

Dynamical fermion mass generation by a strong Yukawa interactionTomáš Brauner^{1,2,*} and Jiří Hošek¹¹*Department of Theoretical Physics, Nuclear Physics Institute, Řež, Czech Republic*²*Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic*

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We consider a model with global Abelian chiral symmetry of two massless fermion fields interacting with a complex massive scalar field. We argue that the Schwinger-Dyson equations for the fermion and boson propagators admit ultraviolet-finite chiral-symmetry-breaking solutions provided the Yukawa couplings are large enough. The fermions acquire masses and the elementary excitations of the complex scalar field are the two real spin-zero particles with different masses. As a necessary consequence of the dynamical chiral symmetry breakdown both in the fermion and scalar sectors, one massless pseudoscalar Nambu-Goldstone boson appears in the spectrum as a collective excitation of both the fermion and the boson fields. Its effective couplings to the fermion and boson fields are calculable.

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I. INTRODUCTION

One of the major challenges to current high energy physics is to understand the origin of particle masses [1]. All particle interactions except gravity are, up to energies accessible in to-date experiments, successfully described by the standard model. There is therefore no doubt that the standard model is the correct *effective* theory of particle interactions in the energy range so far explored.

It is well known that the detailed underlying physics manifests itself in the effective theory through the effective coupling constants so that when looking for new physics, we should try to reveal the origin of the parameters in the effective Lagrangian.

In the standard model, the part of the Lagrangian describing the particle interactions is beautifully constrained by the gauge invariance principle. The matter part, however, seems rather ugly. The fermion masses cannot be introduced directly as they are prohibited by the gauge $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ symmetry, whose chiral structure is in turn necessary to provide an explanation for parity violation in weak interactions.

The masses therefore have to be generated by means of spontaneous symmetry breaking. This is achieved by introducing the scalar Higgs field and properly adjusting its potential so that it develops a nonzero vacuum expectation value at tree level. However, the dynamical origin of the “wrong sign” of the Higgs mass squared, which is responsible for the tree-level condensation, remains unclear. Moreover, the fermion masses eventually stem from the Yukawa interaction with the Higgs, and hence there are as many different couplings as there are particle species. It would certainly be desirable to understand the particle masses as the consequence of some, yet unknown, quantum dynamics.

We would like to argue that dynamical mass generation is possible by means of the Yukawa interaction itself,

without ever having to change the sign of the Higgs mass squared. This would open a new possibility of the existence of an elementary massive scalar field in the standard model Lagrangian. It should be heavy enough so that current experimental bounds are met, and also due to naturalness arguments, according to which its mass should be shifted by radiative corrections up to the scale of new physics.

Our ambitions in the present paper are much more modest than to cure the standard model from its disease. We disregard the otherwise phenomenologically very important issues such as the hierarchy of particle families and CP violation, and concentrate on a simple Abelian model to show that spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking by the Yukawa interaction is viable. We believe that the central idea of the symmetry-breaking mechanism can thus be displayed more transparently. The implementation of this idea to the standard model phenomenology is deferred to future work.

The plan of the paper is as follows. In the next section we introduce our model and investigate, at a rather elementary and pictorial level, the consequences of the assumed spontaneous generation of the fermion mass. We do so for the reader’s convenience and to emphasize the robustness of the main idea of the paper. In particular we show that the fermion mass induces an anomalous symmetry-breaking two-point Green’s function of the scalar. The spectrum of the system then contains two real spinless particles coupled to the original complex field, and with their masses split.

In the next part of the text, a matrix formalism is developed which allows us to treat both the symmetry-preserving and the symmetry-breaking Green’s functions on the same footing. We write down the one-loop Schwinger-Dyson equations and exploit the underlying symmetry by means of the Ward identities. Still *assuming* the spontaneous symmetry breaking to occur in the ground state, we show how the Nambu-Goldstone boson arises and examine its properties.

In the last part we demonstrate that, under reasonable simplifying assumptions, a symmetry-breaking solution to

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the Schwinger-Dyson equations actually does exist, thus establishing a firm ground for the preceding heuristic arguments. We conclude the paper with a discussion of our results and the future perspective.

II. PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

Our model is defined by the Lagrangian,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & \sum_{j=1,2} (\bar{\psi}_{jL} i \not{\partial} \psi_{jL} + \bar{\psi}_{jR} i \not{\partial} \psi_{jR}) + \partial_\mu \phi^\dagger \partial^\mu \phi \\ & - M^2 \phi^\dagger \phi - \frac{1}{2} \lambda (\phi^\dagger \phi)^2 + y_1 \bar{\psi}_{1L} \psi_{1R} \phi \\ & + y_1 \bar{\psi}_{1R} \psi_{1L} \phi^\dagger + y_2 \bar{\psi}_{2R} \psi_{2L} \phi + y_2 \bar{\psi}_{2L} \psi_{2R} \phi^\dagger. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

The Yukawa couplings $y_{1,2}$ are real without lack of generality. Another remark is in order here. In view of the future application of our idea on the electroweak symmetry breaking, it is necessary that the global symmetry to be spontaneously broken is amenable to gauging. With just a single fermion species there would be an axial anomaly present. While anomaly cancellation is automatic in the standard model due to its particle content, here we have to introduce two fermions with opposite axial charges to remove the anomaly in the Abelian axial current. It should be clear, however, that this minor technical complication does not alter at all the underlying idea.

The Lagrangian Eq. (1) enjoys a global Abelian $U(1)_{V1} \times U(1)_{V2} \times U(1)_A$ symmetry. The two vector $U(1)$'s are associated with separate conservation of the numbers of fermions of the first and second type. The corresponding Noether currents are the well known

$$j_{V1}^\mu = \bar{\psi}_1 \gamma^\mu \psi_1, \quad j_{V2}^\mu = \bar{\psi}_2 \gamma^\mu \psi_2. \quad (2)$$

The axial $U(1)$ transformations of the fermions are tied by the Yukawa coupling to the scalar field. For the Lagrangian to be invariant, it is necessary that the fields transform as

$$\psi_1 \rightarrow e^{+i\theta\gamma_5} \psi_1, \quad \psi_2 \rightarrow e^{-i\theta\gamma_5} \psi_2, \quad \phi \rightarrow e^{-2i\theta} \phi. \quad (3)$$

The axial Noether current has the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} j_A^\mu = & \bar{\psi}_1 \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \psi_1 - \bar{\psi}_2 \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \psi_2 \\ & + 2i[(\partial^\mu \phi)^\dagger \phi - \phi^\dagger \partial^\mu \phi]. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Now the standard tree-level mechanism of spontaneous symmetry breaking corresponds to $M^2 < 0$ in Eq. (1). Then the scalar field, $\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\phi_1 + i\phi_2)$, develops a nonzero ground-state expectation value, which is conveniently chosen to be real, $v \equiv \langle \phi_1 \rangle_0 = (-2M^2/\lambda)^{1/2}$. Consequently, the fermions acquire the masses $m_{1,2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} v y_{1,2}$, ϕ_2 becomes the massless Nambu-Goldstone boson, and $\phi'_1 = \phi_1 - v$ becomes a massive real scalar particle with mass $M_1 = \sqrt{-2M^2}$. The Goldstone boson

ϕ_2 interacts with the fermions by the Yukawa coupling $\frac{m_1}{v} \bar{\psi}_1 i \gamma_5 \psi_1 \phi_2 - \frac{m_2}{v} \bar{\psi}_2 i \gamma_5 \psi_2 \phi_2$.

From now on we set $M^2 > 0$ and investigate the model of Eq. (1) with respect to the possibility of spontaneous symmetry breaking. The scalar field now possesses an ordinary mass term, and there is therefore no condensation and no symmetry breaking at tree level. Rather, if the symmetry is broken in the ground state, it must be a result of the quantum dynamics of the system.

As spontaneous symmetry breaking is a nonperturbative phenomenon, it cannot be achieved at any finite order of perturbation theory. The nonperturbative method we employ here is to look for self-consistent symmetry-breaking solutions to the Schwinger-Dyson equations. We thus temporarily *assume* that there is a solution for which the full fermion propagators have nonvanishing chirality-changing parts, which means nonzero masses of the fermions.

Now let us observe that such a solution induces mixing of ϕ and ϕ^\dagger or, in other words, nonzero correlation function $\langle \phi \phi \rangle$, see Fig. 1. This could have been expected as the field ϕ couples to the axial part of the $U(1)_{V1} \times U(1)_{V2} \times U(1)_A$ symmetry, and once this is broken nothing prevents ϕ and ϕ^\dagger from mixing.

The second observation is that the ‘‘anomalous’’ two-point scalar Green's function $\langle \phi \phi \rangle$ in turn enters the one-loop Schwinger-Dyson equations for the fermion propagators, see Fig. 2. The set of Schwinger-Dyson equations for the fermion and scalar propagators are thus intrinsically coupled and must be solved simultaneously if a symmetry-breaking solution is to be found.

Before we switch to a formal description to come in the next section, we would like to give a more physical picture of what is going on here. Let us for simplicity suppose that the one-particle-irreducible part of the anomalous scalar two-point function $\langle \phi \phi \rangle$ is momentum independent and equal to $-i\mu^2$. The spectrum in the scalar sector is then determined by the quadratic part of the renormalized Lagrangian,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}}^{(0)} = & \partial_\mu \phi^\dagger \partial^\mu \phi - M^2 \phi^\dagger \phi - \frac{1}{2} \mu^{2*} \phi \phi \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi^\dagger. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

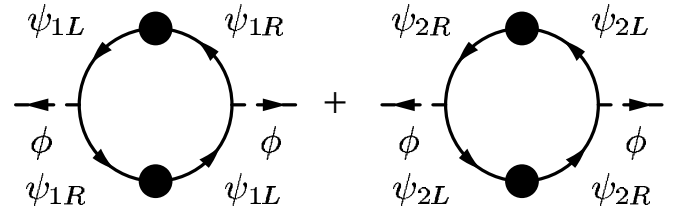


FIG. 1. Mixing in scalar sector induced by the fermion mass terms. The full blobs denote the chirality-changing part of the complete fermion propagator.

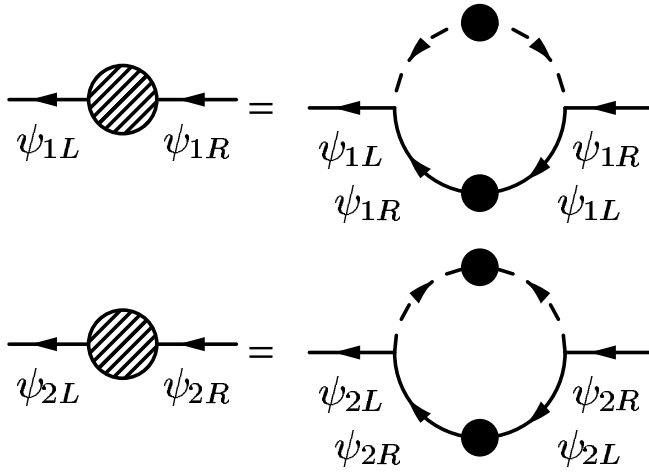


FIG. 2. Chirality changing fermion proper self-energies induced by the scalar mixing.

The nonderivative (mass) part of the Lagrangian is easily diagonalized by a rotation in the $\phi - \phi^\dagger$ space. The spectrum then contains two real spin-0 particles with masses

$$M_{1,2}^2 = M^2 \pm |\mu^2|.$$

The corresponding real fields φ_1 and φ_2 are defined through

$$\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\alpha} (\varphi_1 + i\varphi_2),$$

where the ‘‘mixing angle’’ α is merely given by the phase of the anomalous mass term, $\tan 2\alpha = \text{Im } \mu^2 / \text{Re } \mu^2$.

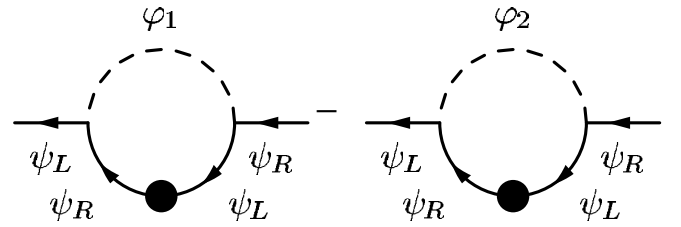


FIG. 3. One-loop SD equation for the fermion self-energy expressed in terms of the physical fields φ_1 and φ_2 .

Note also that the anomalous propagator $\langle \phi \phi \rangle$ is now equal to $\frac{1}{2} e^{2i\alpha} (\langle \varphi_1 \varphi_1 \rangle - \langle \varphi_2 \varphi_2 \rangle)$; that is, the one-loop graphs in Fig. 2 may be replaced with Fig. 3. The difference of scalar propagators significantly improves the convergence of the Schwinger-Dyson kernel.

III. FORMAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. The scalar Nambu doublet

We have seen in the previous section that once chiral symmetry is spontaneously broken the scalar field ϕ develops a nonzero anomalous propagator mixing it with ϕ^\dagger . For the sake of simplicity of the general formulas to come, we introduce a doublet field,

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi \\ \phi^\dagger \end{pmatrix},$$

and the matrix propagator which contains as its entries both normal and anomalous two-point functions of the field ϕ ,

$$iD(x-y) = \langle 0 | T \{ \Phi(x) \Phi^\dagger(y) \} | 0 \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \langle 0 | T \{ \phi(x) \phi^\dagger(y) \} | 0 \rangle & \langle 0 | T \{ \phi(x) \phi(y) \} | 0 \rangle \\ \langle 0 | T \{ \phi^\dagger(x) \phi^\dagger(y) \} | 0 \rangle & \langle 0 | T \{ \phi^\dagger(x) \phi(y) \} | 0 \rangle \end{pmatrix}.$$

Note that this notation is similar to the Nambu formalism frequently used in the theory of superconductivity [2]. It is also quite natural due to its analogy in the fermion sector. There, we could have well introduced two ‘‘normal’’ propagators for the left- and right-handed chiral fields and treated the desired mass term connecting ψ_L with ψ_R as an anomalous part of the propagator. Instead, we work with the Dirac field

$$\psi = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_L \\ \psi_R \end{pmatrix},$$

which incorporates both chiral fields in a single four-component spinor. The chirality-changing part of the fermion propagator is then given by the off-diagonal component of the full Dirac propagator,¹

$$iS(x-y) = \langle 0 | T \{ \psi(x) \bar{\psi}(y) \} | 0 \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \langle 0 | T \{ \psi_L(x) \bar{\psi}_L(y) \} | 0 \rangle & \langle 0 | T \{ \psi_L(x) \bar{\psi}_R(y) \} | 0 \rangle \\ \langle 0 | T \{ \psi_R(x) \bar{\psi}_L(y) \} | 0 \rangle & \langle 0 | T \{ \psi_R(x) \bar{\psi}_R(y) \} | 0 \rangle \end{pmatrix}.$$

¹We work in the chiral basis of the Dirac γ matrices, in which γ_5 is diagonal, and quite deliberately denote by $\psi_{L,R}$ both the two-component Weyl spinors and the four-component Dirac spinors with just the upper two or the lower two entries nonzero. It should be clear from the context which of these two spinors is actually used.

The propagators of ψ_1 and ψ_2 will be denoted as S_1 and S_2 , respectively.

B. The Schwinger-Dyson equations

As already stressed above, spontaneous symmetry breaking cannot be revealed at any finite order of perturbation theory. In order to deal with this nonperturbative effect, we employ the technique of the Schwinger-Dyson equations.

These constitute an infinite system of coupled equations for the Green's functions of the theory. To make them more tractable, it is usual to close the system at a certain order by assuming a convenient ansatz for the higher-point Green's functions. In order to achieve a simple gap equation we neglect all but the two-point connected Green's functions [3]. We are thus left with a self-consistent set of equations for the fermion and scalar propagators, which are depicted diagrammatically in Fig. 4. The double-dashed line represents the Nambu doublet Φ . This symbolic notation is used to stress the fact that the Schwinger-Dyson equations for both the symmetry-preserving and the symmetry-breaking parts of the propagators are represented by Feynman graphs of the same topology and can thus be put in a simple compact form as in Fig. 4.

We do not write down all the formulas that correspond to the Feynman diagrams in Fig. 4. Instead, having in mind our future simplification neglecting all symmetry-preserving radiative corrections, we put explicitly just the expressions for the symmetry-breaking proper self-energies. The upper indices, L or R for the fermion propagators and 1 or 2 for the scalar propagator, specify the matrix elements of the two-by-two matrices for S and D introduced above. The same matrix notation is used for the proper self-energies Σ and Π :

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma_1^{LR}(p) &= iy_1^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} S_1^{RL}(k) D^{12}(k-p), \\ \Sigma_2^{LR}(p) &= iy_2^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} S_2^{RL}(k) D^{21}(k-p), \\ \Pi^{12}(p) &= -iy_1^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \text{Tr}[S_1^{LR}(k) S_1^{LR}(k-p)] \\ &\quad - iy_2^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \text{Tr}[S_2^{RL}(k) S_2^{RL}(k-p)] \\ &\quad + i\lambda \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} D^{12}(k).\end{aligned}\quad (6)$$

Before concluding the discussion of the Schwinger-Dyson equations, let us note that neglecting corrections to the interaction vertices is not all that consistent with the envisaged spontaneous symmetry breaking. In Sec. III C we explain that the coupling of both the fermions and the scalar to the current of the broken symmetry (that is, the axial current) develops a pole due to the intermediate massless Nambu-Goldstone boson state. Now the same is

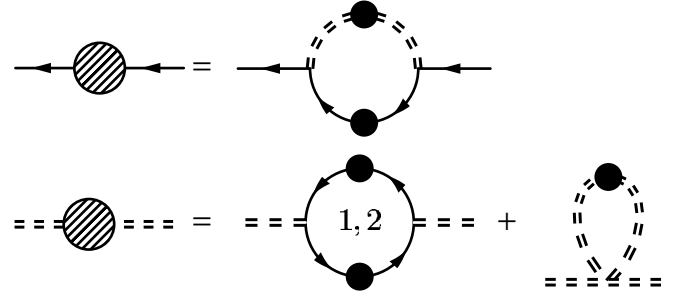


FIG. 4. The diagrammatical representation of the one-loop Schwinger-Dyson equations for the fermion and scalar self-energies. The first line holds for both ψ_1 and ψ_2 . The dashed blobs stand for the proper self-energies, while the solid blobs denote the full propagators. The double-dashed line is for the Nambu Φ doublet.

also true for the (pseudo)scalar Yukawa coupling of the fermion and scalar. As a result, the full Φ propagator should possess a massless pole due to the Nambu-Goldstone boson, with the residuum determined by the factor $\langle 0 | \phi | \pi(q) \rangle$.

Neglecting the vertex corrections therefore means that we are not going to reproduce correctly the whole analytical structure of the propagators. Our set of Schwinger-Dyson equations amounts to resummation of a certain class of Feynman diagrams which, however, is sufficient to discover spontaneous symmetry breaking. In other words, we are looking for spontaneous symmetry breaking in the spectrum of the elementary excitations of the fields $\psi_{1,2}$ and Φ . The discussion of the collective excitations, which of course also manifest themselves in the full propagators, is deferred to Sec. III C.

C. The Ward identities

We now exploit the symmetry properties of the theory. At the classical level, the $U(1)_{V1} \times U(1)_{V2} \times U(1)_A$ invariance of the Lagrangian Π implies the existence of three conserved Noether currents—two vector, see Eq. (2), and one axial, see Eq. (4).

At the level of quantum field theory, the conservation of the vector and axial currents is expressed in terms of the set of Ward identities for the Green's functions containing the current operators. We investigate here the three-point functions with the conserved current and a fermion or scalar pair, respectively.

The vector currents couple only to the fermions, so there is just one nontrivial Ward identity for each, for the vertex functions $G_{V1}^\mu(x, y, z) = \langle 0 | T \{ j_{V1}^\mu(x) \psi_1(y) \bar{\psi}_1(z) \} | 0 \rangle$ and $G_{V2}^\mu(x, y, z) = \langle 0 | T \{ j_{V2}^\mu(x) \psi_2(y) \bar{\psi}_2(z) \} | 0 \rangle$, which have the well-known form

$$\begin{aligned}q_\mu \Gamma_{V1}^\mu(p+q, p) &= S_1^{-1}(p+q) - S_1^{-1}(p), \\ q_\mu \Gamma_{V2}^\mu(p+q, p) &= S_2^{-1}(p+q) - S_2^{-1}(p).\end{aligned}$$

The proper vertex functions $\Gamma_{V_{1,2}}^\mu$ correspond to $G_{V_{1,2}}^\mu$ with full fermion propagators of the external legs cut off.

The axial current, on the other hand, couples to both the fermions and the scalar. There are hence altogether three vertex functions, $G_{A\psi_1}^\mu(x, y, z) = \langle 0|T\{j_A^\mu(x)\psi_1(y)\bar{\psi}_1(z)\}|0\rangle$, $G_{A\psi_2}^\mu(x, y, z) = \langle 0|T\{j_A^\mu(x)\psi_2(y)\bar{\psi}_2(z)\}|0\rangle$, and $G_{A\phi}^\mu(x, y, z) = \langle 0|T\{j_A^\mu(x)\Phi(y)\Phi^\dagger(z)\}|0\rangle$. The corresponding Ward identities read

$$\begin{aligned} q_\mu \Gamma_{A\psi_1}^\mu(p+q, p) &= S_1^{-1}(p+q)\gamma_5 + \gamma_5 S_1^{-1}(p), \\ q_\mu \Gamma_{A\psi_2}^\mu(p+q, p) &= -S_2^{-1}(p+q)\gamma_5 - \gamma_5 S_2^{-1}(p), \quad (7) \\ q_\mu \Gamma_{A\phi}^\mu(p+q, p) &= -2D^{-1}(p+q)\Xi + 2\Xi D^{-1}(p). \end{aligned}$$

The matrix Ξ ,

$$\Xi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix},$$

operates in the $\phi - \phi^\dagger$ space and is quite analogous to γ_5 in the fermion sector.

Before closing the general discussion of the Ward identities, let us remark that the identities of Eq. (7) must hold whether the symmetry is spontaneously broken or not. In both cases they strongly constrain the form of the vertex functions but, particularly if the symmetry is broken, they allow us to visualize the massless collective excitation predicted by the Goldstone theorem, as we will now see.

D. The Nambu-Goldstone boson

Once chiral symmetry is broken, there must exist a massless Nambu-Goldstone boson in the spectrum of the theory, which couples to the Noether current of the broken symmetry. It is the axial current which is broken in our case and, as it couples to both the fermions and the scalar, the Nambu-Goldstone boson must be a collective excitation of both fermions and scalars.

General analytical properties of Green's functions imply the existence of a pole corresponding to an intermediate particle, once the total momentum of a proper subset of external legs approaches the mass shell of the particle [4]. This means that the Nambu-Goldstone boson can be seen as a pole in the vertex functions of the axial current as $q^2 \rightarrow 0$. Its properties are then expressed in terms of the symmetry-breaking self-energies of the fermions and the scalar, which are obtained by solving the set of Schwinger-Dyson equations stated in Sec. III B.

To proceed further, we approximate the proper vertex functions $\Gamma_{A\psi_{1,2}}^\mu$ and $\Gamma_{A\phi}^\mu$ by the sum of the bare vertex and the pole contribution. We follow the analysis of Jackiw and Johnson [5].

The bare vertices are determined by the usual rules of perturbation theory. For the sake of later reference and to show how the Φ notation works, we fix them down in Fig. 5.

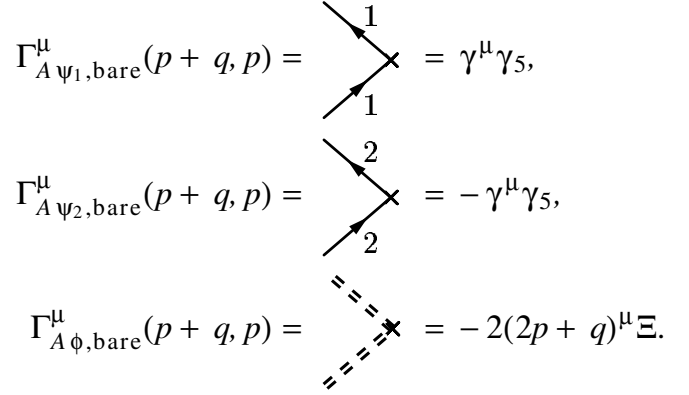


FIG. 5. The bare parts of the proper vertex functions of the axial current. The crosses indicate the axial current. The numbers at the solid lines distinguish between ψ_1 and ψ_2 .

The pole of the vertex functions arises from the propagator of the intermediate Nambu-Goldstone boson, see Fig. 6. The yet unknown effective vertices of the Nambu-Goldstone boson with the fermions and the scalar, to be extracted from the Ward identities (7), are denoted by empty circles in the figures and by $P_{\psi_{1,2}}(p+q, p)$ and $P_\phi(p+q, p)$ in the formulas.

We can now write down the formulas for the pole contributions,

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{A\psi_1,\text{pole}}^\mu &= P_{\psi_1}(p+q, p) \frac{i}{q^2} [I_{\psi_1}^\mu(q) + I_{\psi_2}^\mu(q) + I_\phi^\mu(q)], \\ \Gamma_{A\psi_2,\text{pole}}^\mu &= P_{\psi_2}(p+q, p) \frac{i}{q^2} [I_{\psi_1}^\mu(q) + I_{\psi_2}^\mu(q) + I_\phi^\mu(q)], \\ \Gamma_{A\phi,\text{pole}}^\mu &= P_\phi(p+q, p) \frac{i}{q^2} [I_{\psi_1}^\mu(q) + I_{\psi_2}^\mu(q) + I_\phi^\mu(q)], \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where $I_{\psi_{1,2}}^\mu(q)$ and $I_\phi^\mu(q)$ represent the fermion and scalar

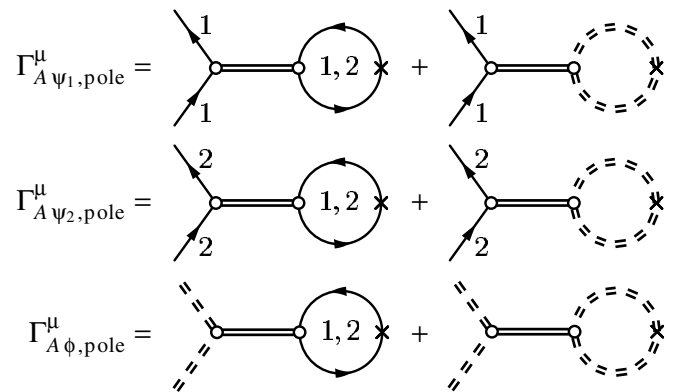


FIG. 6. The pole parts of the proper vertex functions of the axial current. The double solid line represents the Nambu-Goldstone boson and the empty circles its effective vertices with the fermions and the scalar, respectively. Both ψ_1 and ψ_2 can circulate in the closed fermion loops.

loops in Fig. 6. They are given by the equations

$$\begin{aligned}
I_{\psi_1}^\mu(q) &= - \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \text{Tr}[\gamma^\mu \gamma_5 iS_1(k-q)] \\
&\quad \times P_{\psi_1}(k-q, k) iS_1(k), \\
I_{\psi_2}^\mu(q) &= - \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \text{Tr}[-\gamma^\mu \gamma_5 iS_2(k-q)] \\
&\quad \times P_{\psi_2}(k-q, k) iS_2(k), \\
I_\phi^\mu(q) &= \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \text{Tr}[-2(2k-q)^\mu \Xi iD(k-q)] \\
&\quad \times P_\phi(k-q, k) iD(k). \tag{9}
\end{aligned}$$

The difference of the integral prefactors here arises from the different nature of the degrees of freedom circulating in the loops. The -1 is the standard fermion loop factor, while the $\frac{1}{2}$ follows from the fact that by introducing Φ instead of ϕ we have effectively doubled the number of degrees of freedom, which must be compensated for when calculating the trace over a closed loop.

As the loop integrals $I_{\psi_{1,2}}^\mu(q)$ and $I_\phi^\mu(q)$ depend only on a single external momentum q , they are forced by Lorentz covariance to have the form

$$I_{\psi_{1,2}}^\mu(q) = -iq^\mu I_{\psi_{1,2}}(q^2), \quad I_\phi^\mu(q) = -iq^\mu I_\phi(q^2).$$

Inserting this into Eq. (8) and the sum of the bare and the pole contributions into the Ward identities (7), and going onto the Nambu-Goldstone boson mass shell, $q^2 \rightarrow 0$, we arrive at the general formula for the effective vertices,

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{\psi_1}(p+q, p) &= \frac{1}{N} [S_1^{-1}(p+q)\gamma_5 + \gamma_5 S_1^{-1}(p) - \not{q}\gamma_5], \\
P_{\psi_2}(p+q, p) &= -\frac{1}{N} [S_2^{-1}(p+q)\gamma_5 + \gamma_5 S_2^{-1}(p) - \not{q}\gamma_5], \\
P_\phi(p+q, p) &= -\frac{2}{N} [D^{-1}(p+q)\Xi - \Xi D^{-1}(p) \\
&\quad - q \cdot (2p+q)\Xi], \tag{10}
\end{aligned}$$

where the normalization factor N is given by $N = I_{\psi_1}(0) + I_{\psi_2}(0) + I_\phi(0)$. As noted by Jackiw and Johnson [5], the

effective vertices found this way are ambiguous at the order $O(q^2)$, since we have approximated the loop corrections to the full proper vertex functions $\Gamma_{A\psi_{1,2}}^\mu$ and $\Gamma_{A\phi}^\mu$ by their pole parts, and completely neglected other finite contributions.

To complete the calculation of the vertex functions, we must now plug the expressions (10) back into Eq. (9) and solve the resulting system of equations for $I_{\psi_{1,2}}(0)$ and $I_\phi(0)$.

IV. MODEL RESULTS

A. Effective vertices and loop integrals

The results obtained above are fairly general as we have used only very few and weak assumptions like the pole term dominance in the proper vertex functions. On the other hand, it is not easy to draw any concrete results from formulas like Eqs. (9) and (10). To push our conclusions a little bit further, we now make a simplifying assumption that will allow us to finish the calculation.

Since we are looking for spontaneous symmetry breaking, we shall neglect ordinary (symmetry-preserving) renormalization of the fermion and scalar propagators [6] and retain just the symmetry-breaking self-energies. This will enable us to proceed analytically as far as possible. Of course, as soon as one pretends at phenomenological relevance of the obtained results, all radiative corrections must be included, but this is not the aim of the present paper. Here we just wish to *demonstrate* that spontaneous symmetry breaking is possible in a model like Eq. (1).

We thus make the following ansatz for the fermion and scalar propagators:

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{1,2}^{-1}(p) &= \not{p} - \Sigma_{1,2}(p), \\
D^{-1}(p) &= \begin{pmatrix} p^2 - M^2 & -\Pi(p) \\ -\Pi^*(p) & p^2 - M^2 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{11}
\end{aligned}$$

where $\Sigma_{1,2}(p)$ are the Lorentz-scalar chirality-changing proper self-energies, and $\Pi(p)$ is the anomalous proper self-energy of the scalar field.

With this assumption, the effective vertices (10) become

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{\psi_1}(p+q, p) &= -\frac{1}{N} [\Sigma_1(p+q) + \Sigma_1(p)]\gamma_5, & P_{\psi_2}(p+q, p) &= \frac{1}{N} [\Sigma_2(p+q) + \Sigma_2(p)]\gamma_5, \\
P_\phi(p+q, p) &= -\frac{2}{N} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \Pi(p+q) + \Pi(p) \\ -\Pi^*(p+q) - \Pi^*(p) & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{12}
\end{aligned}$$

We can now go on to evaluate the last missing piece, that is, the normalization factors $I_{\psi_{1,2}}(0)$ and $I_\phi(0)$. We substitute for the propagators (11) and the effective vertices (12) in the loop integrals (9), which turn out to be parametrized in terms of the integrals (for the sake of readability, we put the arguments of $\Sigma_{1,2}$ and Π to the lower index),

$$\begin{aligned}
-iq^\mu J_{\psi_1}(q^2) &= 8 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{(k-q)^\mu \Sigma_{1,k}}{k^2 - \Sigma_{1,k}^2} \frac{\Sigma_{1,k} + \Sigma_{1,k-q}}{(k-q)^2 - \Sigma_{1,k-q}^2}, \\
-iq^\mu J_{\psi_2}(q^2) &= 8 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{(k-q)^\mu \Sigma_{2,k}}{k^2 - \Sigma_{2,k}^2} \frac{\Sigma_{2,k} + \Sigma_{2,k-q}}{(k-q)^2 - \Sigma_{2,k-q}^2}, \\
-iq^\mu J_\phi(q^2) &= 8 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{(2k-q)^\mu (k^2 - M^2)}{(k^2 - M^2)^2 - |\Pi_k|^2} \frac{\text{Re}[\Pi_{k-q}^*(\Pi_k + \Pi_{k-q})]}{[(k-q)^2 - M^2]^2 - |\Pi_{k-q}|^2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

With these definitions, the expressions for $I_{\psi_{1,2}}(q^2)$ and $I_\phi(q^2)$ read

$$I_{\psi_{1,2}}(q^2) = \frac{J_{\psi_{1,2}}(q^2)}{N}, \quad I_\phi(q^2) = \frac{J_\phi(q^2)}{N},$$

where the overall normalization factor of the vertices in Eq. (12) is equal to

$$N = \sqrt{J_{\psi_1}(0) + J_{\psi_2}(0) + J_\phi(0)}. \tag{14}$$

Let us finally note that the ansatz (11) also allows us to simplify the Schwinger-Dyson equations (6), whose solution will be the subject of the next section. With the same index notation as above in Eq. (13), Eqs. (6) become

$$\begin{aligned}
\Sigma_{1,p} &= iy_1^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\Sigma_{1,k}}{k^2 - \Sigma_{1,k}^2} \frac{\Pi_{k-p}}{[(k-p)^2 - M^2]^2 - |\Pi_{k-p}|^2}, \\
\Sigma_{2,p} &= iy_2^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\Sigma_{2,k}}{k^2 - \Sigma_{2,k}^2} \frac{\Pi_{k-p}^*}{[(k-p)^2 - M^2]^2 - |\Pi_{k-p}|^2}, \\
\Pi_p &= - \sum_{j=1,2} 2iy_j^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\Sigma_{j,k}}{k^2 - \Sigma_{j,k}^2} \frac{\Sigma_{j,k-p}}{(k-p)^2 - \Sigma_{j,k-p}^2} + i\lambda \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\Pi_k}{(k^2 - M^2)^2 - |\Pi_k|^2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

B. Solution to the Schwinger-Dyson equations

We now wish to demonstrate that the Schwinger-Dyson equations (15) actually do have a nontrivial solution; that is, our mechanism is capable of generating fermion masses dynamically. To that end note that Eqs. (15) constitute a set of coupled nonlinear integral equations for the unknown functions $\Sigma_{1,p}$, $\Sigma_{2,p}$, and Π_p . This is still too complicated to deal with, and we therefore introduce further simplifications. We keep in mind that we are just attempting to break the chiral symmetry dynamically, and do not intend to produce any phenomenological conclusions at this stage.

First, we abandon the λ -term in the last of Eqs. (15). Formally, the advantage of this step is in the fact that Π is then expressed exclusively in terms of the Σ 's. Physically, the symmetry is broken by the strong dynamics of the Yukawa interaction, while the scalar field quartic self-interaction can be later switched on perturbatively. This possibility is in marked contrast with the standard use of a condensing scalar. The $\lambda(\phi^\dagger\phi)$ term in the Lagrangian will become indispensable as a counterterm after including ordinary, symmetry-preserving quantum corrections.

Second, we consider for simplicity just the special case $y_1 = y_2$. The Lagrangian is then invariant under the discrete symmetry $\psi_1 \leftrightarrow \psi_2$, $\phi \leftrightarrow \phi^\dagger$. As far as the induced anomalous scalar self-energy is real, we may assume that

this discrete symmetry is not spontaneously broken and the self-energies Σ_1 and Σ_2 are therefore equal. We are thus left with two coupled equations for Π and just one Σ .

The reduced set of equations may now in principle be solved iteratively. We performed a numerical calculation to estimate the order of magnitude of the generated fermion mass. We used the Euclidean approximation, that is, made a formal Wick rotation of the momenta in Eqs. (15). We made use of the fact that, after canceling the λ -term, the right-hand side of the last of Eqs. (15) depends just on the Σ 's.

We took an initial ansatz for the Σ and used it to calculate the zeroth approximation for the Π . After then, we solved the two coupled equations iteratively. Our results are summarized by the graphs in Fig. 7.

We can see that the Eqs. (15) indeed possess a nontrivial solution. As far as we were able to check, this solution is unique in the sense that it is independent of the initial ansatz for the Σ 's. The self-energies fall down rapidly once the momentum exceeds the bare scalar mass M , thus verifying our assumptions on the convergence of the loop integrals.

It would be perhaps more appropriate to do all the calculations in the Minkowski space as the physical mass lies in the timelike region of momenta. Such a calculation has been performed in Ref. [7].

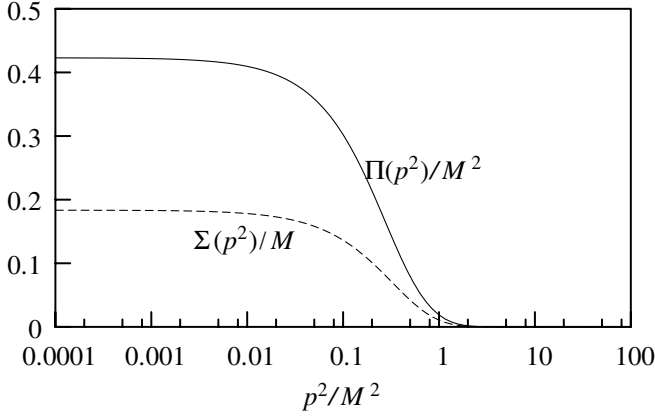


FIG. 7. Results of the numerical computation of the self-energies Σ and Π .

V. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Within simplifying assumptions stated in the text, we have demonstrated that a strong chirally invariant Yukawa interaction of massless fermions with a massive complex scalar field can generate the fermion masses by genuinely quantum (i.e. nonperturbative) loop effects. By the existence theorem this implies the massless pseudoscalar Nambu–Goldstone boson in the spectrum. In this respect our program is very much the same as that of the renown Nambu–Jona-Lasinio (NJL) paper [8].

We believe that a certain appeal of our suggestion is in the ultraviolet finiteness of nonperturbatively calculated quantities. It can be traced to the necessity of a generic coupling of the Schwinger-Dyson equations for the fermion and the scalar field propagators. It is definitely more subtle than the single Schwinger-Dyson equation for the fermion propagator with chirality conserving vector interactions. Technically the $\phi - \phi^\dagger$ mixing results in the difference of propagators of the scalar mass eigenstates

and, consequently, in decent ultraviolet behavior of anomalous (symmetry-breaking) loop integrals.

Vexing assumptions of the present exploratory stage of the development of the model have to be replaced by better ones. In particular, it is desirable to have approximate analytic solutions $\Sigma(p^2)$ and $\Pi(p^2)$ in Minkowski space. The fermion masses $m_{1,2}$ are determined by solving $m_{1,2}^2 = \Sigma_{1,2}^2(p^2 = m_{1,2}^2)$ and by the dimensional argument the solution must have the form

$$m_{1,2} = M f_{1,2}(y_{1,2}). \quad (16)$$

Preliminary numerical analysis in Euclidean space suggests that $\Sigma_{1,2} \rightarrow 0$ for $y_{1,2}$ approaching a (large) critical value. Our numerical calculation gives a rough estimate $y_{\text{crit}} \approx 35$. The formula (16) is to be compared with $m_{1,2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} v y_{1,2}$ of the standard tree-level approach with a condensing scalar.

Possible uses of our model, if harshly justified, are also those of NJL in its contemporary interpretation:

- (i) The apparently non-BCS-like form of the Schwinger-Dyson equations for the fermion propagator (6) is suggestive for modeling fermionic superfluidity with scalar effective degrees of freedom.
- (ii) Non-Abelian generalization and gauging of the NJL model resulted in the past in models of the dynamical mass generation in $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ gauge-invariant electroweak models [9,10]. With our way of treating scalars we plan to follow the same path [11].

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