

ON STABILITY OF FERMIONIC SUPERCONDUCTING CURRENT IN COSMIC STRING

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Strong CP Problem

- ✓ Experimentally, **QCD** is known to preserve **CP** symmetry very well.
- ✓ **CP** violating transitions in the **SM** are caused by **CP** violation in the weak interaction (i.e. by the CKM phase).

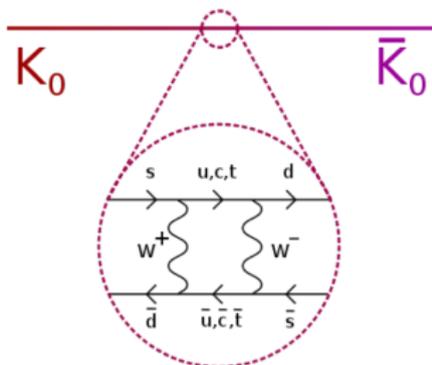


Figure from : <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaon>

Strong CP Problem

CP conservation is not automatically guaranteed in **QCD**.

- ✓ **QCD** has its own **CP**-violating parameter : θ

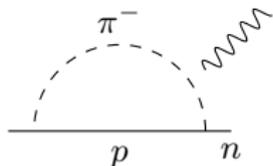
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = -\frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a\mu\nu} + \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2}\theta G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu} + \sum_i^{N_f} \bar{q}_i (i\not{D} - m)q_i$$

[positive quark masses : $m > 0$]

- ✓ θ -term is not invariant under **P** and **CP** transformation

$$\frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2}\theta G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu} \xrightarrow{\text{CP}} -\frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2}\theta G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu}$$

- ✓ θ -term is highly constrained experimentally.



Null observation of the neutron **EDM**:

$$d_n/e < 10^{-26} \text{ cm @ 90\%CL}$$

[PRL 124, 081803 (2020)].

$$d_n/e \sim 10^{-15}\theta \text{ cm} \quad [\text{'79 Crewther, Veccia, Veneziano, Witten}]$$

$$\rightarrow \theta < 10^{-11} \quad \text{why so small ? = strong CP problem !}$$

Peccei-Quinn Mechanism and Axion

Make the **PQ** symmetry broken spontaneously !

- ✓ A complex field ϕ rotates under the PQ symmetry :

$$\phi \rightarrow e^{i\phi} \phi, \quad \psi_L \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha} \psi_L, \quad \psi_R \rightarrow \psi_R$$

- ✓ The chiral U(1) symmetry is spontaneously broken by $\langle \phi \rangle = v$.

The colored fermions obtain mass through:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(\phi) + \bar{\psi}_L i \not{D} \psi_L + \bar{\psi}_R i \not{D} \psi_R + \boxed{y\phi \bar{\psi}_R \psi_L + h.c.}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi) = \partial_\mu \phi^* \partial^\mu \phi - V(\phi) \leftarrow \text{symmetric under the U(1) rotation}$$

Colored fermions obtain mass,

$$m_\psi = yv$$

We can make the new colored fermions arbitrarily heavy!
... Any low-energy implications?

Peccei-Quinn Mechanism and Axion

Spontaneous breaking is associated with a Goldstone mode : **Axion** !

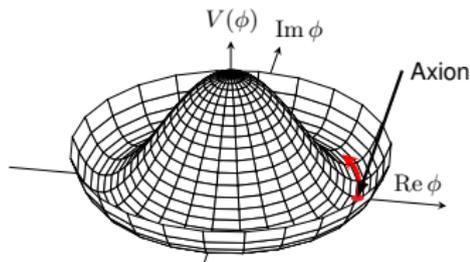
['78, Weinberg, '78 Wilczek]

Axion = phase direction of ϕ :

$$\phi(x)|_{\text{axion}} = \frac{f_a}{\sqrt{2}} \exp \left[i \frac{a(x)}{f_a} \right], \quad f_a = \sqrt{2} \times v \text{ (axion decay constant)}$$

Axion couples to QCD and QED through :

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} \frac{a}{f_a} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}^{a\mu\nu} + \frac{C_e e^2}{32\pi^2} \frac{a}{f_a} F_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{F}^{a\mu\nu}$$



Peccei-Quinn Mechanism and Axion

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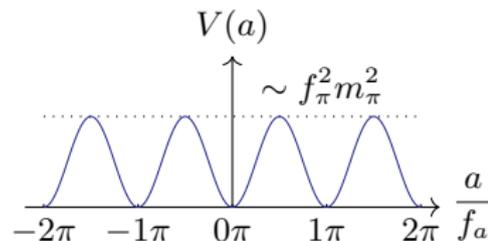
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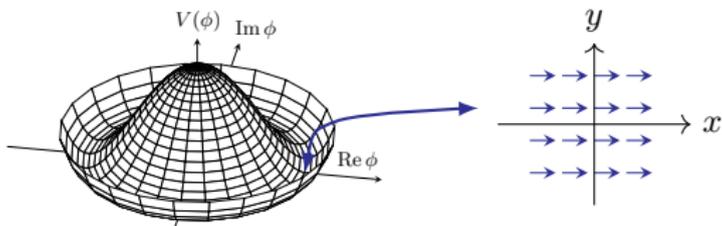


Axion obtains non-trivial potential due to **QCD** dynamics through the chiral anomaly

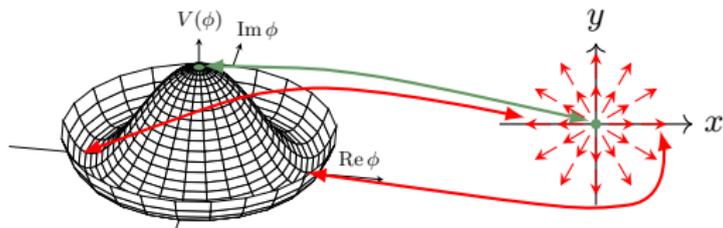
Cosmic String

U(1) symmetry breaking is associated with cosmic strings !

- ✓ Trivial vacuum configuration of the broken phase
= phase in ϕ is aligned to the same direction [e.g. $(\text{Re } \phi, \text{Im } \phi) = (v, 0)$]



- ✓ Non-trivial vacuum configuration due to the finite causality length
= phase of ϕ depends on the spatial direction [e.g. $(\cos \varphi, \sin \varphi)$]



U(1) symmetry is restored at the core of the configuration!
→ energy concentration at the core = topological defect

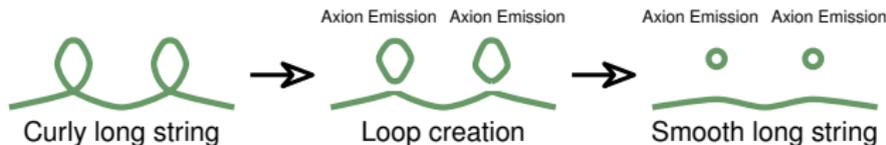
Cosmological Evolution of Axionic Cosmic String

Assume the **PQ** symmetry breaking takes place after inflation at $T \sim f_a$.

- ✓ On average, $\mathcal{O}(10 - 100)$ number of cosmic strings are generated per Hubble volume, $V \sim H^{-3}$
- ✓ Long strings keep producing lots of string loops
- ✓ Loops (= 0 net topological charge) disappear by emitting axions [lifetime $\sim H^{-1}$ at the production time]
- ✓ Energy density of the string network keeps being subdominant

$$\rho_{\text{str}} \sim \mu_{\text{str}}^2 H^2 \sim \frac{f_a^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \times T^4 \ll \rho_{\text{tot}} \sim T^4,$$

with the correlation length between strings, $\ell_{\text{corr}} \sim 0.3H^{-1}$



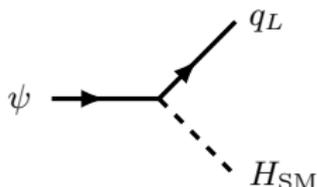
Fermion Zero Mode

- ✓ The colored fermions in the **PQ** mechanism become heavy ($\psi = yv$) via

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(\phi) + \phi + \bar{\psi}_L i \not{D} \psi_L + \bar{\psi}_R i \not{D} \psi_R + \boxed{y\phi\bar{\psi}_R\psi_L + h.c.} .$$

- ✓ The massive fermions decay into the SM quarks via,

$$\mathcal{O}_D = \boxed{y_D H_{SM} \bar{\psi}_R q_L} + h.c.,$$



with the decay rate,

$$\Gamma_D = \frac{|y_D|^2}{16\pi} m_\psi$$

Fermion Zero Mode

Dirac equation around cosmic string along the z -axis,

$$\left[i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m_\psi h(\rho) \left(e^{in\varphi} P_L + e^{-in\varphi} P_R \right) \right] \psi = 0$$

The transverse configuration:

$$i\gamma^1 (\partial_1 + i(i\gamma^1 \gamma^2) \partial_2) \psi_L = m_\psi h(\rho) e^{-i\varphi} \psi_R,$$

$$i\gamma^1 (\partial_1 + i(i\gamma^1 \gamma^2) \partial_2) \psi_R = m_\psi h(\rho) e^{i\varphi} \psi_L.$$

Noting $\partial_1 \pm i\partial_2 = e^{\pm i\varphi} (\partial_\rho \pm i\rho^{-1} \partial_\varphi)$, φ -independent solution :

$$\psi^0(x, y) = \mathcal{N} \eta \exp\left(-\int_0^\rho m_\psi h(\rho') d\rho'\right), \quad \eta = (0, 1, i, 0)^T$$

2D Chirality : $\gamma_5^{(xy)} = i\gamma^1 \gamma^2$, $\gamma_5^{(zt)} = \gamma^0 \gamma^3$

$$\gamma_5^{(xy)} \psi_L^0 = -\psi_L^0, \quad \gamma_5^{(xy)} \psi_R^0 = +\psi_R^0, \quad \gamma_5^{(zt)} \psi^0 = +\psi^0$$

Zero mode is localized around the string with $\sim e^{-m_\psi \rho}$

Fermion Zero Mode

“Massless” propagation:

$$\psi^0(t, x, y, z) = \alpha(t, z) \times \psi^0(x, y)$$

The longitudinal part of Dirac equation:

$$(\gamma^0 \partial_0 + \gamma^3 \partial_3) \alpha(t, z) \eta = 0, \quad \gamma_5^{(zt)} \eta = +\eta, \quad \rightarrow \quad (\partial_0 + \partial_3) \alpha(t, z) = 0$$

- ✓ The zero-mode propagation is at the speed of light!

$$\alpha(t, z) = \alpha(t - z)$$

- ✓ Only right-movers exist [no $\alpha(t + z)$ mode]!
- ✓ Anti-particles are also right-movers:

$$\text{Antiparticle : } \psi^{0c} = i\gamma^2 \psi^{0*} \rightarrow \gamma_5^{(zt)} \psi^{0c} = \psi^{0c}$$

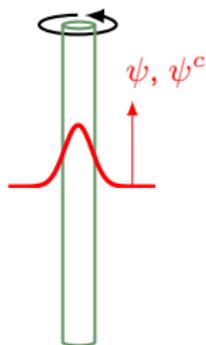
- ✓ Left-movers appear along the string with $n = -1$

The fermion zero mode propagates at the speed of light but is one-way!

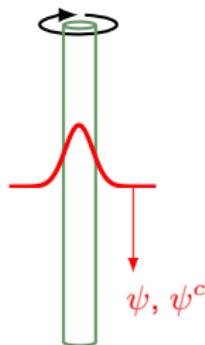
Fermion Zero Mode

The fermion zero mode propagates at the speed of light but is one-way!

String with $n = 1$



String with $n = -1$



Fermion Zero modes are localized around the string

Vorton : Stable Remnant?

In the early Universe, the electric field is 0 on average.

- ✓ Local/temporal electric field may induce superconductive current.
- ✓ Loop productions in that region/time produce **QED /QCD** charged loops!

What happens to the charged loops?

A string loop with **QED** charge Q with a length L_{loop} :

$$Q = \frac{1}{2\pi} N_c q_\psi \varepsilon_F L_{\text{loop}}, \quad E_Q = \frac{1}{4\pi} N_c \varepsilon_F^2 L_{\text{loop}} = \frac{\pi Q^2}{N_c q_\psi^2 L_{\text{loop}}}$$

Total string energy :

$$E(L_{\text{loop}}) \sim \mu_{\text{str}} L_{\text{loop}} + \frac{\pi Q^2}{N_c q_\psi^2 L_{\text{loop}}}$$

Loop length is stabilized at

$$L_{\text{loop}}^{(\text{vorton})} \sim \frac{Q}{q_\psi v} \gg \frac{1}{v} \rightarrow \text{Stable Loop} = \text{Vorton} \text{ [}'88 \text{ Davis \& Shellard]}$$

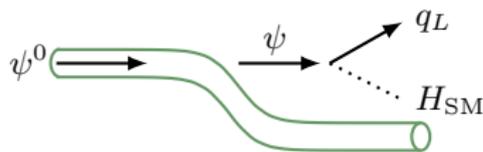
Stability of Zero Mode

In the vacuum, **PQ** fermions decay via $\psi \rightarrow q_L + H_{SM} \dots$

- ✓ Why do zero modes not decay ? \because Zero modes are “massless”
The string loses $(E, p_z) = (E, E)$ if a zero mode decays
 \rightarrow invariant mass of the final state : $s = 0$. No such a final state!

- ✓ The stability of the zero mode is valid only for the straight string.
[’21 MI, S. Kobayashi, Y. Nakayama, S. Shirai]
Zero modes can hit the inner wall of the string and pop out!

Escape & Decay



$$p_{\psi}^{\perp} \gg m_{\psi}$$

Stability of Zero Mode

- ✓ Maximum momentum in Vorton = Fermi-Momentum

$$\varepsilon_F \sim Q/L_{\text{loop}}^{(\text{vorton})} \sim v$$

- ✓ Curvature radius

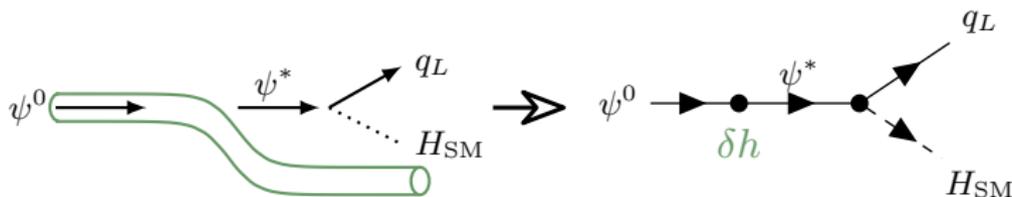
$$L_{\text{loop}}^{(\text{vorton})} \sim Q/v \gg v^{-1} \rightarrow p_{\psi}^{\perp} \sim \frac{\varepsilon_F}{m_{\phi} L_{\text{loop}}^{(\text{vorton})}} \ll m_{\psi}$$

- ✓ Tunneling & Decay is relevant !

Curve on the String

→ Perturbation on the profile function

$$h(\rho) \rightarrow h(\rho) + \delta h(\rho, \varphi, z)$$



Stability of Zero Mode

- ✓ Annihilation operators :

$$\hat{b}^0(E) \text{ zero mode , } \hat{a}_q \text{ SM quark , } \hat{a}_H \text{ SM Higgs}$$

- ✓ Ground State with $n = 1$ string : $|0\rangle$
- ✓ Decay Amplitude :

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{T} &= \langle 0 | \hat{a}_q \hat{a}_H T e^{i \int d^4x [\mathcal{O}_M + \mathcal{O}_D]} \hat{b}^0(E)^\dagger | 0 \rangle \\ \mathcal{O}_M &= m_\psi \delta h(\rho, \varphi, z) \bar{\psi} (e^{i\varphi} P_L + e^{-i\varphi} P_R) \psi \\ \mathcal{O}_D &= y_D H_{SM} \bar{\psi}_R q_L + h.c.,\end{aligned}$$

- ✓ Born Approximation, we keep only $\mathcal{O}(\delta h)$ -term ($|\delta h|^2 \ll |\delta h|$).

Stability of Zero Mode

Decay rate of a zero mode with energy E .

✓ For a long string with perturbative modulation,

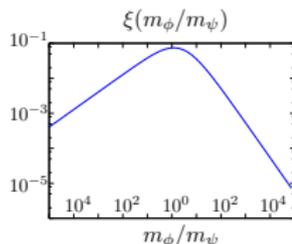
$$\Gamma_{\text{pert}}(E) \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-1}) \times \mathcal{C}_{\text{pert}} \frac{|y_D|^2 E}{m_\phi R} \times \xi^2(m_\phi/m_\psi)$$

R : curvature radius of string

$\mathcal{C}_{\text{pert}}$: a factor associated with the shape of perturbation

[$\mathcal{C}_{\text{pert}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(1)$ for mildly perturbative curve]

$\xi(m_\phi/m_\psi) =$ overlap between zero-mode wave function and the potential wall, $dh(\rho)/d\rho$



$\xi(m_\phi/m_\psi)$ modulation independent

Stability of Zero Mode

- ✓ For a closed loop like a circle, although no more perturbative, we can put lower limit,

$$\Gamma_{\text{loop}}(E) > \Gamma_{\text{pert}}(E)|_{c_{\text{pert}}=\mathcal{O}(1)}$$

Zero mode decay \rightarrow Vorton charge and size decrease
 $\rightarrow \epsilon_F$ is always of $\mathcal{O}(v)$

- ✓ Charge Leakage Rate

$$-\frac{\dot{Q}}{Q} > \Gamma_{\text{loop}}(\epsilon_F) \sim \frac{\Gamma_D \epsilon_F}{m_\phi m_\psi} \frac{v}{Q} \xi^2 > \frac{\Gamma_D \epsilon_F}{m_\phi m_\psi} \frac{v}{Q_{\text{init}}} \xi^2$$

\rightarrow Vorton does not survive cosmological timescale

$$-\frac{\dot{Q}}{Q} > 10^{-3} \times \left(\frac{T_{\text{leak}}}{10^8 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{\epsilon_F v}{m_\phi m_\psi} \right) \xi^2 \times \Gamma_D$$

Summary

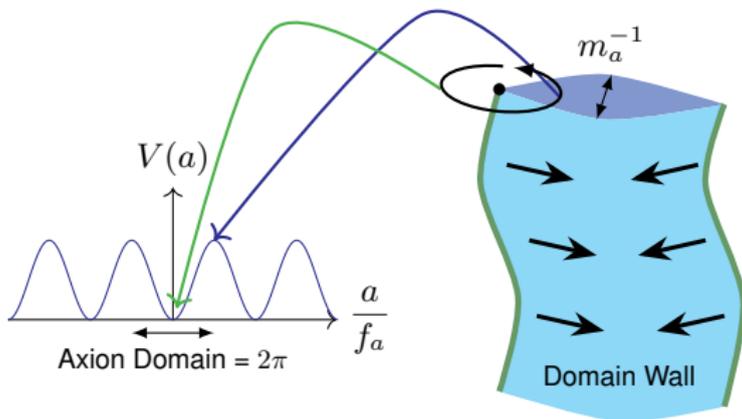
- ✓ Cosmic string appearing in the PQ mechanism have fermionic zero modes
- ✓ Propagation direction of zero modes is one-way.
- ✓ On the string, chiral superconducting current can flow
- ✓ The chiral superconducting current has non-vanishing **QED** and **QCD** charges
- ✓ Non-vanishing **QED** and **QCD** charges may stabilize the string loop forming Vorton
- ✓ By taking into account the finite width and curvature of the string, the zero mode leaks from the string
→ **Vorton do not survive in a cosmological timescale.**
- ✓ Cosmological evolution of chiral superconducting strings, including charge leakage effects, is still open to study

Backup Slides

Cosmological Evolution of Axionic Cosmic String

Below $T \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$ GeV, the axion potential is generated leading to energy contrast around cosmic strings.

- ✓ Strings are attached by domain walls!



- ✓ For a model with $N_{DW} = 1$, the strings are pulled with each other by the domain wall tension and shredded into pieces.

The string-domain wall network disappear immediately.

Perturbative Modulation

String along z -direction. Modulation in the y -direction

$$(x, y, z) = (0, f(z), z)$$

The modulation of the profile function,

$$h(\rho) \rightarrow h(\rho) + \delta h(\rho, \varphi, z), \quad \delta h(\rho, \varphi, z) = \frac{y}{\rho} \frac{dh(\rho)}{d\rho} \times f(z)$$

Perturbative modulation,

$$|f| \sim \frac{\varepsilon}{m_\phi}, \quad \varepsilon \ll 1.$$

Fermion Quantization around String

- ✓ Mode expansion of the fermion

$$\hat{\psi} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L_{\text{str}}}} \sum_{n>0} \left(e^{-iE_n(t-z)} u(\rho) \hat{b}_n^0 + e^{iE_n(t-z)} v(\rho) \hat{d}_n^{0\dagger} \right) \\ + \sum (\text{bounded massive modes}) + \sum (\text{unbounded modes})$$

$$E_n = 2\pi n / L_{\text{str}}.$$

- ✓ Normalization :

$$u(\rho) = \mathcal{N} \eta \exp \left(- \int_0^\rho m_\psi h(\rho') d\rho' \right), \quad v(\rho) = i\gamma_2 u(\rho)^* \\ \int dx dy |u(\rho)|^2 = 1$$

- ✓ Quantization :

$$\{\hat{b}_n^0, \hat{b}_{n'}^{0\dagger}\} = \delta_{nn'}, \quad \{\hat{d}_n^0, \hat{d}_{n'}^{0\dagger}\} = \delta_{nn'}.$$

Modulation of long string

- ✓ Perturbative modulation on a long string:

$$f(z) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} c_n e^{-i \frac{2\pi n}{L} z},$$
$$c_n = \frac{1}{L} \int_{-L/2}^{L/2} dz e^{i \frac{2\pi n}{L} z} f(z),$$

with $c_{-n} = c_n^*$.

- ✓ Master Formula of the decay rate :

$$\Gamma(E) \simeq \frac{1}{24} |y_D|^2 \xi^2 \left(\frac{m_\phi}{m_\psi} \right) E^3 \sum_{n>0}^{k_n < 2E} |c_n|^2 \mathcal{F}(k_n/E)$$
$$\mathcal{F}(x) = x^2 (1 - x/2)$$

Sinusoidal Modulation

- ✓ Sinusoidal modulation :

$$f(z) = \frac{\varepsilon}{m_\phi} \sin\left(\frac{2\pi z}{L}\right), \quad (\varepsilon \ll 1)$$

- ✓ Fourier coefficients :

$$c_1 = i \frac{\varepsilon}{2m_\phi}, \quad c_n = 0, \quad (n > 1)$$

- ✓ Decay rate :

$$\Gamma(E) \simeq \frac{\pi^2}{24} \frac{\varepsilon^2 |y_D|^2 E}{m_\phi^2 L^2} \left(1 - \frac{\pi}{EL}\right) \xi^2 \left(\frac{m_\phi}{m_\psi}\right).$$

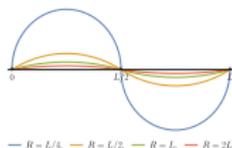
- ✓ Curvature radius :

$$R = \frac{L^2}{(2\pi)^2 \varepsilon m_\phi}.$$

- ✓ Rewritten decay rate :

$$\Gamma(E) \simeq \frac{1}{96} \varepsilon \frac{|y_D|^2 E}{m_\phi R} \xi^2 \left(\frac{m_\phi}{m_\psi}\right).$$

Piecewise Circle Modulation



- ✓ Piecewise Circle Modulation :

$$f(z) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{R^2 - (z - L/4)^2} - \sqrt{R^2 - L^2/16}, & (0 < z < L/2), \\ -\sqrt{R^2 - (z - 3L/4)^2} + \sqrt{R^2 - L^2/16}, & (L/2 < z < L), \end{cases}$$

- ✓ Order of modulation :

$$f(z = L/4) \simeq \left(\frac{L^2}{32R} \right) \rightarrow \varepsilon = \frac{L^2 m_\phi}{32R}$$

- ✓ Fourier coefficients :

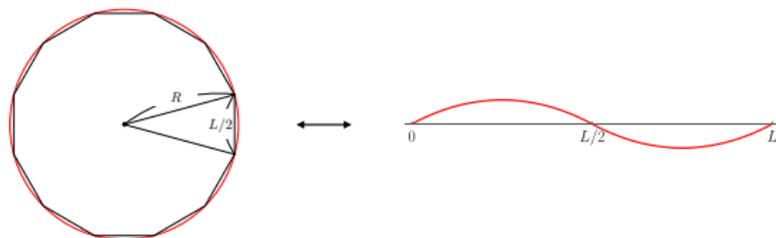
$$c_{2n+1} = \frac{iL^2}{2\pi^3(2n+1)^3 R}, \quad c_{2n} = 0,$$

- ✓ Decay rate :

$$\Gamma(E) \simeq \frac{1}{72} \varepsilon \frac{|y_D|^2 E}{m_\phi R} \xi^2 \left(\frac{m_\phi}{m_\psi} \right).$$

Zero Mode Decay on Circle

Decay rate on circle $>$ decay rate on piecewise circle modulation.



The smaller L is taken, the better perturbative expansion.

The smaller L is taken, more the rate is underestimated.

→ We put a lower limit on the zero mode decay rate using L which is just barely within the range of the perturbation expansion :

$$L = \sqrt{\frac{R}{m_\phi}} \leftrightarrow \varepsilon \sim 1 .$$