0 and b_1 remain. The Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani transformation is $\mathcal{O}(pa)$, and superficially not worth considering. If one introduces it anyway, one sees immediately that b_1 changes, and in the transformation law, eq. (5.20), one power of a has combined with the fermion mass to give $m_q a$. At $m_q a = 0$ the condition $b_1 = 1$ is enough to determine $\zeta(0)$ unambiguously. But to obtain fully the mass dependence $\zeta(m_0)$ one must consider simultaneously the interactions $\bar{\Psi}\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}\Psi$ and $\bar{\Psi}(\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D})^2\Psi$.

A similar fate awaits the coefficient b_E and its coupling c_E . Consider a

two-parameter Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani transformation

$$\begin{aligned}\Psi &\mapsto \exp(-a\xi_1\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D} - a^2\xi_E\boldsymbol{\alpha}\cdot\mathbf{E})\Psi, \\ \bar{\Psi} &\mapsto \bar{\Psi}\exp(-a\xi_1\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D} - a^2\xi_E\boldsymbol{\alpha}\cdot\mathbf{E}).\end{aligned}\tag{5.23}$$

The new parameter ξ_E introduces changes that are superficially $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}^2 a^2)$. The other coefficients are unaffected by ξ_E , but

$$b'_E = b_E - \xi_1 - 2m_q a b_0 \xi_E.\tag{5.24}$$

Again, one power of a has combined with the fermion mass to give $m_q a$. Thus, the condition $b_E - \xi_1 = 0$ is enough to determine only $c_E(0)$. The full mass dependence of c_E can only be revealed by considering simultaneously $\bar{\Psi}\boldsymbol{\alpha}\cdot\mathbf{E}\Psi$ and the dimension-six interaction $\bar{\Psi}\{\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}, \boldsymbol{\alpha}\cdot\mathbf{E}\}\Psi$. This analysis is deferred to Appendix A.

The next subsection adjusts $m_0 a$, ζ , r_s , and c_B to ensure eq. (5.22), and $c_E(0)$ to ensure $b'_E(0) = 0$. For heavy-light systems, the resulting lattice theory has cutoff artifacts of $\mathcal{O}(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 a^2)$ and, *only* when $m_Q a \gg 1$, (yet smaller) artifacts of $\mathcal{O}(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 a/m_Q)$ and of $\mathcal{O}(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2/m_Q^2)$ as well. See sect. 6 for details. Moreover, for quarkonia, the lattice theory is similarly correct through $\mathcal{O}(v^2)$.

5.3 Small a expansion for $S_0 + S_B + S_E$

Combining eqs. (5.2) and (5.14), and omitting factors that depend only on the gauge field, the fermion Hamiltonian of the lattice theory is

$$\hat{H} = -\log \left[e^{-\frac{1}{2}\hat{H}_0(V)} e^{-\hat{H}_I^\dagger(V,U)} \dots e^{-\hat{H}_I(V,U)} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\hat{H}_0(U)} \right],\tag{5.25}$$

where H_0 is specified by eqs. (5.4) and (5.13), and H_I is specified by eq. (5.15). To derive an expression for the fermion Hamiltonian, one must coalesce the four exponents in eq. (5.25) into one. Owing to nontrivial commutators between \hat{H}_0 , \hat{H}_I , and \hat{H}_I^\dagger , this is too difficult in general. But through order $\mathbf{D}^2 a^2$, Appendix B achieves the desired result by a trick. There the field theory is mimicked by a toy model with the same algebraic structure but only two degrees of freedom. In the toy model one needs only to take the logarithm of a two-by-two transfer matrix, and expand the result in powers of a .

For small $\mathbf{D}a$ the Hamiltonian becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{H} &\approx \hat{\Psi} \left[M_1 - \frac{\zeta}{2(1+m_0)} \left(r_s \Delta^{(3)} + i c_B \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \cdot \mathbf{B} \right) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - i\zeta f_1(m_0)\Theta - \zeta^2 f_2(m_0)\Theta^2 \right] \hat{\Psi} + \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}^3 a^2),\end{aligned}\tag{5.26}$$

where

$$\Theta = i(\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}_{\text{cont}} + \frac{1}{2}(1 - c_E)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\cdot\mathbf{E}_{\text{cont}}).\tag{5.27}$$

The rest mass M_1 and the terms in parentheses come from expanding \mathcal{M} , and the functions f_i are extracted from the toy model:

$$f_1(x) = \frac{2(1+x)\log(1+x)}{x(2+x)}, \quad f_2(x) = \frac{f_1^2(x)}{2\log(1+x)} - \frac{1}{x(2+x)}. \quad (5.28)$$

Note that $f_1(0) = 1$ and $f_2(0) = \frac{1}{2}$.

In the spirit of an underlying continuum gauge field one can identify $\Delta^{(3)}$ with $\mathbf{D}_{\text{cont}}^2$, $\mathbf{D} \times \mathbf{D}$ with \mathbf{B}_{cont} , and $[\partial_t, \mathbf{D}]$ with \mathbf{E}_{cont} . With these identifications one can cast eq. (5.26) into the form of eq. (5.16). Thus, the Hamiltonian of the action $S_0 + S_B + S_E$ has coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} b_0 &= M_1/m_q, \\ b_1 &= \zeta f_1(m_0), \\ b_2 &= \zeta^2 f_2(m_0) - \frac{r_s \zeta}{2(1+m_0)}, \\ b_B &= \zeta^2 f_2(m_0) - \frac{c_B \zeta}{2(1+m_0)}, \\ b_E &= \frac{1}{2}(1 - c_E)\zeta f_1(m_0), \end{aligned} \quad (5.29)$$

and the invariants B_i are

$$\begin{aligned} B_0 &= M_1/m_q, \\ B_1 &= M_1/M_2, \\ B_B &= \frac{1}{2M_B} - \frac{1}{2M_2}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.30)$$

The masses M_1 and M_2 are as before, and

$$\frac{1}{M_B} = \frac{2\zeta^2}{m_0(2+m_0)} + \frac{c_B \zeta}{1+m_0}. \quad (5.31)$$

After imposing eq. (5.22), M_1 , M_2 , and M_B all equal the physical mass.

The mass dependence of the couplings follows immediately from eqs. (5.30) and (5.22). The requirement $B_1 = 1$ implies

$$\zeta = \sqrt{\left(\frac{r_s m_0(2+m_0)}{4(1+m_0)}\right)^2 + \frac{m_0(2+m_0)}{2\log(1+m_0)} - \frac{r_s m_0(2+m_0)}{4(1+m_0)}} \quad (5.32)$$

precisely as in eq. (4.10). The requirement $B_B = 0$ implies

$$c_B = r_s. \quad (5.33)$$

Finally, for small mass the chromoelectric coupling should be tuned to

$$c_E(0) = \frac{1}{2}(1 + r_s(0)), \quad (5.34)$$

to enforce $b'_E(0) = 0$. With the axis-interchange invariant boundary condition $r_s(0) = 1$, one thus recovers the action of ref. [6], with $\zeta(0) = r_s(0) = c_E(0) = c_B(0) = 1$.

Our analysis has not yet specified the relevant couplings g_0^2 and m_0a . They, of course, are fixed not by theory but by experiment. In the Hamiltonian language, the bare mass m_0a is adjusted so that $B_0 = 1$, i.e. $M_1 = m_q$. Then the improvement conditions, eqs. (5.32)–(5.33), guarantee that $m_q = M_2 = M_B$ also.

There is a special case of eqs. (5.32)–(5.34) that is of at least passing interest, namely the one for which the Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani parameter $\xi_1 = 0$. This is obtained by choosing r_s so that (untransformed) $b_2 = 0$:

$$r_s = \frac{2(1+m_0)^2}{m_0(2+m_0)} - \frac{1}{\log(1+m_0)}. \quad (5.35)$$

Then the condition $b_1 = 1$ requires

$$\zeta = \frac{m_0(2+m_0)}{2(1+m_0)\log(1+m_0)}, \quad (5.36)$$

and the condition $b_E = 0$ requires

$$c_E = 1, \quad (5.37)$$

and, as before, the condition $b_B = 0$ requires $c_B = r_s$. After substituting eq. (5.35) into eq. (5.32) one re-obtains the right-hand side of eq. (5.36). Appendix A shows that—with r_s and ζ from eqs. (5.35)–(5.36)— $c_E = 1$ can be maintained for arbitrary m_0a .

6 Truncation Criteria Revisited

This section reexamines criteria for truncating a cutoff theory, with some emphasis on the errors left over after truncation. The analysis of the previous sections takes the scaling dimension of the interaction as a guide. For massless quarks that is certainly correct. But the most appropriate organization may vary when the same cutoff theory is applied to different physical systems. Thus, conclusions about the accuracy of a massive-fermion action must be refined, after deciding whether the action is to be applied to heavy-light systems or to quarkonia.

After the couplings have been adjusted to some practical accuracy, the Hamiltonian (possibly after a Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani transformation) is

$$\hat{H} = \hat{\Psi} (m_q + \gamma_0 A_0 + \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}) \hat{\Psi} + \delta \hat{H}_{\text{lat}}; \quad (6.1)$$

the Coulomb potential appears if one transforms to a gauge without $A_0 = 0$. A lattice artifact $\delta \hat{H}_{\text{lat}}$ remains, because one cannot exactly incorporate infinitely many terms into eq. (1.3).

One can estimate the errors induced by $\delta\hat{H}_{\text{lat}}$ by treating it as a perturbation. There is an advantage to estimating cutoff effects from the Hamiltonian. In the action formalism, eq. (1.5), it may not be clear how the time discretization trickles down to physical quantities. But by proceeding through the transfer matrix these effects are treated exactly.

From the line of argument leading to eq. (5.16), one expects that $\delta\hat{H}_{\text{lat}}$ consists of operators multiplied by mass-dependent coefficients

$$\delta\hat{H}_{\text{lat}} = \sum_n a^{s_n} \sum_{l=L_n+1}^{\infty} g_0^{2l} b_n^{[l]}(m_0 a) \hat{H}_n, \quad (6.2)$$

where the power $s_n = \dim H_n - 4$, and L_n is the number of loops already under control. One can determine the effect of $\delta\hat{H}_{\text{lat}}$ on a physical quantity from order-of-magnitude estimates for the operators \hat{H}_n and general properties of the coefficients $b_n^{[l]}(m_0 a)$. While the former depend on the physical process under study, the latter are process independent.

The dimension-five, tree-level coefficients have two important properties, which we believe are generic. First, at asymptotically large $m_0 a$ the tree-level coefficients either approach a constant or fall as a power of $1/(m_0 a)$. An analysis of higher-order Feynman diagrams (sect. 8) shows that tree-level patterns persist to all orders in perturbation theory. Indeed, the asymptotic behavior is presumably a consequence of the heavy-quark symmetries obeyed by all lattice actions under consideration. Second, the coefficients always contain the recurring ingredients $1 + m_0 a$, $m_0 a(2 + m_0 a)$, and $\log(1 + m_0 a)$ in a way that makes implausible any combination that would blow up at an intermediate value of $m_0 a$. Indeed, all evidence suggests that the functions $b(m_0 a)$ are smaller than their low-order Taylor expansions, once $m_0 a \gtrsim 1$.

Let us now discuss the typical size of the operators in the Hamiltonian. Table 2 gives ballpark estimates for the dimension-three, -four, and -five interactions for three systems: those in which all quarks are light, those with one heavy quark, and quarkonia. The row labeled E_0 in Table 2 gives the non-trivial dynamical scales, to which artifacts should be compared. In all-light and heavy-light systems, the estimates start from naive dimensional analysis, but heavy-quark bilinears with an off-diagonal Dirac matrices are Λ_{QCD}/m_Q times smaller still. In quarkonia, the estimates are those of ref. [12], with v denoting the typical velocity of the heavy (anti-)quark in the bound state ($v \sim \alpha_s(m_Q)$).

A conservative estimate of the artifact is then as follows: Choose a system, multiply by a^{s_n} , and compare to E_0 . The coefficient $b(m_0 a)$ is a number of order 1 (or less), for *any* value of $m_0 a$, so its numerical value does *not* affect the (conservative) conclusion. If, after suitable adjustment of the couplings, one finds $b \sim m_q a$ for $m_q a \ll 1$, or $b \sim 1/(m_Q a)$ for $m_Q a \gg 1$, the artifact might be even smaller.

Consider the chromoelectric interaction as an example. For the sake of argument, suppose that the rest mass M_1 and the kinetic mass M_2 , and hence $m_0 a$

Table 2: Estimates of the size of dimension-three, -four, and -five interactions in systems with only light quarks, with one heavy quark, and in quarkonia. The latter two columns use m_Q to emphasize the *heavy*-quark mass.

H_n	only light	heavy-light	quarkonia
E_0	Λ_{QCD}	Λ_{QCD}	$m_q v^2$
$\bar{\Psi}\Psi$	1	1	1
$\bar{\Psi}\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\boldsymbol{D}\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}	$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2/m_Q$	$m_Q v^2$
$\bar{\Psi}\boldsymbol{D}^2\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^2	Λ_{QCD}^2	$m_Q^2 v^2$
$i\bar{\Psi}\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\cdot\boldsymbol{B}\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^2	Λ_{QCD}^2	$m_Q^2 v^4$
$\bar{\Psi}\boldsymbol{\alpha}\cdot\boldsymbol{E}\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^2	$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^3/m_Q$	$m_Q^3 v^4$

and ζ , have been adjusted nonperturbatively. If c_E is not adjusted correctly, then the (transformed) coefficient b'_E of the chromoelectric term in the Hamiltonian does not vanish. Then, relative to the corresponding E_0 , there are artifacts of $O(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}a)$ for all-light, $O(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 a/m_Q)$ for heavy-light, and $O(m_Q a v^2)$ for heavy-heavy. If instead $c_E(m_Q a)$ is adjusted to $c_E(0)$ in eq. (5.34), the artifacts in all-light systems fall to $O(m_q \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} a^2)$. With heavy quarks the estimates depend on $m_Q a$. If a is so tiny that $m_Q a \ll 1$, then $b'_E \sim m_Q a$, and the chromoelectric artifact is reduced to $O(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 a^2)$ for heavy-light and to $O(m_Q^2 a^2 v^2)$ for heavy-heavy. But if $m_Q a \gtrsim 1$, it turns out that b'_E either remains constant or falls as $1/(m_Q a)$, depending on the mass dependence of the redundant coupling r_s . The artifacts are then either $O(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 a/m_Q)$ for heavy-light and $O(m_Q a v^2)$ for heavy-heavy, or $1/(m_Q a)$ times smaller.

The appearance of $1/(m_Q a)$ in coefficients, in addition to the Λ_{QCD}/m_Q in heavy-light dynamics, makes the error analysis of heavy-light systems somewhat delicate. Since the $1/(m_Q a)$ behavior arises only if $m_Q a \gg 1$, it leads only to errors that are *smaller* than the usual discretization errors, relative to E_0 . On the other hand, occasionally one is interested in effects that are subleading in the heavy-quark expansion. For a given lattice action, such quantities may have a larger relative error. For example, even with $c_E(0)$ adjusted correctly, the fine structure of the heavy-light spectrum, which is $O(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2/m_Q)$, suffers a relative error of order $(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^3 a/m_Q)/(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2/m_Q) \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} a$.

Similar comments apply to quarkonia. Though the chromomagnetic and chromoelectric interactions are of order $m_Q v^4/m_Q v^2 \sim v^2$ smaller than the spin-independent kinetic energy, they introduce relative errors on spin-dependent structure of order $m_Q v^4/m_Q v^4 \sim 1$. A full $O(v^4)$ analysis requires a few dimension-six and -seven interactions, which we consider in Appendix A.

Once the dimension-five couplings c_B and c_E have been properly adjusted, lattice artifacts remain from dimension six and higher. Table 3 lists bilinear

Table 3: Estimates of the size of dimension-six bilinear interactions in systems with only light quarks, with one heavy quark, and in quarkonia. For the actions considered here, the interactions below the line do not arise at tree level.

H_n	only light	heavy-light	quarkonia
$\bar{\Psi}\gamma_0[\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}, \boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{E}]\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^3	Λ_{QCD}^3	$m_Q^3 v^4$
$\bar{\Psi}(\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D})^3\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^3	$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^4/m_Q$	$m_Q^3 v^4$
$\bar{\Psi}\gamma_i D_i^3\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^3	$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^4/m_Q$	$m_Q^3 v^4$
$\bar{\Psi}\{\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot\mathbf{D}, i\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\cdot\mathbf{B}\}\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^3	$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^4/m_Q$	$m_Q^3 v^6$
$i\bar{\Psi}\gamma_0\boldsymbol{\Sigma}\cdot(D_0\mathbf{B})\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^3	$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^4/m_Q$	$m_Q^3 v^6$
$\bar{\Psi}\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot(D_0\mathbf{E})\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^3	$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^5/m_Q^2$	$m_Q^3 v^6$
$\bar{\Psi}\gamma_0(\mathbf{D}\cdot\mathbf{E} - \mathbf{E}\cdot\mathbf{D})\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^3	Λ_{QCD}^3	$m_Q^3 v^4$
$i\bar{\Psi}\boldsymbol{\gamma}\cdot(\mathbf{D}\times\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{D}\times\mathbf{B})\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^3	$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^4/m_Q$	$m_Q^3 v^6$

Table 4: Estimates of the size of dimension-six four-fermion interactions in systems with only light quarks, with one heavy quark, and in quarkonia. The role of these interactions can only be treated consistently in concert with the gauge-field action. The interactions above the line can then be considered redundant, while those below the line do not arise at tree level.

H_n	only light	heavy-light	quarkonia
$(\bar{\psi}\gamma_0 t^a \psi)^2$	Λ_{QCD}^3	Λ_{QCD}^3	$m_Q^3 v^6$
$(\bar{\psi}\gamma_i t^a \psi)^2$	Λ_{QCD}^3	Λ_{QCD}^3	$m_Q^3 v^6$
$(\bar{\psi}\boldsymbol{\Gamma}t^a\psi)^2, \boldsymbol{\Gamma} \neq \boldsymbol{\gamma}_\mu$	Λ_{QCD}^3	Λ_{QCD}^3	$m_Q^3 v^6$

operators that can appear in the Hamiltonian. The conservative estimate of the absolute errors caused by these operators is to multiply Table 3 by a^2 . When $m_Q a \gg 1$, however, some of the contributions may be, as before, a factor of $1/(m_Q a)$ or $1/(m_Q a)^2$ smaller. But, again, this subtlety is only crucial when quantities subleading in the heavy-quark expansion are at issue.

The four-fermion interactions, listed in Table 4, are also of dimension six. To generalize the analysis of sect. 3 to encompass these operators, one must simultaneously treat dimension-six gauge-field interactions [6]. The result is that $(\bar{\psi}\gamma_0 t^a \psi)^2$ and $(\bar{\psi}\gamma_i t^a \psi)^2$ are redundant [6], even without axis-interchange symmetry. The other four-fermion interactions arise first at the one-loop level.

Let us summarize the main points of this section for heavy-light spectroscopy with action $S_0 + S_B + S_E$. After the tree-level adjustments of sect. 5.3 have been applied, the largest remaining lattice artifacts are $O(g_0^2 \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} a)$ from the one-loop

maladjustment of $S_B + S_E$ and $O(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 a^2)$ from unadjusted dimension-six interactions. The mass dependence of the artifacts is solely in the coefficients $b(m_q a)$, which is a number of order unity at any mass.

7 Electroweak Perturbations

This section extends the formalism of the previous sections to the two- and four-quark operators of the electroweak Hamiltonian, which may be treated as a first-order perturbation to QCD. The construction of the renormalized (or continuum-limit) operator is analogous to the construction of the renormalized trajectory. Let \mathcal{O} denote the continuum operator. Then

$$\mathcal{O} = Z_{\mathcal{O}}(\{m_0 a\}, g_0^2) \left[O_0 + \sum_n C_n(\{m_0 a\}, g_0^2) O_n \right], \quad (7.1)$$

where the sum runs over all lattice operators O_n with the same quantum numbers as \mathcal{O} .⁷ Like the couplings in the action, the coefficients $Z_{\mathcal{O}}$ and C_n are functions of the relevant couplings, all fermion masses $\{m_0 a\}$ and the gauge coupling g_0^2 . Eq. (7.1) is general, but we again consider perturbative expansions in g_0^2 ,

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\mathcal{O}}(\{m_0 a\}, g_0^2) &= \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} g_0^{2l} Z_{\mathcal{O}}^{[l]}(\{m_0 a\}), \\ C_n(\{m_0 a\}, g_0^2) &= \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} g_0^{2l} C_n^{[l]}(\{m_0 a\}), \end{aligned} \quad (7.2)$$

and focus on tree level. Previous work [7] applied to small masses, but we treat the mass dependence of $Z_{\mathcal{O}}^{[l]}(\{m_0 a\})$ and $C_n^{[l]}(\{m_0 a\})$ exactly. We also do not impose axis-interchange invariance in classifying the lattice operators O_n .

The coefficients $Z_{\mathcal{O}}$ and C_n can be determined from low-momentum matrix elements of all O_n , analogously to sect. 4. In perturbation theory it is enough to compute matrix elements between quark, anti-quark, and gluon states, both with lattice and $\overline{\text{MS}}$ regulators. It is essential to impose consistent normalization conditions. Appendix C derives external-state rules for lattice perturbation theory. There one finds that the contraction of $\psi(x)$ with a normalized fermion state corresponds to a factor $u_{\text{lat}}(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p})$, where u_{lat} is a normalized spinor on the *lattice* mass shell. The factor

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) = \left(\frac{\mu(\mathbf{p}) - \cosh E}{\mu(\mathbf{p}) \sinh E} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (7.3)$$

where (for S_0) $\mu(\mathbf{p}) = 1 + m_0 a + \frac{1}{2} r_s \zeta \hat{\mathbf{p}}^2 a^2$. A relativistic theory has instead $u_{\text{rel}}(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \sqrt{m_q/E}$, where u_{rel} and E comply with the relativistic mass shell.

⁷By convention, the zeroth lattice operator O_0 has the same dimension as the continuum-limit operator \mathcal{O} . The role of the other $C_n O_n$ is to remove terms suppressed (or enhanced!) by a *power* of a . The role of $Z_{\mathcal{O}}$ is to convert to a preferred renormalization convention.

Consider the bilinear operator \mathcal{J}_Γ^{fg} that creates flavor f and annihilates flavor g with spin coupling Γ . At tree level its matrix elements should be

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle q^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') | \mathcal{J}_\Gamma^{fg} | q^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \rangle &= \bar{u}_{\text{rel}}^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \Gamma u_{\text{rel}}^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \sqrt{m_a m_b / E_a E_b'} \delta^{bf} \delta^{ag}, \\
\langle \bar{q}^a(\xi', \mathbf{p}') | \mathcal{J}_\Gamma^{fg} | \bar{q}^b(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \rangle &= -\bar{v}_{\text{rel}}^b(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \Gamma v_{\text{rel}}^a(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \sqrt{m_a m_b / E_a' E_b} \delta^{bf} \delta^{ag}, \\
\langle 0 | \mathcal{J}_\Gamma^{fg} | q^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \bar{q}^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \rangle &= \bar{v}_{\text{rel}}^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \Gamma u_{\text{rel}}^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \sqrt{m_a m_b / E_a E_b'} \delta^{bf} \delta^{ag}, \\
\langle q^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \bar{q}^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') | \mathcal{J}_\Gamma^{fg} | 0 \rangle &= \bar{u}_{\text{rel}}^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \Gamma v_{\text{rel}}^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \sqrt{m_a m_b / E_a E_b'} \delta^{af} \delta^{bg},
\end{aligned} \tag{7.4}$$

where $E_f^{(\prime)}$ is the energy of flavor f with momentum $\mathbf{p}^{(\prime)}$ and mass m_f . Note that the relativistic spinors u_{rel} and v_{rel} appear on the right-hand side.

With the right-hand side of eq (7.4) as a target, we now consider lattice operators O_n . The simplest lattice bilinear with the correct dimension and quantum numbers is

$$J_\Gamma^{fg}(x) = \bar{\psi}^f(x) \Gamma \psi^g(x), \tag{7.5}$$

which corresponds to O_0 in eq. (7.1). Recall that $\psi(x)$ is the field appearing in the mass form of the action, eq. (2.3). At tree level the matrix elements are

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle q^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') | J_\Gamma^{fg} | q^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \rangle &= \bar{u}_{\text{lat}}^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \Gamma u_{\text{lat}}^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \mathcal{N}_a(\mathbf{p}) \mathcal{N}_b(\mathbf{p}') \delta^{bf} \delta^{ag}, \\
\langle \bar{q}^a(\xi', \mathbf{p}') | J_\Gamma^{fg} | \bar{q}^b(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \rangle &= -\bar{v}_{\text{lat}}^b(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \Gamma v_{\text{lat}}^a(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \mathcal{N}_a(\mathbf{p}') \mathcal{N}_b(\mathbf{p}) \delta^{bf} \delta^{ag}, \\
\langle 0 | J_\Gamma^{fg} | q^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \bar{q}^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \rangle &= \bar{v}_{\text{lat}}^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \Gamma u_{\text{lat}}^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \mathcal{N}_a(\mathbf{p}) \mathcal{N}_b(\mathbf{p}') \delta^{bf} \delta^{ag}, \\
\langle q^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \bar{q}^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') | J_\Gamma^{fg} | 0 \rangle &= \bar{u}_{\text{lat}}^a(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \Gamma v_{\text{lat}}^b(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \mathcal{N}_a(\mathbf{p}) \mathcal{N}_b(\mathbf{p}') \delta^{af} \delta^{bg},
\end{aligned} \tag{7.6}$$

where $\mathcal{N}_f(\mathbf{p})$ is the normalization factor of flavor f , cf. eq. (7.3). Note that the *lattice* spinors u_{lat} and v_{lat} appear on the right-hand side.

Setting $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{p}' = \mathbf{0}$, the matrix elements differ only because of the factors $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0})$. Thus $Z_\Gamma J_\Gamma$ has the same zero-momentum matrix elements as the target \mathcal{J}_Γ , in all four channels, if the (re)normalization factor

$$Z_\Gamma(m_{0fa}, m_{0ga}) = \sqrt{\mu_f(\mathbf{0}) \mu_g(\mathbf{0})} = \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(M_{1fa} + M_{1ga})\right). \tag{7.7}$$

This is a tree-level result, but the mass dependence shown here remains dominant to all orders, cf. sect. 8.

Further terms in the three-momentum expansion cannot be matched without considering higher-dimension terms in eq. (7.1). At tree level one sees the differences between eqs. (7.4) and (7.6) in the factors $\mathcal{N} \neq \sqrt{m/E}$ and spinors $u_{\text{lat}} \neq u_{\text{rel}}$. Eq. (7.1) can therefore be extended to higher dimension by introducing an improved field. To first order in $\mathbf{p}a$ consider

$$\Psi_1(x) = e^{M_{1a}/2} \left[1 + ad_1 \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D} \right] \psi(x), \tag{7.8}$$

with flavor labels implied. Then

$$\mathcal{J}_\Gamma^{fg} = \bar{\Psi}_1^f \Gamma \Psi_1^g(x) \quad (7.9)$$

is the target operator of interest, through first order in $\mathbf{p}a$, if d_1 is adjusted properly. Comparing the bracket in eq. (7.8) with those in eqs. (C.25) and (C.27), one finds

$$d_1 = \frac{\zeta(1 + m_0a)}{m_0a(2 + m_0a)} - \frac{1}{2M_2a}, \quad (7.10)$$

identifying $m_q = M_2$.⁸

For small mass one finds $d_1 \propto m_0a$; the only $O(a)$ improvement needed is the normalization factor $e^{M_1a/2}$. At large mass, however, the rotation of eq. (7.8) becomes important. Analogously to the Hamiltonian coefficients discussed in sect. 6, when $m_0a \gg 1$, one has $d_1 \approx 1/(2m_q)$. Consequently, the contribution of $d_1 \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}$ is essential for computing the $1/m_q$ correction to the static limit of matrix elements of \mathcal{J}_Γ . Similarly, higher-dimension generalizations of eq. (7.8) are needed to obtain $1/m_q^2$ and corrections of higher order in $1/m_q$.

The improved field $\Psi_1(x)$ in eq. (7.8) coincides, through $O(\mathbf{p})$, with the one denoted by Ψ in sect. 5. Combining eqs. (5.9) and (5.18), the Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani transformed field is

$$\Psi(x) = \exp(a\xi_1 \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}) e^{\mathcal{M}/2} \psi(x), \quad (7.11)$$

where ξ_1 parameterizes the solution of the tuning conditions. This expression is (numerically) cumbersome, but one may expand consistently the exponentials in a . This exercise identifies ξ_1 with d_1 . Indeed, solving $b'_1 = 1$ for ξ_1 yields the right-hand side of eq. (7.10), after replacing the rest mass M_1 with the kinetic mass M_2 .⁸

The special role of Ψ should not be too surprising, because it possesses two important properties. First, it satisfies canonical anti-commutation relations and is thus properly normalized. Second, its dynamics are given by the Dirac Hamiltonian $\hat{H} = \hat{\Psi}(m_q + \gamma_0 A_0 + \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}) \hat{\Psi}$ —at least at tree level and up to $O(\mathbf{p}^2)$. Therefore, any operator built out of the transformed field yields the desired matrix elements, also at tree level and up to $O(\mathbf{p}^2)$.

Let us conclude this section with some comments on two other Ansätze for the currents. A formal argument based on the Ward identity suggests that a conserved current⁹ is especially suited to the determination of form factors of a vector current or the decay amplitude of a vector meson. But although the Ward identity implies a certain universality in radiative corrections, it does *not* imply any special mass dependence at tree (or any other) level.

⁸The substitution of the kinetic mass M_2 for the rest mass M_1 is done so that the expression remains valid under a nonrelativistic interpretation explained in sect. 9.

⁹Both “Noether” and “gauge” currents are conserved; they differ by $\sigma_{\mu\nu}$ terms.

With standard Feynman rules and Appendix C, straightforward algebra yields the tree-level on-shell matrix elements. To $O(\mathbf{p})$ the (conserved) gauge current V_μ^G has matrix elements

$$\begin{aligned} \langle q(\xi', \mathbf{p}') | V_0^G | q(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \rangle &= \delta^{\xi' \xi}, \\ \langle q(\xi', \mathbf{p}') | V_i^G | q(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \rangle &= -i \delta^{\xi' \xi} \frac{p'_i + p_i}{2M_2} + \bar{u}(\xi', \mathbf{0}) \sigma_{ij} u(\xi, \mathbf{0}) \frac{p'_j - p_j}{2M_B}, \end{aligned} \quad (7.12)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0 | V_0^G | q(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \bar{q}(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \rangle &= \bar{v}(\xi', \mathbf{0}) \frac{i \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot (\mathbf{p}' + \mathbf{p})}{2M_G} u(\xi, \mathbf{0}), \\ \langle 0 | V_i^G | q(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \bar{q}(\xi', \mathbf{p}') \rangle &= \bar{v}(\xi', \mathbf{0}) \gamma_i u(\xi, \mathbf{0}) \frac{\sinh M_1 a}{M_G a}, \end{aligned} \quad (7.13)$$

through $O(\mathbf{p}a)$, where M_1 , M_2 , and M_B are the tree-level masses,¹⁰ but

$$\frac{1}{M_G} = \frac{2\zeta}{m_0(2+m_0)} + \frac{c_E \zeta [1 + (1+m_0)^2]}{2(1+m_0)^2}. \quad (7.14)$$

The Ward identity asserts that these tree-level masses all renormalize in a coherent way. But although the “forward-scattering” matrix elements in eq. (7.12) are correct (assuming $M_2 = M_B = m_q$), the “annihilation” matrix elements in eq. (7.13) are not (unless $m_q a \ll 1$). We conclude, therefore, that V_μ^G is not useful for determining the decay constant of a massive vector meson.

Ref. [7] suggests using a “(four-dimensional) rotated current”

$$J_{\Gamma, \text{rot}}^{fg} = \bar{\psi}^f (1 + \frac{1}{2} a \overleftarrow{D}) \Gamma (1 - \frac{1}{2} a \overrightarrow{D}) \psi^g(x). \quad (7.15)$$

To ascertain if $J_{\Gamma, \text{rot}}^{fg}$ matches the target continuum operator, one must evaluate matrix elements, as above. The timelike translations in D_0 greatly change the mass dependence. One finds that $Z_{\Gamma, \text{rot}} J_{\Gamma, \text{rot}}^{fg}$ has correctly normalized matrix elements only if

$$Z_{\Gamma, \text{rot}}(m_{0f}a, m_{0g}a) = \frac{4Z_\Gamma(m_{0f}a, m_{0g}a)}{(2 + \sinh M_{1f}a)(2 + \sinh M_{1g}a)}, \quad (7.16)$$

where Z_Γ is the normalization factor of the unrotated bilinear, eq. (7.7). Moreover, when $m_q a \ll 1$ the rotation of eq. (7.15) must be supplemented à la eq. (7.8), with the same d_1 as in eq. (7.10). Thus, mass-dependent improvement of eq. (7.15) is analogous to improvement of eq. (7.5), but the latter is simpler.

In summary, the mass dependence of electroweak operators is tractable, if one proceeds as follows. First, start with a simple operator O_0 and expand its on-shell matrix elements in external, spatial momenta small in lattice units. As usual, there is no need to expand in $m_0 a$. Second, add additional terms $C_n O_n$

¹⁰For the Noether current the terms proportional to c_B (implicitly in $1/M_B$) and c_E (in $1/M_G$) in eqs. (7.12) and (7.13) would not appear.

to correct the momentum dependence of the matrix elements. At least to tree level this step can be accomplished by field rotations, as in eqs. (7.8) and (A.17). Finally, normalize $O_0 + \sum_n C_n O_n$ to obtain the fully renormalized operator \mathcal{O} in the desired renormalization scheme. For example, through $\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}a)$ the renormalized bilinear \mathcal{J}_Γ^{fg} is given by eqs. (7.9), (7.8), and (7.10).

8 Beyond Tree Level

In the previous sections, the m_0a dependence of the couplings in the action is derived at tree level. This section considers what happens beyond tree level.

In perturbation theory the expressions for the masses introduced previously become power series in g_0^2 . For example,

$$E(\mathbf{0}) \equiv M_1 = M_1^{[0]} + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} g_0^{2l} M_1^{[l]} \quad (8.1)$$

and

$$\left(\frac{\partial^2 E}{\partial p_i^2} \right)_{\mathbf{p}=\mathbf{0}}^{-1} \equiv M_2 = M_2^{[0]} + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} g_0^{2l} M_2^{[l]}, \quad (8.2)$$

where $M_1^{[0]}$ and $M_2^{[0]}$ are given by eqs. (4.8) and (4.9), respectively. After calculating the self-energy to l loops, one can extract the coefficients $M_i^{[l]}$ as functions of m_0a . The requirement $M_1 = M_2 = m_q$ subsequently yields the perturbative power series for the couplings r_s and ζ . (Based on the arguments of sects. 3 and 5, the Wilson term's coupling r_s should be redundant to all orders in g_0^2 .) In the same vein, the on-shell fermion-gluon vertex function to l loops yields $c_B^{[l]}(m_0a)$ and $c_E^{[l]}(m_0a)$, and electroweak matrix elements to l loops yield $Z_{\mathcal{O}}^{[l]}(m_0a)$ and $d_i^{[l]}(m_0a)$.

A complete derivation of one-loop corrections is beyond the scope of this paper. It is easy, however, to assess two qualitative features: the mass dependence of loop diagrams (sect. 8.1) and the expected size of corrections from tadpole diagrams (sect. 8.2).

8.1 Mass dependence of loop diagrams

This subsection shows that the mass dependence of loop diagrams is benign. Although we focus on the specific action $S = S_0 + S_B + S_E$, the conclusions hold for any action with the Wilson time derivative and arbitrary spatial interactions. Actions with next-nearest-neighbor interactions in time are problematic starting at tree level [6], so they are not considered here.

Let us first consider vacuum polarization. At one loop it is easy to see that the lattice-regulated Feynman integrals for vacuum polarization are smooth functions of the fermion mass. Moreover, for large fermion mass the integrals vanish as $(m_0a)^{-2}$; rigorously so, because the momentum-dependent terms in the

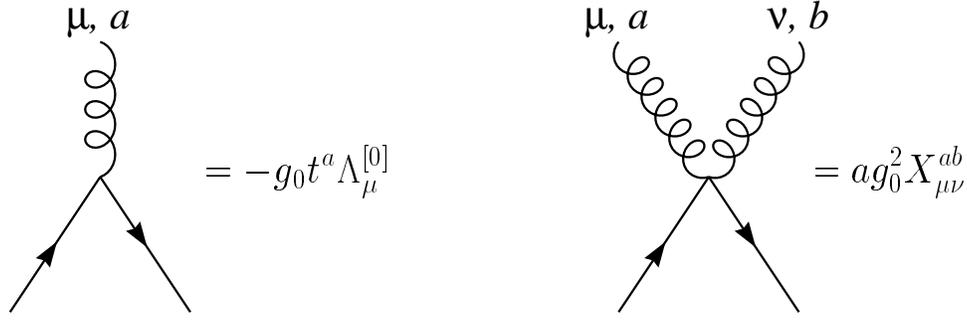


Figure 1: Notation for one- and two-gluon vertices.

fermion propagator are bounded. The behavior is the same for a closed fermion loop with any number of gluons attached. Hence, internal heavy-fermion loops decouple precisely as expected.

The self-energy and vertex corrections are less trivial, because the external momenta are set on shell. Fig. 1 shows the one- and two-gluon vertices. For the action $S = S_0 + S_B + S_E$ (with the four-leaf clover for S_E)

$$\Lambda_0^{[0]} = \gamma_0 \cos(p + \frac{1}{2}k)_0 a - i \sin(p + \frac{1}{2}k)_0 a + \frac{1}{2} c_E \zeta \sigma_{0j} \cos \frac{1}{2} k_0 a \sin k_j a, \quad (8.3)$$

$$\Lambda_i^{[0]} = \zeta \gamma_i \cos(p + \frac{1}{2}k)_i a - i r_s \zeta \sin(p + \frac{1}{2}k)_i a - \frac{1}{2} c_E \zeta \sigma_{0j} \cos \frac{1}{2} k_j a \sin k_0 a + \frac{1}{2} c_B \zeta \sigma_{ij} \cos \frac{1}{2} k_i a \sin k_j a, \quad (8.4)$$

where p and k are the incoming fermion and gluon momenta, respectively. The expression for $X_{\mu\nu}^{ab}$ is not needed, except to note that its mass dependence is qualitatively the same as $\Lambda_\mu^{[0]}$.

A formal way of going to the mass shell is to put $p_0 = iE\gamma_0$, with E from eq. (4.4). The γ_0 in the analytic continuation is not rigorous when applied under an integral, but the $m_0 a$ dependence comes out right. The temporal vertex $\Lambda_0^{[0]}$ is proportional to $e^{M_1^{[0]} a} = 1 + m_0 a$. The spatial vertex $\Lambda_i^{[0]}$ is proportional to ζ , which, when it is tuned so that $M_1 = M_2$, satisfies $r_s \zeta \approx (1 + m_0 a)/M_1 a$ for large mass. Similar behavior holds for quark–multi-gluon vertices. Finally, the inverse propagator is also proportional to $1 + m_0 a$, for p close to the mass shell.

Consider any process with an external fermion line. Loop diagrams can be built up from the tree diagram by adding more gluons. Each additional vertex on the external line requires an additional fermion propagator. The dominant mass dependence of the propagator-and-vertex combination is $(1 + m_0)/(1 + m_0)$ or $\zeta/(1 + m_0)$, and thus cancels always.

For example, all diagrams in the self-energy are proportional to $1 + m_0 a$. After summing the geometric series and integrating over p_0 one finds

$$e^{M_1 a} = e^{M_1^{[0]} a} \left[1 + g_0^2 M_1^{[1]}(m_0 a) + \dots \right], \quad (8.5)$$

$$Z_2^{-1}(m_0 a) = e^{M_1 a} \left[1 - g_0^2 Z_2^{[1]}(m_0 a) + \dots \right], \quad (8.6)$$

where $M_1^{[1]}(m_0 a)$ and $Z_2^{[1]}(m_0 a)$ depend mildly on the mass, varying smoothly from the value obtained for massless fermions to the value in the static formulation.

The same happens to the fermion-gluon vertex. The gauge-coupling renormalization factor is defined through the fermion-gluon vertex via

$$Z_g \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) \bar{u}_{\text{lat}}(\mathbf{p}) \Lambda_\mu(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}) u_{\text{lat}}(\mathbf{p}) \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{m_q}{E} \bar{u}_{\text{rel}}(\mathbf{p}) \gamma_\mu u_{\text{rel}}(\mathbf{p}), \quad (8.7)$$

where $\Lambda_\mu(\mathbf{p}', \mathbf{p})$ is the full vertex function, including leg contributions.¹¹ In perturbation theory one usually organizes the calculation by treating the legs and the proper vertex separately. By gauge invariance

$$Z_g = \frac{Z_1}{Z_3^{3/2}} = \frac{Z_{1\text{F}}}{Z_2 \sqrt{Z_3}}, \quad (8.8)$$

where Z_3 (Z_2) and Z_1 ($Z_{1\text{F}}$) are the gluon (fermion) wavefunction and proper vertex renormalization factors. The strong mass dependence of Z_2 must, therefore, cancel against $Z_{1\text{F}}$. (The residual mass dependence of $Z_{1\text{F}}/Z_2$ should be the same as Z_1/Z_3 to satisfy the expectations of decoupling.) Indeed, at tree level the temporal vertex provides the asymptotic factor $1 + m_0 a$, and, by the general argument, the full proper vertex has the same (dominant) mass behavior to all orders. Hence,

$$Z_{1\text{F}}^{-1}(m_0 a) = e^{M_1 a} \left[1 - g_0^2 Z_{1\text{F}}^{[1]}(m_0 a) + \dots \right], \quad (8.9)$$

where $Z_{1\text{F}}^{[1]}(m_0 a)$ again depends only mildly on the mass. With the spatial vertex $\Lambda_i^{[0]}$ the factor ζ compensates for the missing factor of $1 + m_0 a$ to ensure that $1/M_2$ appears, so the $1 + m_0 a$ counting is the same.

For electroweak currents and four-quark operators, the analysis of the mass dependence is similar. Again, loop diagrams have the same leading mass dependence as tree diagrams for the same process. For example, the bilinear J_Γ^{fg} , defined in eq. (7.5), has renormalization constant

$$Z_\Gamma(m_f a, m_g a) = e^{(M_{1f} a + M_{1g} a)/2} \left[1 + g_0^2 Z_\Gamma^{[1]}(m_{0f} a, m_{0g} a) + \dots \right]. \quad (8.10)$$

¹¹At tree level one verifies $Z_g^{[0]} = 1$ from $\Lambda_0^{[0]}$, and also from $\Lambda_i^{[0]}$ if $m_q = M_2$.

The mass dependence of the loop corrections $Z_\Gamma^{[l]}(m_{0f}a, m_{0g}a)$ smoothly connects massless and static results. Such behavior is borne out in sect. 10's nonperturbative check of the local vector current, for which $\Gamma = \gamma_0$.

The considerations of this subsection argue that the large-mass limit of actions described by eq. (1.3) is well-behaved in perturbation theory. More generally, the physical masses and, hence, the couplings could depend on the gauge coupling in a *nonperturbative* way. But because the origin of the gauge-coupling dependence is the region of momentum space near the cutoff, it seems unlikely that nonperturbative contributions would overwhelm the perturbative contribution, at least once the cutoff is large enough. Should perturbation theory prove inadequate, however, a nonperturbative renormalization group could, in principle, substitute for perturbative calculations.¹² Nevertheless, it seems implausible that nonperturbative effects are more worrisome at large mass than at small. Thus, the main conclusion, that the large-mass behavior of interacting fermions is benign, is probably valid nonperturbatively.

8.2 Mean field theory

To estimate the one-loop corrections, recall that the dominant contributions come (in Feynman gauge) from tadpole diagrams, which originate from higher-order terms in the expansion of the link matrix $U_\mu = 1 + g_0 A_\mu + \frac{1}{2}g_0^2 A_\mu^2 + \dots$. It is possible to make this observation more systematic [23]. Wherever the gauge field appears, substitute

$$U_\mu(x) \rightarrow u_0 [U_\mu(x)/u_0], \quad (8.11)$$

where u_0 is a gauge-invariant average of the link matrices. The substitution should be understood in the following sense: The second factor $[U_\mu/u_0]$ produces perturbative series with small coefficients. The first factor u_0 , which has a nasty tadpole-dominated perturbative series, should be absorbed into the couplings c_n and into renormalization factors $Z_\mathcal{O}$. When a numerical value for u_0 is needed, for example in a Monte Carlo calculation, it should be taken from the Monte Carlo itself.

With this prescription the hopping-parameter form of S_0 remains as in eq. (1.6), but with $U_\mu \rightarrow U_\mu/u_0$ and

$$\kappa_{s,t} \rightarrow \tilde{\kappa}_{s,t} = u_0 \kappa_{s,t}. \quad (8.12)$$

The mass form of S_0 is given by eqs. (2.3) but with difference operators defined with

$$\tilde{T}_{\pm\mu} = u_0^{-1} T_{\pm\mu}, \quad (8.13)$$

instead of $T_{\pm\mu}$, and mass

¹²For example, to tune ζ nonperturbatively, compute the energy of a meson and imposing $M_q = M_2$.

$$\tilde{m}_0 a = \frac{1}{2\tilde{\kappa}_t} - [1 + r_s \zeta(d-1)] = \frac{m_0 a}{u_0} + [1 + r_s \zeta(d-1)] (u_0^{-1} - 1) \quad (8.14)$$

instead of m_0 . Finally, an overall factor of u_0 multiplies each term in the action.

The clover-leaf construction used to define the chromomagnetic and chromoelectric fields contains products of four U matrices. If one replaces the gauge fields \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{E} with tadpole-improved clovers, the interactions S_B and S_E are given by eqs. (1.7) and (1.8), respectively, but with

$$\tilde{c}_B = u_0^3 c_B, \quad \tilde{c}_E = u_0^3 c_E, \quad (8.15)$$

instead of c_B and c_E , and $\tilde{\kappa}_s$ instead of κ_s . The fourth factor of u_0 corresponds to the overall factor mentioned above.

After these rearrangements one can immediately generalize the expressions in sects. 4 and 5 to the mean-field level. They remain the same as before, but with $m_0 \rightarrow \tilde{m}_0$, $c_B \rightarrow \tilde{c}_B$, and $c_E \rightarrow \tilde{c}_E$. Consequently, the couplings ζ , \tilde{c}_B , and $\tilde{c}_E(0)$ should be adjusted to the right-hand sides of eqs. (5.32)–(5.34), but with $m_0 \rightarrow \tilde{m}_0$. The resulting conditions represent a set of mean-field-theory predictions at $g_0^2 \neq 0$, given a nonperturbative input for u_0 . One-loop calculations with $m_0 \neq 0$, $c_B \neq 0$, and $c_E \neq 0$ will test and correct mean-field theory estimates.

At currently accessible lattice spacings ref. [23] has shown that, with this mean-field reorganization and a sensible choice of expansion parameter, the bare perturbative series converges quickly in many cases. Calculations [18] in one-loop perturbation theory of Feynman diagrams needed to determine the $c_n^{[1]}(m_0 a)$ show a smooth transition from the massless to the static limits.¹³ One therefore expects the essential concepts of ref. [23] to apply to the \tilde{c}_n and to the coefficients in eq. (7.1) too. Indeed, in the one case for which a nonperturbative check is unambiguous, the normalization of the vector current, there is excellent agreement with mean-field theory, cf. fig. 4 in sect. 10.

9 The Nonrelativistic Limit

It is illuminating to adapt the methods of sect. 5 to the nonrelativistic and static limits. Rather than adjusting the couplings to obtain the Dirac Hamiltonian, one could instead aim for the nonrelativistic Pauli Hamiltonian (and generalizations thereof). An advantage of this avenue is that it provides a useful physical picture even when the couplings are maladjusted, in particular when $\zeta = 1$. Many Monte Carlo studies have used actions with $\zeta = 1$, and it would be helpful to have a framework for interpreting their data in the heavy-quark regime. Indeed, the analysis of this section shows that $\zeta = 1$ is acceptable for nonrelativistic fermions. Even the Wilson action (somewhat crudely) approximates

¹³For tadpole and scale-choice improvement [23] of the static limit and of nonrelativistic QCD, see refs. [26, 27].

the properties of nonrelativistic or heavy-quark effective theory, provided $m_0 a$ is adjusted correctly. Similarly, the Sheikholeslami-Wohlert action is a better approximation.

The Hamiltonian of the action $S_0 + S_B + S_E$ can be brought to the nonrelativistic Pauli form with the Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani transformation. Imagine transforming the $\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}$ and $\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{E}$ terms away completely. Afterwards, the transformed Hamiltonian reads

$$\hat{H}' \approx \hat{\Psi} \left(M_1 + \gamma_0 A_0 - \frac{\mathbf{D}^2}{2M_2} - \frac{i\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \cdot \mathbf{B}}{2M_B} - \gamma_0 \frac{[\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}, \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{E}]}{8M_E^2} \right) \hat{\Psi}, \quad (9.1)$$

where M_1 , M_2 , and M_B are as in sects. 4 and 5. The new mass M_E reduces to M_2 with suitable mass dependence of c_E (cf. Appendix A), or as $m_0 a \rightarrow 0$. The specific expression is not needed here. The Pauli form of eq. (9.1) has no coupling between the upper (particle) and lower (anti-particle) components of Ψ , as in the explicitly nonrelativistic formulations [11, 12]. Here, however, eq. (9.1) is derived within the lattice theory, rather than being an Ansatz for an effective lattice theory.

Let us discuss the physics of each term in eq. (9.1). The first three are the rest mass, Coulomb potential, and kinetic energy¹⁴ of the fermion. The $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \cdot \mathbf{B}$ term, as one recalls from atomic physics, produces the hyperfine splitting. The last term can be rewritten

$$[\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}, \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{E}] = i\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \cdot (\mathbf{D} \times \mathbf{E} - \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{D}) + (\mathbf{D} \cdot \mathbf{E} - \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{D}). \quad (9.2)$$

The two parentheses give the (non-Abelian) spin-orbit and Darwin interactions, respectively.

The Pauli Hamiltonian is quantitatively useful only if the fermion is nonrelativistic. Given nonrelativistic velocities, however, eq. (9.1) remains applicable even when the various masses are unequal. Fig. 2 is a sketch of the quarkonium spectrum, illustrating how the masses affect the spectrum. The interesting gross feature of the spectrum is not the overall mass gap—close to $2M_1$ —but the pattern of radial and orbital excitations, e.g. $m_{2S} - m_{1S}$ or $m_{1P} - m_{1S}$. These splittings are dictated by the kinetic mass M_2 . Following the analysis of ref. [12] they are of order $M_2 v^2$, where v is the typical velocity of a heavy quark in quarkonium. ($v \sim 0.3$ for charmonium, and $v \sim 0.1$ for bottomonium.) Further application of the velocity counting in ref. [12] to eq. (9.1) shows that the hyperfine splittings are $\boldsymbol{\Sigma} \cdot \mathbf{B}/M_B \sim M_2^2 v^4/M_B$, and the spin-orbit splittings are $[\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}, \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{E}]/M_E^2 \sim M_2^3 v^4/M_E^2$.

The preceding paragraph merely reviews the well-known argument that the rest mass of a nonrelativistic particle decouples from the interesting dynamics. In our formalism the reasoning suggests the following strategy: forget about M_1 and adjust the bare mass so that the *kinetic* mass M_2 takes the physical value.

¹⁴Because of this physical interpretation the quantity M_2 , defined in eq. (4.7), is called the kinetic mass.

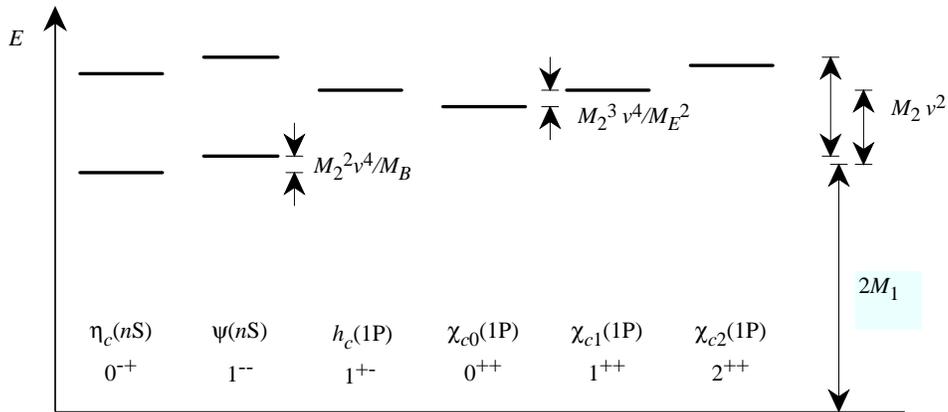


Figure 2: Quarkonium spectrum and the influence of the masses M_1 , M_2 , M_B , and M_E . (A similar picture applies to the heavy-light spectrum, except the overall gap is M_1 instead of $2M_1$, and orbital and radial excitations are set by Λ_{QCD} instead of $M_2 v^2$.)

Meanwhile, choose the coupling ζ by convenience. The obvious example is to take $\zeta = 1$, as in the Wilson and Sheikholeslami-Wohlert actions.

Since the Wilson and Sheikholeslami-Wohlert actions represent viable non-relativistic field theories, it makes sense to compare them to the explicitly non-relativistic theories. The (tree-level) masses for the Wilson action are plotted as a function of $m_0 a$ in fig. 3. Assuming $m_0 a$ is chosen so that $M_2 = m_q$, the other masses satisfy $M_1 < m_q$, $M_B^{-1} < m_q^{-1}$, and $M_E^{-1} < m_q^{-1}$. The simplest form of nonrelativistic QCD [11] has Hamiltonian $\hat{H}_{\text{NR}} = \hat{\Psi} \mathbf{D}^2 \hat{\Psi} / (2m_q)$. Thus, in our notation, \hat{H}_{NR} has $M_1 = 0$ and $M_B^{-1} = M_E^{-1} = 0$. Thus, the Hamiltonians of the Wilson and simplest nonrelativistic theories make the same errors qualitatively. For example, in both one expects the fine and hyperfine splittings to be too small. Similarly, for the Sheikholeslami-Wohlert action one finds $M_B = M_2$, and thus good hyperfine splittings, but $M_E^{-1} > m_q^{-1}$, so the splittings between χ_J states ought to be too large. To obtain the correct spin-orbit splittings, one needs the mass dependence of c_E , cf. Appendix A.

A parallel set of remarks applies to heavy-light systems. The Hamiltonian of the lattice theory satisfies the usual heavy-quark symmetries as $m_q \rightarrow \infty$, no matter what M_2 , M_B , and M_E are. On the other hand, the lattice theory possesses the right¹⁵ $1/m_Q$ corrections only if $M_2 = M_B = m_Q$. A computation with the Wilson action and $m_Q = M_2$ obtains spin-averaged features correctly, but underestimates the chromomagnetic $1/m_Q$ corrections. Compared to cor-

¹⁵Many phenomenological applications require matrix elements of operators of the electroweak Hamiltonian. These operators must also be constructed to the appropriate order in $1/m_Q$, cf. sect. 7. In particular, to first order in $1/m_Q$ the coefficient d_1 must be chosen according to eq. (7.10).

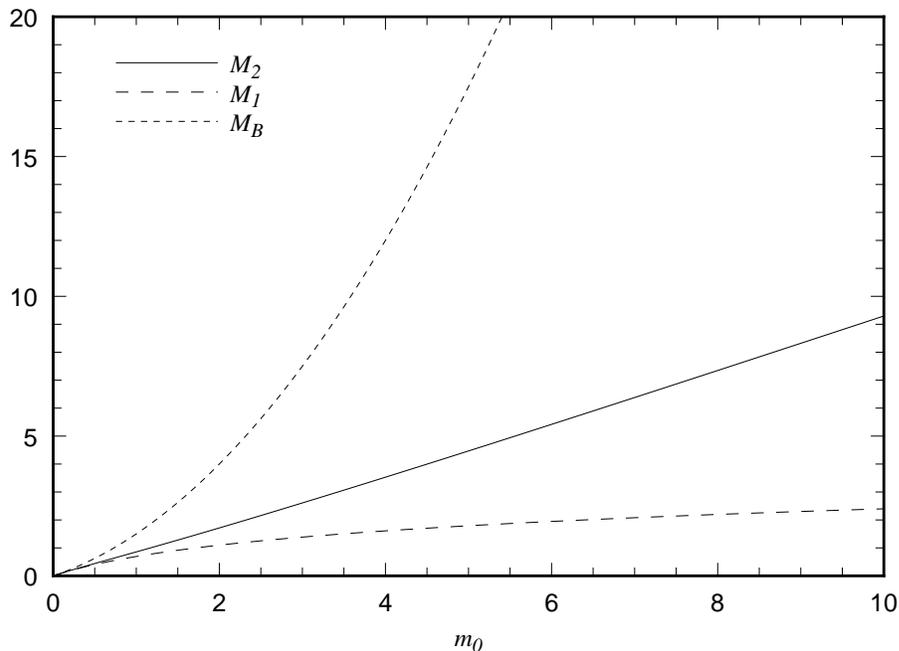


Figure 3: The (tree-level) masses for Wilson fermions ($\zeta = 1$, $r_s = 1$). By happenstance M_2 is always within 15% of m_0 , which is a result of a conspiracy between the $\gamma \cdot \mathbf{D}$ and Wilson terms.

rections from the kinetic energy, the spin dependent effects are thought to be small [17], so again the most essential adjustment is $M_2 = m_Q$. A better computation with the Sheikholeslami-Wohlert action and $m_Q = M_2 = M_B$ obtains all¹⁵ $1/m_Q$ features correctly.

Despite the similarity between previous nonrelativistic field theories [8, 9, 10, 11, 12] and the view adopted in this section, there are significant technical differences. The four-component approach explicitly includes the terms $m_0 \bar{\psi}(x)\psi(x)$ and terms that couple upper and lower components, such as $\bar{\psi}(x)\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}\psi(x)$ and $\bar{\psi}(x)\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{E}\psi(x)$. The program of Lepage, et al, [12] omits these interactions in practice, though perhaps not in principle. There are advantages to leaving out the Dirac block-off-diagonal interactions. Fermion propagators are the solution of a (one-sweep) initial-value problem, whereas they are otherwise the solution of a boundary-value problem, solvable only by iteration; with fewer interactions, perturbation theory is easier [27]. On the other hand, these interactions are necessary to take $a \rightarrow 0$ (by brute force) without the scourge of power-law divergences, or to reach into the semirelativistic regime.

10 Numerical Tests and Applications

With a few examples this section tests the results of the previous sections with Monte Carlo data. All data were generated with the axis-interchange symmetric Wilson or Sheikholeslami-Wohlert actions, so as $m_q a$ increases, we rely on the nonrelativistic interpretation of sect. 9. The tests verify the most important lessons. The bare mass should be adjusted until the kinetic mass M_2 , defined in eq. (4.7), takes the desired value. In particular, in an extrapolation to vanishing lattice spacing, one ought to hold the kinetic mass¹⁶ fixed. On the other hand, the dynamically irrelevant rest mass may deviate from m_q . For matrix elements, it is also important to use the improved field Ψ_I of eq. (7.8) or (A.17). The factor $e^{M_1 a/2}$ is more important than the bracket in eq. (7.8), because it guarantees a smooth approach to the static limit.¹⁷

First, consider the mass spectrum, in particular the hyperfine splitting in heavy-light systems. By heavy-quark spin symmetry the vector-pseudoscalar mass difference $m_V - m_P$ is expected to be proportional to $1/m_Q$. Obviously the leading term in the sum $m_V + m_P$ is proportional to m_Q , so the combination $m_V^2 - m_P^2$ should be nearly independent of m_Q . Numerical work [28, 29] found, however, that $m_V^2 - m_P^2$ decreases for increasing m_Q , with lattice spacing a held fixed. These analyses take m_V and m_P from the rest mass. From sect. 9 the rest mass M_1 of the quark governs the rest mass of the mesons, while the chromomagnetic mass M_B governs the hyperfine splitting. The computed lattice quantity, therefore, is proportional to M_1/M_B , which decreases for increasing quark mass, cf. fig. 3. Given M_1 , M_B is not as large with the Sheikholeslami-Wohlert action as with the Wilson action. Numerical data with $c_B = 1$ show behavior [29] qualitatively similar to $c_B = 0$.

To improve the determination of $m_V - m_P$ one should tune to the kinetic mass instead of the rest mass and use the mean-field or one-loop estimate of c_B . The chosen value of c_B could be tested in quarkonia. Then in heavy-light systems one could verify two predictions of heavy-quark symmetry, as applied to the lattice theory: a falling M_1/M_B behavior when using the mesons' rest masses, and a flat M_2/M_B behavior when using the mesons' kinetic masses.

Next, consider the improvement and normalization of multi-quark operators from sect. 7. The normalization of the vector current can be checked nonperturbatively. The fermion number

$$N_h(H) = \langle H | 2\kappa_t Z_V \bar{\psi}_x^h \gamma_0 \psi_x^h | H \rangle = \frac{\langle \Phi_H 2\kappa_t Z_V \bar{\psi}_x^h \gamma_0 \psi_x^h \Phi_H^\dagger \rangle}{\langle \Phi_H \Phi_H^\dagger \rangle} \quad (10.1)$$

counts the number of h -flavored fermions in $|H\rangle$. If $|H\rangle$ has one and only one h in it, the condition $N_h = 1$ defines the factor $2\kappa_t Z_V$.¹⁸ Fig. 4 compares this non-

¹⁶This can be done nonperturbatively with a meson instead of a quark state.

¹⁷Neglecting the bracket introduces only $O(m_0 p a^2)$ lattice artifacts at $m_0 a \ll 1$, but $O(\mathbf{p}/m_q)$ at $m_0 a \gtrsim 1$.

¹⁸In the notation of sect. 8, $Z_V = Z_{\gamma_\mu}$ and $Z_A = Z_{\gamma_\mu \gamma_5}$.

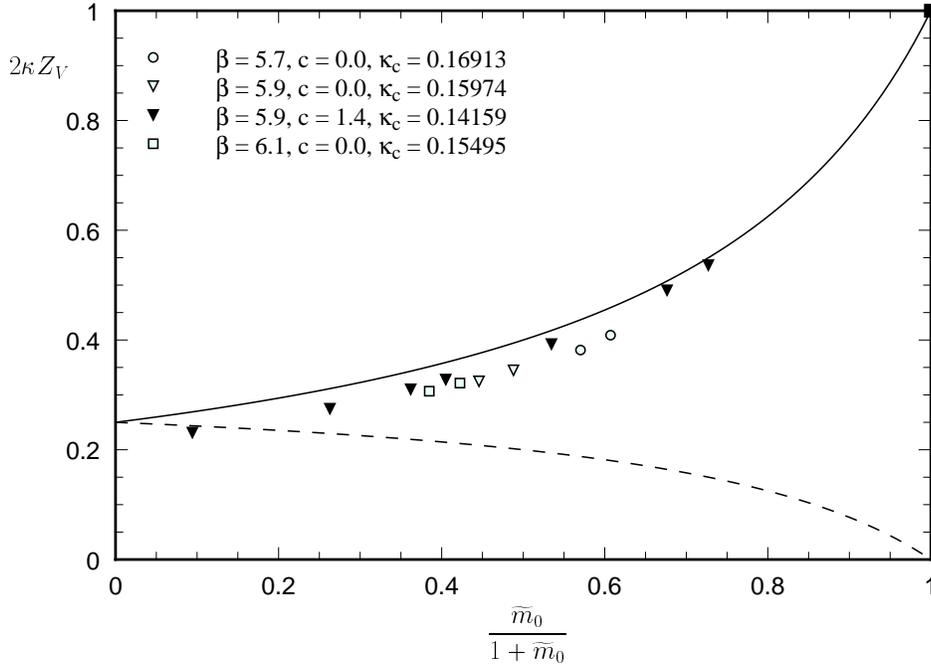


Figure 4: The charge normalization factor $2\kappa Z_V$ vs. $(\kappa_c - \kappa)/(\kappa_c - 3\kappa/4) = (1 - 8\tilde{\kappa})/(1 - 6\tilde{\kappa}) = \tilde{m}_0/(1 + \tilde{m}_0)$, with $u_0 = 1/8\kappa_c$. The symbols are Monte Carlo determinations with $r_s = \zeta = 1$ and $c_B = c_E = c$. The solid square is the exact result for $\kappa = 0$. The solid curve is the mean-field approximation to eq. (7.7), $2\kappa Z_V = 1 - 6\tilde{\kappa}$. The dashed curve is a mean-field Ansatz $2\tilde{\kappa}$, which (foolishly) neglects the mass dependence.

perturbative definition of $2\kappa Z_V$ with the mean-field-improved, tree-level perturbative approximation. The symbols are from Monte Carlo calculations [30] of eq. (10.1), with $|H\rangle$ a meson with a spectator anti-quark of different flavor, and the solid curve is the mean-field improved, tree-level approximation $2\kappa(1 + \tilde{m}_{0h})$. Fig. 4 exhibits several interesting features. The solid curve accurately tracks the dominant mass dependence from $\tilde{m}_0 = 0$ to $\tilde{m}_0 = \infty$. From eq. (8.10) one expects a subdominant mass dependence from loop corrections $Z_V^{[l]}(m_{0h}a)$. Indeed, near $\tilde{m}_0 = 0$ the massless one-loop correction [31, 32] accounts quantitatively for the discrepancy, and near $\tilde{m}_0 = \infty$ the discrepancy becomes smaller, in accord with a Ward identity, which requires $2\kappa Z_V = 1$ at infinite mass [33]. Neglecting the dominant mass dependence, as in the dashed curve, is obviously completely wrong for $\tilde{m}_0 \gtrsim 1$.

Finally, consider the decay constant of a heavy-light pseudoscalar meson, computed with the local axial current $J_{\mu 5}^{ub}(x) = \bar{\psi}^u(x)\gamma_\mu\gamma_5\psi^b(x)$. Fig. 5 shows Monte Carlo data [34, 35] at $\beta = 5.7$ (for which $a^{-1} \approx 1$ GeV) for

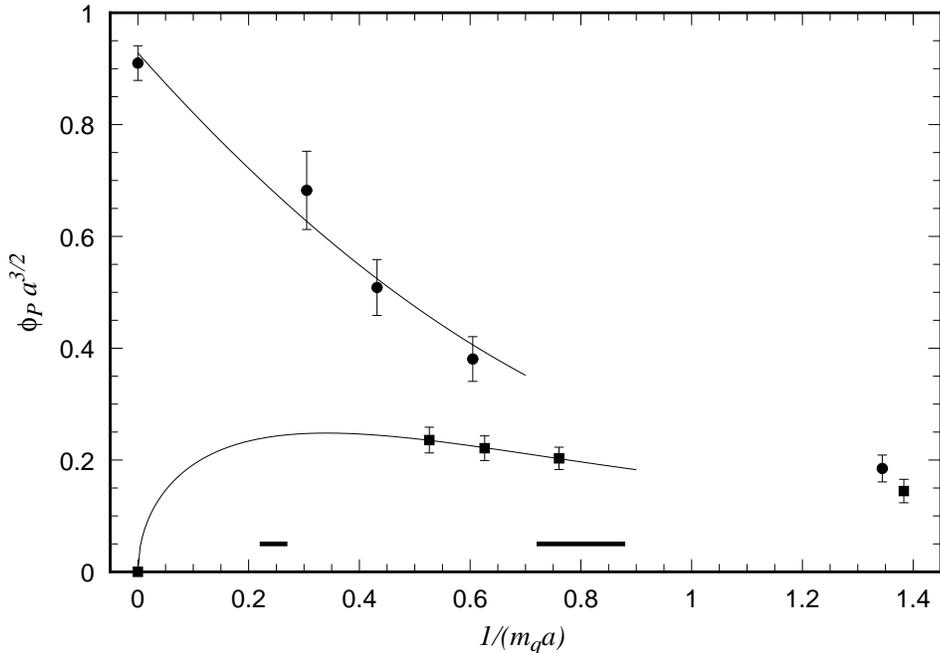


Figure 5: $\phi_P = \sqrt{m_P} f_P$ vs. $1/m_q$. Squares represent results from the conventional zero-mass normalization, plotted versus $1/M_1$. Circles represent the same results with the correct normalization, plotted versus $1/M_2$. The points for $m_q^{-1} > 0$ are obtained with the Wilson action [34]. The static ($m_q^{-1} = 0$) point is from Ref. [35]. The curves guide the eye, and the approximate location of the physical B and D mesons is shown.

$$\phi_P = \sqrt{2} \langle 0 | Z_A^{ub} J_{\mu 5}^{ub} | P, \mathbf{0} \rangle = \sqrt{m_P} f_P v_\mu, \quad (10.2)$$

where v_μ is the meson's four-velocity. (The vacuum and one-meson states are normalized to unity.) We have deliberately chosen a largish lattice spacing to enhance lattice artifacts, and thus test our control over them. We analyze the data two different ways. The lower set of points takes the meson mass from the rest mass and neglects the factor¹⁸ $Z_A^{ub} = e^{M_{1b} a/2}$ in eq. (7.8). As suggested by the curve, the neglectful analysis would produce a locus of points that approaches zero in the static limit. The upper set of points uses the normalization factor, and—just as important—it defines the meson mass through a mean-field approximation to the kinetic mass.¹⁹ Fig. 5 shows how crucial both refinements are, if the Wilson-action data are to approach the static limit smoothly.

An important application of a plot like fig. 5 is to compute the slope in $1/m_q$. In the heavy-quark effective theory the slope is seen to arise from three sources: the kinetic energy, the chromomagnetic interaction, and a correction to

¹⁹Ref. [34] provides hopping parameters and rest masses only, but the mean-field approximation is adequate for illustrative purposes.

the infinite-mass current [17]. The lattice theory has direct analogs: the kinetic energy requires tuning $M_2 = m_q$, the chromomagnetic contribution requires tuning $M_B = m_q$, and the local lattice current requires a correction, given most compactly by eqs. (7.8) and (7.10). All three ingredients are needed to obtain the correct slope [36].

11 Conclusions

This paper (and conference reports [37, 18, 36] anticipating it) provides the foundations of a theory of lattice fermions, valid at any mass—large or small. The action starts with a set of interactions that encompasses those of both light-fermion actions [13, 6] and heavy-fermion actions [10, 11, 12]. The couplings of such a general action are then tuned in successive approximations to the renormalized trajectory. In applying renormalization-group techniques to analyze and reduce cutoff effects we do not, however, expand in either $m_q a$ or Λ_{QCD}/m_q .

Although there are several methods for tuning the action (for example, refs. [38, 39]), our analysis is based on Symanzik-like, on-shell improvement criteria. This entails the computation of on-shell correlation functions, or, equivalently, of the Hamiltonian. Enforcing continuum-limit behavior—for example the relativistic mass shell—yields conditions on couplings of higher-dimension interactions. In practice, we here compute on-shell quantities in (tadpole-improved) perturbation theory.

An examination of the lattice theory’s Hamiltonian, derived from the transfer matrix, is especially illuminating. It shows that it is unnecessary to improve Wilson’s discretization of the time derivative. Instead higher-dimension interactions can be built from fields on one (or, in some cases, two adjacent) timeslices. Thus, our class of improved lattice actions automatically has an easy-to-construct transfer matrix. The actions, consequently, all automatically satisfy heavy-quark symmetries in the limit of large mass.

The Hamiltonian is a useful tool for examining lattice artifacts. A term of dimension $s + 4$ factorizes as

$$\delta\hat{H}_{\text{lat}} = a^s b(m_q a, g^2) \hat{H}, \tag{11.1}$$

with dependence on the theory’s relevant couplings, $m_q a$ and g^2 , in the coefficient b . From this expression it is plain how the artifacts behave as the mass increases: the absolute error induced by eq. (11.1) is $\langle \delta\hat{H}_{\text{lat}} \rangle \sim (\mathbf{p}a)^s \mathbf{p}$, where \mathbf{p} is the typical three-momentum of the process. At small mass it is standard that the associated coefficient is a benign numerical factor $b(0)$. At large mass the lattice action’s heavy-quark symmetry implies that it is a (generally different) numerical factor $b(\infty)$. Our explicit results at tree level and our analysis of higher orders show that $b(m_q a)$ is a smooth, gentle function connecting the two extremes. In a nutshell, therefore, the characteristic measures of cutoff artifacts are $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} a$ and $\mathbf{p}a$, but never $m_q a$.

In general our actions have two hopping parameters. Then it is possible to maintain equality between the rest mass (energy at zero momentum, eq. (4.6)) and the kinetic mass (inertial response, eq. (4.7)). In nonrelativistic systems, however, there is a noteworthy simplification. Embracing the philosophy of the static [8] or nonrelativistic [10, 11] theories, one can ignore the rest mass and, hence, forgo one of the hopping parameters. The obvious application is to set them equal, as in the Wilson [3] and Sheikholeslami-Wohlert [6] actions. Therefore, the correct interpretation of numerical data generated with these actions at $m_q a \sim 1$ is a nonrelativistic one. In particular, the hopping parameter must be adjusted so that the *kinetic* mass agrees with the physical mass.

If one knows *a priori* that a quark is nonrelativistic, it is computationally cheaper to use a two-component formalism [12]. But there are many instances in which one would like to trace the mass dependence from the static limit down to, say, the strange quark. One example is fig. 5, which, with reliable calculations, should indicate how and where the heavy-quark expansion deteriorates.

The results of this paper can be extended in several ways. The couplings have been computed at tree level with mean-field improvement. One-loop calculations are desirable, and better still would be a nonperturbative determination, perhaps in a mass-dependent generalization of ref. [40]. Once one is confident that $O(a)$ artifacts are under control, one can extend the analysis to dimension-six interactions. Tree-level, $O(a^2)$ improvement should be manageable; beyond tree level the bothersome four-fermion interactions enter the fray.

One would like to use the actions presented here in Monte Carlo calculations of QCD. If one uses the $O(v^4)$ -improved action to compute the spectrum of charmonium and bottomonium, then, without more tuning, one could calculate properties of D and B mesons, including the electroweak matrix elements needed to determine the unknown elements of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa matrix.²⁰ Note that for these matrix elements, as well as for the quark mass in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme, a small lattice spacing is helpful to reduce perturbative corrections. Once the lattice spacing is small enough so that $m_Q a \lesssim 1$, our formulation is especially advantageous. The two-component nonrelativistic theory breaks down as $m_Q a$ gets smaller [11], yet the old small-mass theory would have leading lattice artifacts of order $\alpha_s m_Q a$ and $(m_Q a)^2$. Our improved action, on the other hand, remains viable for any mass, and its cutoff effects are small, of order $\alpha_s \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} a$ and $(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} a)^2$. To obtain comparable accuracy through brute force in the old theory, one would have to reduce the lattice spacing by a factor of m_Q/Λ_{QCD} —about five for the charm quark. Even for a perfect algorithm the savings in computer time is, therefore, a factor of 5^4 .

²⁰For relevant reviews, see ref. [41, 21].

Table 5: Estimates of the size of the dimension-seven interactions that arise in designing an action for quarkonia with an accuracy of $m_Q v^4$. (There are many other interactions needed to ensure $O((\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} a)^4)$ accuracy in all-light and heavy-light systems.)

H_n	only light	heavy-light	quarkonia
$\bar{\Psi}(\mathbf{D}^2)^2\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^4	Λ_{QCD}^4	$m_Q^4 v^4$
$\bar{\Psi}D_i^4\Psi$	Λ_{QCD}^4	Λ_{QCD}^4	$m_Q^4 v^4$

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A Quarkonium to $O(v^4)$

This appendix extends the analysis of the main text to incorporate interactions that contribute in quarkonium through $O(v^4)$. Naively, this would entail close scrutiny of all interactions through $O(\mathbf{p}^4)$, i.e. up to dimension seven. Some dimension-seven bilinear interactions are listed in Table 5, with their magnitude in quarkonium estimated by the velocity-counting rules of ref. [12]. Together with Table 3, one sees that not all dimension-six and -seven interactions are necessary to $O(v^4)$; this Appendix considers only the entries that are.

One must consider the dimension-six interaction

$$S_{\text{so}} = c_{\text{so}} \kappa_s \sum_n \bar{\psi}_n \gamma_0 [\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}, \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{E}] \psi_n, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

with coupling c_{so} , and the dimension-six and -seven interactions

$$S_4 = -2\kappa_s \sum_n \bar{\psi}_n \left[c_{4D} \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D} - \frac{1}{2} r_s c_{4L} \Delta^{(3)} \right] \Delta^{(3)} \psi_n, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

with couplings c_{4D} and c_{4L} . Further dimension-six and -seven interactions contribute in $O(v^6)$ or higher [12]. We discuss the adjustment of c_{so} in eq. (A.1) in sect. A.1, and the adjustment of c_{4D} and c_{4L} in eq. (A.2) in sect. A.2.

The discretization of the covariant difference \mathbf{D} and Laplacian $\Delta^{(3)}$ also must be improved, to remove $\bar{\Psi} \gamma_i D_i^3 \Psi$ and $\bar{\Psi} D_i^4 \Psi$, respectively. These interactions break rotational invariance, and we treat them in sect. A.2.

A.1 Chromoelectric interactions to $O(v^4)$

It is easiest to treat the “spin-orbit” interaction S_{so} in the Hamiltonian formalism of sect. 5. The coupling c_{so} can only appear in a dimension-six term implied by the ellipsis in eq. (5.16). The spin-orbit Hamiltonian is

$$\hat{H}_{\text{so}} = a^2 b_{\text{so}} (m_0 a) \hat{\Psi} \gamma_0 [\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D}, \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{E}] \hat{\Psi}. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Under the two-parameter Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani transformation of eq. (5.23)

$$b'_{\text{so}} = b_{\text{so}} - \frac{1}{2} \xi_1^2 + b_E \xi_1 + b_1 \xi_E - 2m_q a b_0 \xi_1 \xi_E. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

With b_{so} it is possible to give an invariant involving b_E :

$$B_E = b_1^2 - 4m_q a b_0 b_1 b_E - 8(m_q a b_0)^2 b_{\text{so}} = b_1'^2 - 4m_q a b_0' b_1' b_E' - 8(m_q a b_0')^2 b'_{\text{so}}, \quad (\text{A.5})$$

and one wants $B_E = 1$. Just as the redundancy associated with the Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani parameter ξ_1 intertwines the mass dependence of ζ and r_s , the redundancy associated with the other Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani parameter ξ_E intertwines the mass dependence of c_E and c_{so} too.

Assuming a discretization of S_{so} that resides on two timeslices only, it is straightforward to generalize the transfer-matrix construction to the action $S_0 + S_B + S_E + S_{\text{so}}$. After expanding the transfer matrix in powers of a one finds

$$b_{\text{so}} = -\frac{1}{2}(1 - c_E)\zeta^2 f_2(m_0) + \frac{c_{\text{so}}\zeta}{2(1 + m_0)}. \quad (\text{A.6})$$

Combining eqs. (A.5), (5.29), and (A.6) and setting $B_E = 1$ yields the mass-dependent condition

$$c_E = \frac{\zeta^2 - 1}{m_0(2 + m_0)} + \frac{r_s \zeta}{1 + m_0} + \frac{r_s^2 m_0 (2 + m_0)}{4(1 + m_0)^2} + \frac{c_{\text{so}} m_0 (2 + m_0)}{\zeta(1 + m_0)}. \quad (\text{A.7})$$

Here the rest mass M_1 has been eliminated in favor of the kinetic mass M_2 as appropriate to the nonrelativistic interpretation of sect. 9.

The redundant direction associated to ξ_E permits a free choice of c_{so} . In our framework, which stresses a smooth matching to the massless limit, the most convenient choice is probably $c_{\text{so}} = 0$. But for purely nonrelativistic applications ref. [12] would choose $c_E = 0$ and $\zeta c_{\text{so}} \propto m_q^{-2}$. Other possibilities correspond to the special choice for r_s in eq. (5.35). Then eq. (A.7) reduces to

$$c_E = 1 + 2 \log(1 + m_0) c_{\text{so}}. \quad (\text{A.8})$$

The further special case corresponding to $\xi_E = 0$ is $c_E = 1$ (independent of $m_0 a$) and $c_{\text{so}} = 0$.

A.2 Kinetic energy to $O(v^4)$

The interaction S_4 produces corrections to the kinetic energy. It is easiest to analyze from the energy-momentum relation, as in sect. 4. Expanding eq. (4.4) to $O(\mathbf{p}^4)$ yields

$$E = M_1 + \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2M_2} - \frac{1}{6}w_4a^2 \sum_i p_i^4 - \frac{(\mathbf{p}^2)^2}{8M_4^3} + \dots, \quad (\text{A.9})$$

where

$$M_4 = - \left(\frac{\partial^4 E}{\partial p_i^2 \partial p_j^2} \right)_{\mathbf{p}=\mathbf{0}}^{-1/3}, \quad i \neq j \quad (\text{A.10})$$

and

$$w_4 = -\frac{1}{4} \left. \frac{\partial^4 E}{\partial p_i^4} \right|_{\mathbf{p}=\mathbf{0}} - \frac{3}{4M_4^3}. \quad (\text{A.11})$$

The relativistic mass shell satisfies $M_4 = M_2 = M_1$, and a nonrelativistic mass shell with leading relativistic correction satisfies $M_4 = M_2$. In both cases rotational invariance requires $w_4 = 0$.

A straightforward way to enforce $w_4 = 0$ is to take an improved covariant difference

$$aD_i = \frac{2}{3}(T_i - T_{-i}) - \frac{1}{12}(T_i^2 - T_{-i}^2) \quad (\text{A.12})$$

and an improved covariant Laplacian

$$a^2 \Delta^{(3)} = \sum_i \left(\frac{4}{3}(T_i + T_{-i} - 2) - \frac{1}{12}(T_i^2 + T_{-i}^2 - 2) \right). \quad (\text{A.13})$$

The coefficients are chosen so that the Fourier transforms have no p_i^3 or $\sum_i p_i^4$ terms, respectively. Then (at tree-level) $w_4 = 0$ automatically.

Since S_4 contains no higher time derivatives, the transfer-matrix construction proceeds as usual. After deriving M_4 for $S_0 + S_4$ (M_1 and M_2 are unchanged), one finds $M_4 = M_2$ at tree level if the couplings c_{4D} and c_{4L} obey

$$\begin{aligned} 4\zeta^2 c_{4D}(1 + m_0) + r_s \zeta c_{4L} m_0(2 + m_0) = \\ + \frac{\zeta^4(1 + m_0)[2(1 - \zeta^2) + m_0(2 + m_0)]}{m_0^2(2 + m_0)^2} + \frac{r_s \zeta^3[2(1 + m_0)^2 - 3\zeta^2]}{m_0(2 + m_0)} \\ + \frac{r_s^2 \zeta^2[m_0(2 + m_0) - 6\zeta^2]}{4(1 + m_0)} - \frac{r_s^3 \zeta^3 m_0(2 + m_0)}{4(1 + m_0)^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.14})$$

This result holds whether ζ is tuned so that $M_1 = M_2$ or not. As with ζ and c_E , only the massless limit of c_{4D} is unambiguous. For the full mass dependence the redundant c_{4L} must be specified, for example $c_{4L} = 0$.

It is instructive to look explicitly at the consequences of omitting S_4 from Monte Carlo calculations. With *unimproved* \mathbf{D} and $\Delta^{(3)}$ and no S_4

$$w_4 = \frac{2\zeta^2}{m_0(2+m_0)} + \frac{r_s\zeta}{4(1+m_0)}, \quad (\text{A.15})$$

and

$$\frac{1}{M_4^3} = \frac{8\zeta^4}{m_0^3(2+m_0)^3} + \frac{4\zeta^3[\zeta + 2r_s(1+m_0)]}{m_0^2(2+m_0)^2} + \frac{r_s^2\zeta^2}{(1+m_0)^2}. \quad (\text{A.16})$$

The rotational-invariance breaking artifact is, thus, $O(p_i^4 a^2/m_q)$ for $m_q a$ large and small. The rotationally invariant, relativity-breaking artifact is $O(\mathbf{p}^4 a^2/m_q)$ at small $m_q a$, and $O(\mathbf{p}^4 a^1/m_q^2)$ at large $m_q a$.

A.3 Electroweak operators

For electroweak decays of quarkonia to $O(v^4)$, one needs a higher-dimensional generalization of eq. (7.8),

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi(x) = e^{M_1 a/2} \left[1 + ad_1 \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D} + \frac{1}{2} a^2 d_2 \Delta^{(3)} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{i}{2} a^2 d_B \boldsymbol{\Sigma} \cdot \mathbf{B} + \frac{1}{2} a^2 d_E \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{E} \right] \psi(x). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.17})$$

The d 's are easiest to derive from the Foldy-Wouthuysen-Tani transformed field. Combining eqs. (5.9) and (5.23)

$$\Psi(x) = \exp(a\xi_1 \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{D} + a^2 \xi_E \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{E}) e^{\mathcal{M}/2} \psi(x), \quad (\text{A.18})$$

where ξ_1 and ξ_E parameterize the solution of the tuning conditions. Expanding the cumbersome exponentials to $O(a^2[\mathbf{p}^2, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{E}])$ and eliminating ξ_1 and ξ_E in favor of the couplings ζ , r_s , c_B , and c_E , one finds

$$\begin{aligned} d_2 &= d_1^2 - \frac{r_s \zeta}{2(1+m_0)}, \\ d_B &= d_1^2 - \frac{c_B \zeta}{2(1+m_0)}, \\ d_E &= \frac{\zeta(1-c_E)(1+m_0)}{m_0(2+m_0)} - \frac{d_1}{M_2}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.19})$$

and d_1 as in eq. (7.10). In eqs. (A.19) the kinetic mass M_2 has been substituted for the rest mass M_1 . Thus, these formulae remain valid under the nonrelativistic interpretation explained in sect. 9.

B Combining Exponents

This appendix presents a proof of eq. (5.26), i.e. that the functions f_1 and f_2 are given by the expressions in eq. (5.28). If H_0 , H_I , and H_I^\dagger were to commute, it would be trivial to combine the exponents. They do not, so the combined exponent depends on their commutators as well. The commutators are

$$\begin{aligned} [\hat{H}_0, \hat{H}_I] &= -2M_1 \hat{H}_I + O(\mathbf{p}^3 a^3), \\ [\hat{H}_0, \hat{H}_I^\dagger] &= 2M_1 \hat{H}_I^\dagger + O(\mathbf{p}^3 a^3), \\ [\hat{H}_I, \hat{H}_I^\dagger] &= -\zeta^2 \hat{\Psi} \Theta^2 \hat{\Psi} + O(\mathbf{p}^4 a^4). \end{aligned} \tag{B.1}$$

To obtain the last commutator we have written $\mathbf{D}_U = (\mathbf{D} - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{E})_{\text{cont}}$ and $\mathbf{D}_V = (\mathbf{D} + \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{E})_{\text{cont}}$, and we have neglected higher powers of \mathbf{E}_{cont} . The operators Θ and $\Delta^{(3)}$ carry one and two powers of $\mathbf{p}a$, respectively; thus $\mathcal{M} = M_1 - \frac{1}{2}r_s \zeta e^{-M_1} \Delta^{(3)} + O(\mathbf{p}^4 a^4)$. Note that although $[\hat{H}_I, \hat{H}_I^\dagger]$ is $O(\mathbf{p}^2 a^2)$, further commutators such as $[\hat{H}_0, [\hat{H}_I, \hat{H}_I^\dagger]]$ are at least $O(\mathbf{p}^4 a^4)$.

Instead of solving the field theory, it is enough to consider a toy model with two degrees of freedom, a fermion (annihilated by \hat{a}) and an anti-fermion (annihilated by \hat{b}). With discrete time the action is

$$S = \sum_t a_t^\dagger (\partial_0^- + m) a_t + b_t^\dagger (\partial_0^- + m) b_t - i\vartheta (a_t^\dagger b_t^\dagger - b_t a_t). \tag{B.2}$$

The transfer matrix has the same form as eq. (5.25) with

$$\hat{H}_0 = \log(1+m) (\hat{A}^\dagger \hat{A} + \hat{B}^\dagger \hat{B}), \quad \hat{H}_I = i\vartheta \hat{B} \hat{A}, \tag{B.3}$$

where $A = (1+m)^{1/2}a$, and $B = (1+m)^{1/2}b$. With the identification of ϑ with $\zeta\Theta$ and m with $e^{\mathcal{M}} - 1$, the operators \hat{H}_0 and $\hat{H}_I^{(\dagger)}$ of the toy model and the field theory have the same algebraic structure.

This model has only four states, the vacuum, fermion, anti-fermion, and a fermion–anti-fermion state. The strategy is to work out the transfer matrix elements explicitly, and then take the logarithm. These steps are easier in the Grassman-number approach, where the matrix elements of the transfer matrix are the coefficients of monomials in (Grassman numbers) A , A^\dagger , B , and B^\dagger , when

$$\mathcal{T}(A^\dagger, B^\dagger; A, B) = e^{i\vartheta a^\dagger b^\dagger} e^{a^\dagger a + b^\dagger b} e^{-i\vartheta ba} \tag{B.4}$$

is expressed as a polynomial. Up to factors analogous to $\det(2\kappa_t B)$, which we can drop without loss, the transfer matrix in the neutral sector is

$$\langle i | \hat{\mathcal{T}} | j \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} (1+m) & -i\vartheta \\ i\vartheta & (1+\vartheta^2)/(1+m) \end{pmatrix}. \tag{B.5}$$

Writing $\mathcal{T} = VDV^\dagger$, where D is diagonal, the Hamiltonian is $H = -V \log(D)V^\dagger$. Expanding the result to $\mathcal{O}(\vartheta^2)$ one finds

$$\langle i|\hat{H}|j\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} -m_1 + f_2(m)\vartheta^2 & if_1(m)\vartheta \\ -if_1(m)\vartheta & m_1 - f_2(m)\vartheta^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{B.6})$$

where $e^{m_1} = 1 + m$. Expressed in terms of Fock-space operators

$$\hat{H} = [m_1 - f_2(m)\vartheta^2] (\hat{A}^\dagger \hat{A} - \hat{B} \hat{B}^\dagger) - if_1(m)\vartheta (\hat{A}^\dagger \hat{B}^\dagger - \hat{B} \hat{A}). \quad (\text{B.7})$$

Substituting m_1 and ϑ for \mathcal{M} and $\zeta\Theta$ completes the derivation of eq. (5.26).

C Spinors, Creation and Annihilation Operators

This Appendix gives the construction of spinors and of creation and annihilation operators in $d = 4$ space-time dimensions. These are needed to calculate amplitudes of on-shell fermions via Feynman diagrams.

Consider an arbitrary bilinear fermion action

$$S = \sum_{x,y} \bar{\psi}(x) \left(\gamma_\mu \tilde{K}_\mu(x,y) + \tilde{L}(x,y) \right) \psi(y) \quad (\text{C.1})$$

with an implied sum over μ . We assume that \tilde{K}_μ and \tilde{L} are translation invariant. With parity $\tilde{L}(x,y)$ is symmetric, and $\tilde{K}_\mu(x,y)$ anti-symmetric, under interchange of x and y . The field $\psi(x)$ has the following equation of motion

$$\sum_y \left(\gamma_\mu \tilde{K}_\mu(x,y) + \tilde{L}(x,y) \right) \psi(y) = 0. \quad (\text{C.2})$$

In such a free theory, one searches for solutions of the form $\psi(x) = e^{ip_0 t + i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x}} u(p)$. The four-component spinor $u(p)$ must satisfy

$$(i\gamma_\mu K_\mu(p) + L(p))u(p) = 0. \quad (\text{C.3})$$

The Fourier transforms $K_\mu(p)$ and $L(p)$ are real functions of p by parity and translation invariance. Multiplying by $-i\gamma_\mu K_\mu(p) + L(p)$ one sees that solutions exist only if

$$K^2(p) + L^2(p) = 0. \quad (\text{C.4})$$

This mass shell coincides with the one derived from the propagator, as in sect. 4.

The actions that we consider all have the Wilson time derivative. Writing $p = (p_0, \mathbf{p})$, one then has

$$\begin{aligned} K_0(p) &= \sin p_0, \\ K_i(p) &= K_i(\mathbf{p}) \\ L(p) &= \mu(\mathbf{p}) - \cos p_0; \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.5})$$

$K_i(\mathbf{p})$ is an odd, and $\mu(\mathbf{p})$ an even, function of \mathbf{p} . Thus, solutions exist only when

$$p_0 = \pm iE(\mathbf{p}), \quad (\text{C.6})$$

where

$$\cosh E(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{1 + \mu(\mathbf{p})^2 + \mathbf{K}^2}{2\mu(\mathbf{p})} \geq 1. \quad (\text{C.7})$$

It is convenient to label the solutions of eq. (C.3) by the sign in eq. (C.6). For each sign there are two solutions, $u(\pm 1, \mathbf{p})$ and $u(\pm 2, \mathbf{p})$. Setting $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{0}$ the equation of motion simplifies to

$$\sinh M_1(-\gamma_0 \text{sign } \xi + 1)u(\xi, \mathbf{0}) = 0, \quad (\text{C.8})$$

where $M_1 = E(\mathbf{0}) = \log[\mu(\mathbf{0})]$. Choosing γ_0 as in eq. (2.6) the four solutions at $\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{0}$ are

$$u_1(1, \mathbf{0}) = u_2(2, \mathbf{0}) = u_3(-1, \mathbf{0}) = u_4(-2, \mathbf{0}) = 1, \quad (\text{C.9})$$

where the subscript is the Dirac index, and all other components are zero. Direct substitution verifies that

$$u(\xi, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{-i\gamma_\mu K_\mu + L}{\sqrt{2L(L + \sinh E)}}u(\xi, \mathbf{0}) \quad (\text{C.10})$$

solves eq. (C.3) for $\mathbf{p} \neq \mathbf{0}$, if $\sin p_0 = i \text{sign } \xi \sinh E$ and $L = \mu(\mathbf{p}) - \cosh E(\mathbf{p})$. The denominator yields the normalization convention in eq.(C.14).

The two solutions with “negative energy” ($\xi < 0$) correspond to anti-particle states. As usual we introduce

$$v(\xi, \mathbf{p}) = u(-\xi, -\mathbf{p}), \quad \xi = 1, 2. \quad (\text{C.11})$$

The spinors v obey the equation of motion

$$(-i\gamma_\mu K_\mu(p) + L(p))v(p) = 0, \quad (\text{C.12})$$

which is solved by

$$v(\xi, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{+i\gamma_\mu K_\mu + L}{\sqrt{2L(L + \sinh E)}}v(\xi, \mathbf{0}), \quad (\text{C.13})$$

now with $\sin p_0 = +i \sinh E$. From now on we shall use u and v with $\xi \in \{1, 2\}$ and $\sin p_0 = +i \sinh E$ only.

The spinors obey the conventional orthonormality properties

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{u}(\xi', \mathbf{p})u(\xi, \mathbf{p}) &= -\bar{v}(\xi', \mathbf{p})v(\xi, \mathbf{p}) = \delta^{\xi'\xi}, \\ \bar{u}(\xi', \mathbf{p})v(\xi, \mathbf{p}) &= \bar{v}(\xi', \mathbf{p})u(\xi, \mathbf{p}) = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.14})$$

where $\bar{u} = u^\dagger \gamma_0$ and $\bar{v} = v^\dagger \gamma_0$. Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{u}(\xi', \mathbf{p}) \gamma_0 u(\xi, \mathbf{p}) &= \bar{v}(\xi', \mathbf{p}) \gamma_0 v(\xi, \mathbf{p}) = \delta^{\xi' \xi} \frac{\sinh E}{\mu(\mathbf{p}) - \cosh E}, \\ \bar{u}(\xi', \mathbf{p}) \gamma_0 v(\xi, -\mathbf{p}) &= \bar{v}(\xi', -\mathbf{p}) \gamma_0 u(\xi, \mathbf{p}) = 0.\end{aligned}\tag{C.15}$$

In a relativistic theory E/m would appear here.

The general solution to eq. (C.2) is a linear superposition

$$\begin{aligned}\psi(t, \mathbf{x}) &= \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) \sum_{\xi=1}^2 \left[b(\xi, \mathbf{p}) u(\xi, \mathbf{p}) e^{+ip_0 t + i\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + d^\dagger(\xi, \mathbf{p}) v(\xi, \mathbf{p}) e^{-ip_0 t - i\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \right]\end{aligned}\tag{C.16}$$

with $\sin p_0 = i \sinh E$. The normalization factor $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p})$ is fixed below, after invoking this expansion for Hilbert-space operators. The operator-valued expansion coefficients $\hat{b}^\dagger(\xi, \mathbf{p})$ and $\hat{d}^\dagger(\xi, \mathbf{p})$ create particle and anti-particle states respectively:

$$|q(\xi, \mathbf{p})\rangle = \hat{b}^\dagger(\xi, \mathbf{p})|0\rangle, \quad |\bar{q}(\xi, \mathbf{p})\rangle = \hat{d}^\dagger(\xi, \mathbf{p})|0\rangle,\tag{C.17}$$

where $|0\rangle$ is the Fock state annihilated by all $\hat{b}(\xi, \mathbf{p})$ and $\hat{d}(\xi, \mathbf{p})$. Assuming the vacuum is normalized to $\langle 0|0\rangle = 1$, the fermion states are normalized to

$$\langle q(\xi', \mathbf{p}') | q(\xi, \mathbf{p}) \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta(\mathbf{p}' - \mathbf{p}) \delta^{\xi' \xi} \phi(\mathbf{p}),\tag{C.18}$$

and similarly for the anti-fermion state $|\bar{q}(\xi, \mathbf{p})\rangle$, if and only if the anti-commutator

$$\{\hat{b}(\xi', \mathbf{p}'), \hat{b}^\dagger(\xi, \mathbf{p})\} = (2\pi)^3 \delta(\mathbf{p}' - \mathbf{p}) \delta^{\xi' \xi} \phi(\mathbf{p}),\tag{C.19}$$

and similarly for $\{\hat{d}(\xi', \mathbf{p}'), \hat{d}^\dagger(\xi, \mathbf{p})\}$.

The transfer-matrix construction provides the anti-commutation relation for $\hat{\psi}(t, \mathbf{x})$ and $\hat{\bar{\psi}}(t, \mathbf{x})$. Eq. (5.9) becomes

$$\Psi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{y}} \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} e^{+i\mathbf{p} \cdot (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})} \mu(\mathbf{p})^{1/2} \psi(t, \mathbf{y}).\tag{C.20}$$

After inverting the Fourier series and evaluating the anti-commutators one finds

$$\phi(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{\mu(\mathbf{p}) - \cosh E}{\mu(\mathbf{p}) \mathcal{N}^2(\mathbf{p}) \sinh E}.\tag{C.21}$$

The convention $\phi = 1$ is the most convenient.²¹ Then

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) = \left(\frac{\mu(\mathbf{p}) - \cosh E}{\mu(\mathbf{p}) \sinh E} \right)^{1/2}.\tag{C.22}$$

²¹Another candidate is the relativistic convention, which is not at all natural in nonperturbative calculations. How can one normalize to $\phi = \sqrt{m^2 + \mathbf{p}^2}/m$ without solving the theory? Even here, in a footnote to an appendix, one may not forget that the aim of these perturbative calculations is to understand, interpret, and improve the nonperturbative calculations.

Note that $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}) = e^{-M_1/2}$.

With all this machinery we can now state the main result of this appendix. The Feynman rules for vertices in standard references (e.g. ref. [42] for the Wilson action) are derived from the functional integral, i.e. using $\psi(x)$. To obtain on-shell matrix elements, these rules must be supplemented by rules for contractions between $\psi(x)$ and conventionally normalized external states. They are

$$\begin{aligned}
\cdots \overbrace{\psi_\alpha(t, \mathbf{x}) \cdots} \mid \cdots \overbrace{q(\xi, \mathbf{p})} \cdots \rangle &\mapsto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) u_\alpha(\xi, \mathbf{p}) e^{-Et + i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{x}}, \\
\cdots \overbrace{\bar{\psi}_\alpha(t, \mathbf{x}) \cdots} \mid \cdots \overbrace{\bar{q}(\xi, \mathbf{p})} \cdots \rangle &\mapsto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) \bar{v}_\alpha(\xi, \mathbf{p}) e^{-Et + i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{x}}, \\
\langle \cdots \overbrace{q(\xi, \mathbf{p})} \cdots \mid \cdots \overbrace{\bar{\psi}_\alpha(t, \mathbf{x})} \cdots \rangle &\mapsto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) \bar{u}_\alpha(\xi, \mathbf{p}) e^{+Et - i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{x}}, \\
\langle \cdots \overbrace{\bar{q}(\xi, \mathbf{p})} \cdots \mid \cdots \overbrace{\psi_\alpha(t, \mathbf{x})} \cdots \rangle &\mapsto \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) v_\alpha(\xi, \mathbf{p}) e^{+Et - i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{x}},
\end{aligned} \tag{C.23}$$

multiplied by the sign appropriate to the anti-commutation implied by the \cdots . For all states the momentum flow is physical, i.e. with (against) the charge flow for particles (anti-particles).

For the specific action discussed in this paper, S_0 , one finds (restoring a)

$$\begin{aligned}
K_i(\mathbf{p}) &= \zeta \sin p_i a \\
\mu(\mathbf{p}) &= 1 + m_0 a + \frac{1}{2} r_s \zeta \hat{\mathbf{p}}^2 a^2.
\end{aligned} \tag{C.24}$$

The chromomagnetic and chromoelectric interactions do not modify these functions, but the kinetic corrections in Appendix A do.

It is useful to record the small \mathbf{p} expansion of the external line factor here:

$$\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) u_{\text{lat}}(\xi, \mathbf{p}) = e^{-M_1 a/2} \left[1 - \frac{i\zeta \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{p} a}{2 \sinh M_1 a} - \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{8M_X^2} \right] u(\xi, \mathbf{0}) + \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}^3), \tag{C.25}$$

where the subscript “lat” abbreviates “lattice,” and M_X is an “external line mass.” For S_0

$$\frac{1}{M_X^2 a^2} = \frac{\zeta^2}{\sinh^2 M_1 a} + \frac{2r_s \zeta}{e^{M_1 a}}. \tag{C.26}$$

For a unified treatment of fermions and anti-fermions in initial and final states, it is handy to note that eq. (C.25) holds for positive and negative ξ . The analogous expression for $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) v_{\text{lat}}(\xi, \mathbf{p})$ then follows from eq. (C.11).

Unless $m_0 a \ll 1$ the lattice external line factor $\mathcal{N}(\mathbf{p}) u_{\text{lat}}(\xi, \mathbf{p})$ deviates from the relativistic one. With our normalization conventions the relativistic analog of eq. (C.25) is

$$\sqrt{\frac{m_q}{E}} u_{\text{rel}}(\xi, \mathbf{p}) = \left[1 - \frac{i\boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \mathbf{p}}{2m_q} - \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{8m_q^2} \right] u(\xi, \mathbf{0}) + \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}^3), \tag{C.27}$$

where the subscript “rel” abbreviates “relativistic.” The rotations in sects. 7 and A.3 are needed to convert the bracket of eq. (C.25) into the bracket of eq. (C.27), assuming $m_q = M_2$.

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