

A dynamical study of the chirally rotated Schrödinger functional in QCD

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The chirally rotated Schrödinger functional for Wilson-fermions allows for finite-volume, mass-independent renormalization schemes compatible with automatic $O(a)$ improvement. So far, in QCD, the set-up has only been studied in the quenched approximation. Here we present first results for $N_f = 2$ dynamical quark-flavours for several renormalization factors of quark-bilinears. We discuss how these renormalization factors can be easily obtained from simple ratios of two-point functions, and show how automatic $O(a)$ improvement is at work. As a by-product of this investigation the renormalization of the non-singlet axial current, Z_A , is determined very precisely.

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1. Introduction

The Schrödinger functional (SF) is a powerful tool to solve non-perturbative renormalization problems in lattice QCD [1, 2]. The SF, allows for the definition of gauge-invariant, mass-independent, finite-volume renormalization schemes, which are suitable for both non-perturbative and perturbative evaluations. The standard lattice formulation of the SF, however, is in conflict with the argument of automatic $O(a)$ improvement of massless Wilson-fermions in finite volume [3]. The reason is that the SF boundary conditions ($P_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}(1 \pm \gamma_0)$),

$$P_+ \psi(x)|_{x_0=0} = \bar{\psi}(x) P_-|_{x_0=0} = 0, \quad P_- \psi(x)|_{x_0=T} = \bar{\psi}(x) P_+|_{x_0=T} = 0, \quad (1.1)$$

explicitly break chiral symmetry, and therefore the aforementioned argument cannot go through.

In [4, 5], it has been shown that automatic $O(a)$ improvement can be rescued for an even number of quark-flavours by changing the boundary conditions for the fields. The basic idea is to extend the principles of twisted-mass lattice QCD [6] to the SF. More precisely, given the isospin doublets ψ and $\bar{\psi}$ satisfying the standard SF boundary conditions (1.1), one considers the chiral rotation,

$$\psi \equiv R\chi \equiv e^{i\frac{\pi}{2}\gamma_5\frac{\tau^3}{2}}\chi, \quad \bar{\psi} \equiv \bar{\chi}R \equiv \bar{\chi}e^{i\frac{\pi}{2}\gamma_5\frac{\tau^3}{2}}. \quad (1.2)$$

The fields χ and $\bar{\chi}$ so defined satisfy the chirally rotated SF (χ SF) boundary conditions,

$$\tilde{Q}_+ \chi(x)|_{x_0=0} = \bar{\chi}(x) \tilde{Q}_+|_{x_0=0} = 0, \quad \tilde{Q}_- \chi(x)|_{x_0=T} = \bar{\chi}(x) \tilde{Q}_-|_{x_0=T} = 0, \quad (1.3)$$

where $\tilde{Q}_{\pm} \equiv \frac{1}{2}(1 \pm i\gamma_0\gamma_5\tau^3)$, and $\tau^{1,2,3}$ are Pauli matrices. Using the invariance of these boundary conditions w.r.t. the field transformation,

$$P_5: \quad \chi(x) \rightarrow i\gamma_0\gamma_5\tau^3\chi(\tilde{x}), \quad \bar{\chi}(x) \rightarrow -i\bar{\chi}(\tilde{x})\gamma_0\gamma_5\tau^3, \quad \tilde{x} = (x_0, -\mathbf{x}), \quad (1.4)$$

i.e. $[\tilde{Q}_{\pm}, \gamma_0\gamma_5\tau^3] = 0$, automatic $O(a)$ improvement can be recovered [5]. In addition, as the chiral field rotation is a non-anomalous symmetry of the continuum massless QCD action, one can derive universality relations between standard SF and χ SF correlation functions, of the form,

$$\langle O[\psi, \bar{\psi}] \rangle = \langle O[R\chi, \bar{\chi}R] \rangle. \quad (1.5)$$

On the lattice with Wilson-fermions, the above relations are then expected to hold among properly renormalized correlation functions up to discretization effects.

The realization of the χ SF boundary conditions (1.3) with Wilson-fermions is non-trivial, since it requires the non-perturbative renormalization of a boundary counterterm [5]. The presence of this counterterm is a direct consequence of the explicit breaking of flavour and parity symmetry by the regularization. The corresponding coefficient $z_f(g_0)$ is thus finite, and can be fixed by imposing parity/flavour symmetry restoration on a given observable. Once $z_f(g_0)$ is determined and the quark-masses are set to zero, automatic $O(a)$ improvement is at work. This means that all *bulk* $O(a)$ effects are located in P_5 -odd correlation functions, while P_5 -even observables are free from these contributions. Note however that $O(a)$ lattice artifacts are in general not absent from P_5 -even quantities, since the SF boundary conditions introduce additional discretization effects which are not taken care of by the argument of automatic $O(a)$ improvement. On the other hand, these effects can be eliminated by adjusting a couple of $O(a)$ boundary counterterms in the action [5].

So far, the χ SF has only been studied systematically in the context of perturbation theory [7, 8], and in the quenched approximation [9, 10, 11]. These studies confirm the validity of the universality relations (1.5) in the continuum limit, and the realization of automatic $O(a)$ improvement as described above. Following these developments, in this contribution we present first results from dynamical simulations of $N_f = 2$ $O(a)$ -improved massless Wilson-fermions with χ SF boundary conditions. More precisely, expanding on the ideas presented in [9], in Section 2 we discuss how the universality relations (1.5) can be exploited for an efficient computation of several finite renormalization constants of interest. After a short description of the lattice set-up in Section 3, results for the renormalization of the non-singlet vector and axial currents are then presented in Section 4. These determinations together with the study of several P_5 -odd correlators, also provide a non-trivial test for automatic $O(a)$ improvement, as discussed in Section 5. Finally, in Section 6 we present some results for the renormalization of the pseudo-scalar density.

2. Renormalization conditions from universality relations

As a starting point, we consider the standard SF correlation functions defined by [12],

$$f_X(x_0) = -\frac{1}{2}\langle X^{f_1 f_2}(x) \mathcal{O}_5^{f_2 f_1} \rangle, \quad k_Y(x_0) = -\frac{1}{6} \sum_{k=1}^3 \langle Y_k^{f_1 f_2}(x) \mathcal{O}_k^{f_2 f_1} \rangle, \quad f_1 = -\frac{1}{2}\langle \mathcal{O}_5^{f_1 f_2} \mathcal{O}_5'^{f_2 f_1} \rangle. \quad (2.1)$$

Here the fields X and Y_k stand for the quark-bilinears, $X = A_0, V_0, S, P$, and $Y_k = A_k, V_k, T_{k0}, \tilde{T}_{k0}$, defined as usual e.g. $A_\mu^{f_1 f_2} = \bar{\psi}_{f_1} \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \psi_{f_2}$, while the fields $\mathcal{O}_{5,k}$ and \mathcal{O}'_5 are bilinears of non-Dirichlet quark-field components located near the boundaries of the lattice. Note that in the following we imagine a set-up with 2 up- and 2 down-type valence quarks, i.e. $f_1, f_2 = u, u', d, d'$ [9].

Given the SF correlation functions (2.1), through the chiral rotation (1.2) one can easily derive universality relations among the corresponding correlation functions in the χ SF (cf. (1.5)). The latter will be denoted by $g_X^{f_1 f_2}, l_Y^{f_1 f_2}$, and $g_1^{f_1 f_2}$. For example, the following universality relations among P_5 -even correlators can be obtained [9]:

$$f_A = g_A^{uu'} = -ig_V^{ud}, \quad f_P = ig_S^{uu'} = g_P^{ud}, \quad k_V = l_V^{uu'} = -il_A^{ud}, \quad f_1 = g_1^{uu'} = g_1^{ud}. \quad (2.2)$$

Similar relations can be worked out for P_5 -odd correlators [9]:

$$f_V = g_V^{uu'} = -ig_A^{ud}, \quad f_S = ig_P^{uu'} = g_S^{ud}, \quad k_A = l_A^{uu'} = -il_V^{ud}, \quad k_{\tilde{T}} = il_T^{uu'} = l_T^{ud}. \quad (2.3)$$

As already mentioned, universality relations such as (2.2) are expected to hold among properly renormalized lattice correlation functions up to discretization effects. As an example consider the first relation in (2.2), one then expects: $(g_A^{uu'})_R = (-ig_V^{ud})_R + O(a^2) \Rightarrow Z_A g_A^{uu'} = -ig_V^{ud} + O(a^2)$, where \tilde{V}_μ is the (conserved) point-split vector current and Z_A the axial current renormalization constant. In fact, one can turn the tables, and impose the validity of a set of universality relations at finite lattice spacing in order to *define* the finite renormalization constants of interest. In particular, given the relations (2.2) one can define,

$$Z_A^g \equiv \frac{-ig_V^{ud}(x_0)}{g_A^{uu'}(x_0)} \Big|_{x_0=\frac{T}{2}}, \quad Z_A^l \equiv \frac{il_V^{uu'}(x_0)}{l_A^{ud}(x_0)} \Big|_{x_0=\frac{T}{2}}, \quad Z_V^g \equiv \frac{g_V^{ud}(x_0)}{g_V^{ud}(x_0)} \Big|_{x_0=\frac{T}{2}}, \quad Z_V^l \equiv \frac{l_V^{uu'}(x_0)}{l_V^{uu'}(x_0)} \Big|_{x_0=\frac{T}{2}}. \quad (2.4)$$

Likewise for the ratio Z_P/Z_S , for example. To conclude, we remark that these definitions are $O(a)$ improved. First of all, the renormalization constants are obtained from P_5 -even correlation functions, hence *no* bulk $O(a)$ counterterms are needed for their $O(a)$ improvement. Secondly, the $O(a)$ boundary counterterm contributions to the correlation functions in (2.4) cancel out in the ratios.

3. Lattice set-up

In this work we consider $N_f = 2$ $O(a)$ -improved Wilson-quarks with χ SF boundary conditions. The specific fermionic action that we consider is the one described in [8, 9]. The gauge action is also taken to be Wilson's [1], where we set the boundary gauge fields to zero. The lattice geometry is then specified by the condition $T = L$, where L is the lattice spatial extent. Lastly, the $O(a)$ boundary counterterm coefficients are set to their 1-loop perturbative values taken from [7, 8].

Given the details of the χ SF set-up, the renormalization constants (2.4) are now completely specified by choosing the renormalization conditions for the bare parameters. Specifically, we set the bare quark-mass to its critical value m_{cr} by requiring the PCAC mass, $m_{\text{PCAC}} \propto \partial_0 g_A^{ud}(T/2)$, to vanish. The boundary counterterm coefficient z_f instead, is fixed by imposing the P_5 -odd correlator $g_A^{ud}(T/2)$ to be zero. Note that m_{cr} and z_f are defined by these conditions only up to $O(a)$ ambiguities. These ambiguities only affect P_5 -even quantities at $O(a^2)$ [5]. On the other hand, the simultaneous determination of m_{cr} and z_f can become difficult if these $O(a)$ effects are large, since m_{cr} could depend strongly on z_f in this case. We noticed however that once the bulk action is improved, m_{cr} is basically independent from z_f over a wide range of values around the target one. The tuning is then straightforward. This confirms what was observed in quenched studies [9, 10].

To conclude, in the following we focus on the set of bare couplings g_0 defined by $\beta = 6/g_0^2 \in \{5.2, 5.3, 5.5, 5.7\}$. The corresponding lattice resolutions $(L/a)(g_0)$ were then chosen such that $L = 0.6\text{fm}$, within a few per cent. The resulting lattice sizes are given by $L/a = 8, 9.2, 12, 16$. Note that, the results at $L/a = 9.2$ were obtained from an interpolation of the results of three lattices with $L/a = 8, 10, 12$, and fixed $\beta = 5.3$.

4. Determination of Z_A and Z_V

In Figure 1, we present the results for the non-singlet axial and vector current renormalizations, Z_A and Z_V . We show the results corresponding to the χ SF definitions (2.4), together with the standard SF determinations, Z_A^{SF} and Z_V^{SF} .¹ As we can see from the plot, the χ SF results are nicely consistent with the SF determinations. Agreement is generally found within errors. This indicates that the $O(a^2)$ differences between the SF and χ SF determinations are in general much smaller than the errors on the standard SF values. In fact, due to the much higher precision of the χ SF determinations, we can appreciate some difference between the different definitions of $Z_{A,V}$. These $O(a^2)$ effects are small, and at most a couple of per cent at the largest value of g_0 (cf. Figure 2).

To conclude, in Table 1 we collected the preliminary results for $Z_{A,V}$ as obtained from the χ SF. Note that the errors include an estimate of the systematic uncertainties in $Z_{A,V}$ due to the finite precision with which we satisfied the conditions: $m_{\text{PCAC}} = 0$, $g_A^{ud}(T/2) = 0$, and $L = 0.6\text{fm}$.

¹For Z_A^{SF} we used the interpolation formula (B.1) in [13], while for Z_V^{SF} we took the results in Table 1 of [14].

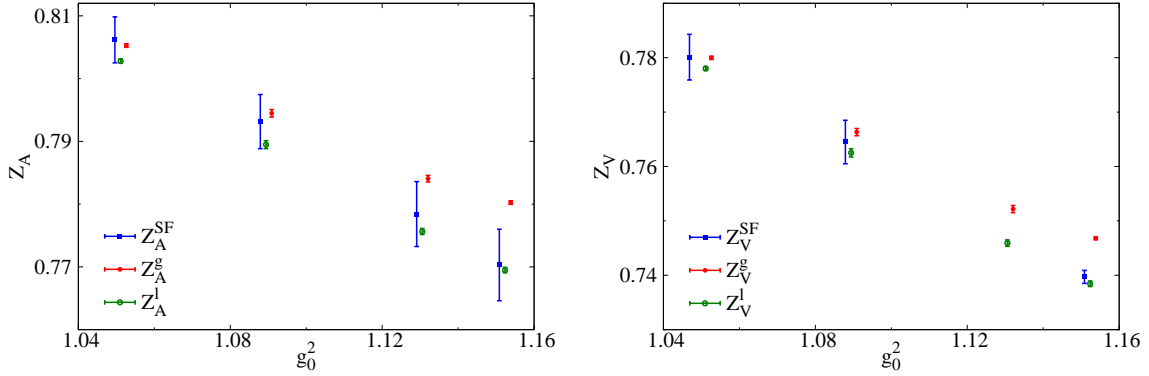


Figure 1: Results from the χ SF and standard SF for the finite renormalization constants Z_A and Z_V . The points have been slightly shifted in g_0^2 in order to improve the readability of the plot.

β	Z_V^g	Z_V^l	Z_A^g	Z_A^l
5.2	0.74680(26)	0.73844(51)	0.78026(28)	0.76950(45)
5.3	0.75217(67)	0.74592(59)	0.78406(52)	0.77564(48)
5.5	0.76632(67)	0.76251(76)	0.79448(59)	0.78948(64)
5.7	0.77997(29)	0.77801(36)	0.80527(29)	0.80280(32)

Table 1: Preliminary results for Z_A and Z_V as obtained from the χ SF.

5. Automatic $O(a)$ improvement

We now address the issue whether automatic $O(a)$ improvement is at work. In this respect in Figure 2 (left panel), we present the approach to the continuum limit of the difference between different definitions of $Z_{A,V}$ (cf. (2.4)). As we can see from the plot, the scaling to the continuum limit is nicely $O(a^2)$ for the lattices considered; the lines on the plot are linear fits in $(a/L)^2$ constrained to zero. This is a clear indication for $O(a)$ improvement being automatic. We note in fact that even though the bulk action is improved, the full $O(a)$ improvement of these determinations would otherwise require the improvement of the corresponding bulk operators entering in the definitions. This is further corroborated by considering the improved axial current $(A_I)_\mu \equiv A_\mu + c_A(g_0) a \tilde{\partial}_\mu P$ [14] in the definition of Z_A^g , thus introducing, $Z_{A_I}^g$. As we can see from the figure, the difference between these two definitions is compatible with zero. We interpret this as the fact that the $O(a)$ counterterm for the axial current contributes only at $O(a^2)$, and that this effect is negligible within errors.

The complementary feature of automatic $O(a)$ improvement is that P_5 -odd correlators are pure $O(a)$ lattice artifacts. In Figure 2 (right panel), we present the continuum limit of several P_5 -odd correlators (cf. (2.3)). As we can see from the plot, all correlators but l_V^{ud} are compatible with zero for the lattice resolutions considered. The l_V^{ud} correlator then vanishes with the expected $O(a)$ scaling, as illustrated by a linear fit in a/L constrained to zero. Note that the sizable $O(a)$ effects in l_V^{ud} are due to the $O(a)$ operator counterterm of \tilde{V}_μ . Indeed, if we consider the improved definition, $(\tilde{V}_I)_\mu \equiv \tilde{V}_\mu + c_{\tilde{V}}(g_0) a \tilde{\partial}_\nu T_{\mu\nu}$, and use the tree-level value, $c_{\tilde{V}} = \frac{1}{2}$, we see that cutoff effects are significantly reduced in $l_{V_I}^{ud}$ compared to l_V^{ud} .

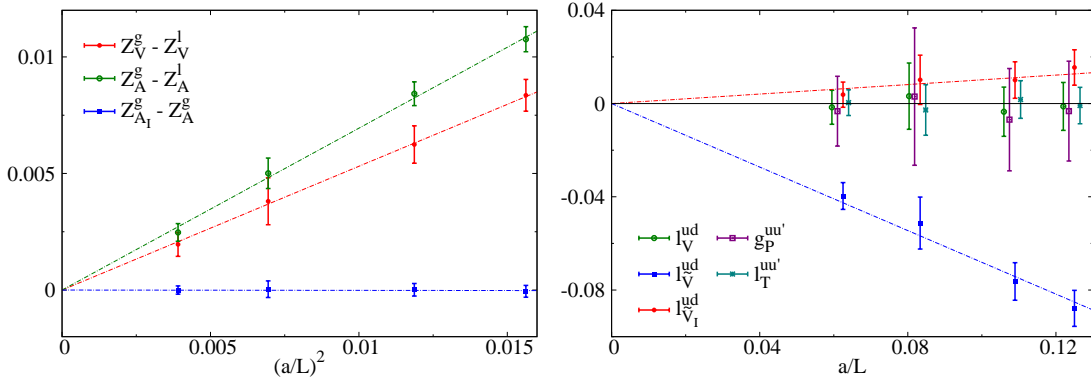


Figure 2: *Left:* Continuum limit extrapolations for differences of different definitions of $Z_{A,V}$. *Right:* Continuum limit extrapolations for several P_5 -odd correlators. Some of the points are shifted in a/L in order to improve the readability of the plot. The continuum limit is reached as $a/L \rightarrow 0$.

6. Renormalization of the pseudo-scalar density

In this section we present some results for the renormalization of the pseudo-scalar density. The renormalization condition we consider, and corresponding step-scaling function are given by,

$$Z_P^{\chi\text{SF}}(g_0, L/a) = c(L/a) \frac{\sqrt{3g_1^{ud}}}{g_P^{ud}(x_0)} \Big|_{x_0=\frac{\tau}{2}}, \quad \Sigma_P^{\chi\text{SF}}(u, a/L) = \frac{Z_P^{\chi\text{SF}}(g_0, 2L/a)}{Z_P^{\chi\text{SF}}(g_0, L/a)} \Big|_{u=\bar{g}^2(L)}, \quad (6.1)$$

where the constant c is chosen such that $Z_P^{\chi\text{SF}}(0, L/a) = 1$, while $\bar{g}^2(L)$ is a given finite-volume coupling. The standard SF definition, Z_P^{SF} , is analogously defined in terms of the corresponding SF correlators (cf. (2.2)). We refer to [15] for the details and the SF results used in this section.

In the left panel of Figure 3, we look at the ratio $Z_P^{\chi\text{SF}}/Z_P^{\text{SF}}$ which should approach 1 in the continuum limit with $O(a^2)$ corrections. Note that L is kept fixed in terms of the finite-volume coupling $\bar{g}^2(L)$, and we consider three lattice-sizes $L/a = 6, 8, 12$, for the continuum extrapolations. As we can see from the plot, the differences between the SF and χSF results are quite small, and in fact below the per cent for all three values of $\bar{g}^2(L)$ considered, even at the smallest resolution L/a .

Similar conclusions can be drawn from the right panel of Figure 3, where we computed the continuum limit extrapolation of the corresponding step-scaling functions at the largest value of $\bar{g}^2(L)$. As we can see from the figure, the continuum values for the SF and χSF nicely agree.

7. Conclusions

In this contribution we have presented first results from dynamical simulations of the chirally rotated Schrödinger functional of QCD. At the little extra cost of renormalizing the boundary conditions, the set-up offers competitive methods for the determination of finite renormalization constants, and it is compatible with automatic $O(a)$ improvement. This makes it an interesting alternative to consider for the renormalization of complicated operators like for example 4-quark operators, and it is a natural framework to solve renormalization problems in twisted-mass lattice QCD at maximal twist.

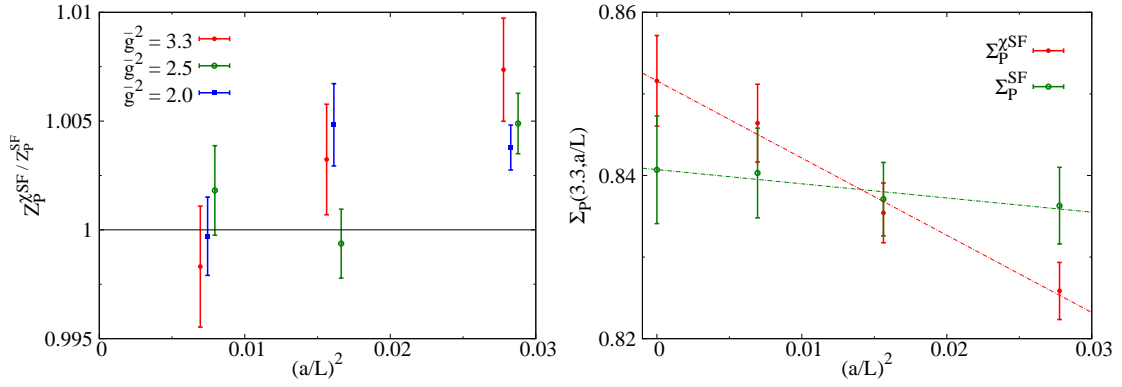


Figure 3: *Left:* Comparison between the renormalization of the pseudo-scalar density as computed with the SF, Z_p^{SF} , and χ SF, $Z_p^{\chi SF}$. *Right:* Continuum limit extrapolation for the corresponding step-scaling functions at $\bar{g}^2 = 3.3$. Note that in [15] a constant fit was considered for the SF results.

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