

## Chern-Simons Theory

Consider Chern-Simons Theory<sup>1</sup> with action

$$S_{CS} = \int d^3x \{ \mathcal{L}_{CS} \} \quad (1)$$

where the Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L}_{CS}$  is given by

$$\mathcal{L}_{CS} = \frac{1}{2} \kappa \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} A_\mu(x) \partial_\nu A_\rho(x) - A_\mu(x) J^\mu(x) \quad (2)$$

where  $A_\mu(x)$  is a massless 1-form Abelian gauge field and  $J^\mu(x)$  is a source term which vanishes at large distance.

(a) Show that the action (1) is invariant under U(1) gauge transformations of the form

$$A_\mu(x) \mapsto A'_\mu(x) = A_\mu(x) + \partial_\mu \xi(x) \quad (3)$$

where  $\xi(x)$  is some harmonic scalar field which vanishes at large distances.

(b) Find the homogeneous<sup>2</sup> field equations for  $A_\mu(x)$  and show that they are gauge-equivalent to a trivial solution.

(c) Find the inhomogeneous<sup>3 4</sup> field equations for  $A_\mu(x)$  with

$$J^\mu(x) = (\rho, \vec{J})$$

Consider now Maxwell-Chern-Simons Theory with source-free<sup>5</sup> Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{MCS} = -\frac{1}{4e^2} \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{F}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} \kappa \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} A_\mu(x) \partial_\nu A_\rho(x) \quad (4)$$

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<sup>1</sup> Note that Chern-Simons theory is only defined in (2+1)-dimensions. Compare this to the case of Maxwell theory which is defined in  $d$ -dimensions.

<sup>2</sup> That is,

$$J^\mu(x) = 0$$

<sup>3</sup> Note that in (2+1)-dimensions the electric and magnetic fields  $E$  and  $B$  are given by

$$B = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{ij} \mathcal{F}_{ij} \quad \text{and} \quad E^i = -\mathcal{F}^{0i}$$

respectively, where

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu(x) - \partial_\nu A_\mu(x)$$

is the usual electromagnetic field-strength tensor.

<sup>4</sup> In addition, note that in (2+1)-dimensions the magnetic field  $B$  is a pseudoscalar.

<sup>5</sup> That is,

$$J^\mu(x) = 0$$

(d) Find the field equations for  $A_\mu(x)$ .

(e) Find the Hamiltonian for the system in the Coulomb gauge where

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A}(x) = 0$$

with

$$A_0(x) = 0$$