

Lect 8 Applications of SU(3)

§1 Bilinear-biquadratic spin-chain

We know spin-1 of SU(2) is a triplet rep., and the fundamental rep of SU(3) is also a triplet. What's the relation between them? Consider a spin chain problem (spin-1).

$$H = J \sum_i \left\{ \cos\theta \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_{i+1} + \sin\theta (\vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_{i+1})^2 \right\}$$

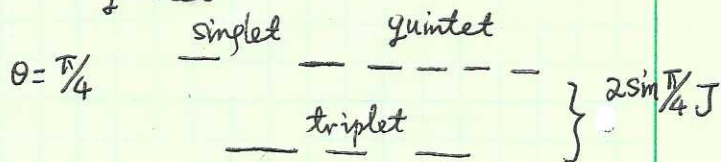
where $S_z = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $S_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $S_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -i & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

if $\theta = 0$, then it's the spin-1 Heisenberg model - 1D Haldan chain

	$\vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_{i+1}$	$(\vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_{i+1})^2$	E	
SU(2)	singlet	-2	4	$-2\cos\theta + 4\sin\theta$
	triplet	-1	1	$-\cos\theta + \sin\theta$
	quintet	1	1	$\cos\theta + \sin\theta$

① At $\theta = \pi/4, 3\pi/4$, we have $E_{\text{singlet}} = E_{\text{quintet}}$

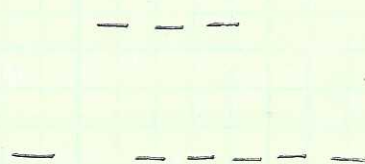
$$3 \times 3 = 6 + 3$$



This energy split pattern

matches $\square \times \square = \square + \square$ of SU(3)

$\theta = 3\pi/4$



Pick up a bond with sites i and $i+1$. On each site, we define state $|a\rangle$, $a=x, y, z$, satisfying $S_a |a\rangle = 0$.

Then $|a\rangle_i$ form a triplet representation of $SU(2)$, and also the fundamental of $SU(3)$.

$$S_z : \lambda_z, \quad S_x : \lambda_7, \quad S_y : -\lambda_5$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_{i+1} = \lambda_2(i) \lambda_2(i+1) + \lambda_7(i) \lambda_7(i+1) + \lambda_5(i) \lambda_5(i+1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_{i+1})^2 &= \lambda_2^2(i) \lambda_2^2(i+1) + \lambda_7^2(i) \lambda_7^2(i+1) + \lambda_5^2(i) \lambda_5^2(i+1) \\ &+ \lambda_2(i) \lambda_7(i) \lambda_2(i+1) \lambda_7(i+1) + \lambda_2(i) \lambda_5(i) \lambda_2(i+1) \lambda_5(i+1) \\ &+ \lambda_7(i) \lambda_5(i) \lambda_7(i+1) \lambda_5(i+1) + (i \leftrightarrow i+1) \end{aligned}$$

$$\lambda_2^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \lambda_8$$

$$\lambda_7^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \\ & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} - \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{6} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} - \frac{\lambda_3}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6} \lambda_8$$

$$\lambda_5^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -1 \end{pmatrix} - \frac{1}{6} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ & -2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} + \frac{\lambda_3}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6} \lambda_8$$

$$\lambda_2^2(i) \lambda_2^2(i+1) + 2 \rightarrow 7 + 2 \rightarrow 5$$

$$= \frac{4}{9} \times 3 + \frac{1}{3} \lambda_8(i) \lambda_8(i+1) + \frac{\lambda_3(i) \lambda_3(i+1)}{4} \times 2 + \frac{1}{12} \times 2 \lambda_8(i) \lambda_8(i+1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &+ \frac{2\sqrt{3}}{3\sqrt{3}} [\lambda_8(i) + \lambda_8(i+1)] + \frac{2}{3} \left[-\frac{\lambda_3(i)}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6} \lambda_8(i) - \frac{\lambda_3(i+1)}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6} \lambda_8(i+1) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\lambda_3(i)}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6} \lambda_8(i) + \frac{\lambda_3(i+1)}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6} \lambda_8(i+1) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{4}{3} + \frac{1}{2} [\lambda_3(i) \lambda_3(i+1) + \lambda_8(i) \lambda_8(i+1)]$$

$$\lambda_2 \lambda_7 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{-1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ & & \end{bmatrix} - \frac{i}{2} \begin{bmatrix} & & \\ i & -i & \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \lambda_4 - \frac{i}{2} \lambda_5$$

$$\lambda_7 \lambda_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & \\ & & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = -\frac{\lambda_4}{2} + \frac{i}{2} \lambda_5$$

hence $\lambda_2(i) \lambda_7(i) \lambda_2(i+1) \lambda_7(i+1) = \left(-\frac{\lambda_4(i)}{2} - \frac{i}{2} \lambda_5(i)\right) \left(-\frac{\lambda_4(i+1)}{2} - \frac{i}{2} \lambda_5(i+1)\right)$
 $+ (i \leftrightarrow i+1) = \left(-\frac{\lambda_4(i+1)}{2} + \frac{i}{2} \lambda_5(i+1)\right) \left(-\frac{\lambda_4(i)}{2} - \frac{i}{2} \lambda_5(i)\right)$

$$= 2 \times \frac{1}{4} \lambda_4(i) \lambda_4(i+1) - 2 \times \frac{1}{4} \lambda_5(i) \lambda_5(i+1) = \frac{1}{2} [\lambda_4(i) \lambda_4(i+1) - \lambda_5(i) \lambda_5(i+1)]$$

$$\lambda_2 \lambda_5 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} & -i \\ i & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{i}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\lambda_6}{2} + \frac{i}{2} \lambda_7$$

$$\lambda_5 \lambda_2 = \begin{pmatrix} & -i \\ i & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} & & \\ & & \\ & & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\lambda_6}{2} - \frac{i}{2} \lambda_7$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_2(i) \lambda_5(i) \lambda_2(i+1) \lambda_5(i+1) + (i \leftrightarrow i+1) = \frac{1}{2} [\lambda_6(i) \lambda_6(i+1) - \lambda_7(i) \lambda_7(i+1)]$$

$$\lambda_5 \lambda_7 = \begin{pmatrix} & -i \\ i & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ & & \\ & & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{i}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\lambda_1}{2} + i \frac{\lambda_2}{2}$$

$$\lambda_7 \lambda_5 = (\lambda_5 \lambda_7)^\dagger = \frac{\lambda_1}{2} - \frac{i \lambda_2}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_5(i) \lambda_7(i) \lambda_5(i+1) \lambda_7(i+1) + (i \leftrightarrow i+1) = \frac{1}{2} [\lambda_1(i) \lambda_1(i+1) - \lambda_2(i) \lambda_2(i+1)]$$

$$\Rightarrow (\vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_{i+1})^2 = \frac{4}{3} + \frac{1}{2} \left[\sum_{a=1,3,4,6,8} \lambda_a(i) \lambda_a(i+1) - \sum_{a=2,5,7} \lambda_a(i) \lambda_a(i+1) \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow H = J \left[\underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sin \theta \sum_{a=1,3,4,6,8} \lambda_a(i) \lambda_a(i+1)}_{\text{real part}} + \underbrace{\left(\cos \theta - \frac{\sin \theta}{2}\right) \sum_{a=2,5,7} \lambda_a(i) \lambda_a(i+1)}_{\text{imaginary matrices}} \right]$$

Apparently at $\sin\theta = \cos\theta$.

$$H = \pm \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} J \sum_{a=1}^8 \lambda_a(i) \lambda_a(i+1).$$

anti-symmetric rank-2 tensor

C-G decomposition: $|a\rangle_i |b\rangle_{i+1} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\epsilon^{abc} |b\rangle_i |c\rangle_{i+1} \right]$

Symmetric rank-2 tensor $\left\{ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [|a\rangle_i |b\rangle_{i+1} + |b\rangle_i |a\rangle_{i+1}] \quad (a \neq b) \right.$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (|x\rangle_i |x\rangle_{i+1} + |y\rangle_i |y\rangle_{i+1} + |z\rangle_i |z\rangle_{i+1})$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|x\rangle_i |x\rangle_{i+1} - |y\rangle_i |y\rangle_{i+1})$
 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} (|x\rangle_i |x\rangle_{i+1} + |y\rangle_i |y\rangle_{i+1} - 2|z\rangle_i |z\rangle_{i+1})$

$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [|x\rangle_i |y\rangle_{i+1} + |y\rangle_i |x\rangle_{i+1}]$
 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [|y\rangle_i |z\rangle_{i+1} + |z\rangle_i |y\rangle_{i+1}]$
 $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [|z\rangle_i |x\rangle_{i+1} + |x\rangle_i |z\rangle_{i+1}]$

$\square \times \square \rightarrow \square + \square$
 $= \square^* + \square$

HW: please verify that for the 2-site triplet

$$|\psi^a\rangle_{i+1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \epsilon^{abc} (|b\rangle_i |c\rangle_{i+1})$$

They transform according to the anti-fundamental Rep of SU(3).

There are another $SU(3)$ symmetric point at $\omega\theta=0$, i.e. $\theta = \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}$.

then
$$H = \pm J/2 \left[\sum_{a=1,3,4,6,8} \lambda_a(i) \lambda_a(i+1) - \sum_{a=2,5,7} \lambda_a(i) \lambda_a(i+1) \right]$$

consider on even lattice sites we choose the fundamental Rep \square , with λ_a on odd lattice sites, we choose the anti-fundamental Rep \square^* , such that

$$\lambda'_a = -\lambda_a \text{ for } a=1,3,4,6,8 \text{ (real), } \lambda'_a = \lambda_a \text{ for } a=2,5,7$$

Then we have

$$H = \mp J/2 \sum_{a=1 \sim 8} \lambda_a(i) \lambda'_a(i+1)$$

under $SU(3)$ transformations (\square for $i \in \text{even}$, \square^* for $i \in \text{odd}$)

in both cases
$$\left. \begin{aligned} U(R) \lambda_a U(R^{-1}) &= \sum \lambda_b D_{ba}^{ad}(R) \\ U^*(R) \lambda'_a U^*(R^{-1}) &= \sum \lambda'_b D_{ba}^{ad}(R) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

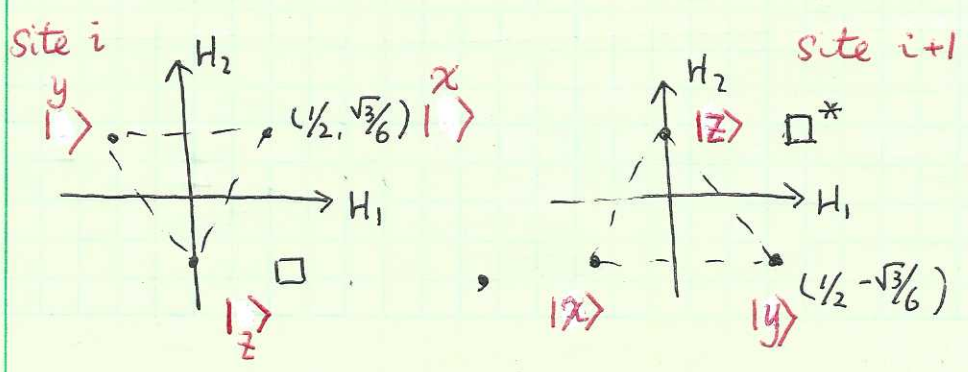
$\Rightarrow H$ is invariant under the staggered $SU(3)$ transformations.

At $\omega\theta=0$, we have degeneracy between triplet and quintet.

i.e

$$\square \times \square^* = \bullet + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \text{ or } 3 \times 3 = 1 + 8$$

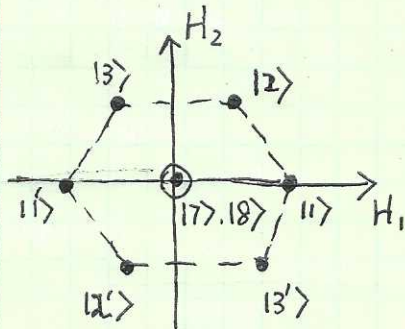
\uparrow \uparrow
 singlet quintet + triplet



the $SU(3)$ for two-sites is generated for $\lambda_a + \lambda'_a$
 or $\exp[i\theta_a(\lambda_a + \lambda'_a)]$.

The singlet is $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \{ |x\rangle_i |x\rangle_{i+1} + |y\rangle_i |y\rangle_{i+1} + |z\rangle_i |z\rangle_{i+1} \}$

The other 8-states:



$$\lambda_3^{\text{tot}} = \lambda_3 + \lambda'_3 = \lambda_3(i) - \lambda_3(i+1)$$

$$\lambda_8^{\text{tot}} = \lambda_8(i) - \lambda_8(i+1)$$

hence for states

$$|17\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [|x\rangle_i |x\rangle_{i+1} - |y\rangle_i |y\rangle_{i+1}]$$

$$|18\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} [|x\rangle_i |x\rangle_{i+1} + |y\rangle_i |y\rangle_{i+1} - 2|z\rangle_i |z\rangle_{i+1}]$$

their $(\lambda_3^{\text{tot}}, \lambda_8^{\text{tot}}) = (0, 0)$

$$|11\rangle = |x\rangle_i |y\rangle_{i+1} \rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}\right) = (1, 0)$$

$$|11'\rangle = |y\rangle_i |x\rangle_{i+1} \rightarrow \left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}\right) + \left(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}\right) = (-1, 0)$$

$$|12\rangle = |x\rangle_i |z\rangle_{i+1} \rightarrow \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}\right) + \left(0, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$$

$$|12'\rangle = |z\rangle_i |x\rangle_{i+1} \rightarrow \left(0, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}\right) + \left(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}\right) = \left(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$$

$$|13\rangle = |y\rangle_i |z\rangle_{i+1} \rightarrow \left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}\right) + \left(0, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}\right) = \left(-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$$

$$|13'\rangle = |z\rangle_i |y\rangle_{i+1} \rightarrow \left(0, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{6}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$$

They are octet - meson states $q\bar{q}$

Phase diagram of the SU(3) (spin-1 chain)

① FM region $\frac{5\pi}{4} \geq \theta \geq \frac{\pi}{2}$, we have $E_{\text{quint}} \leq E_{\text{singlet}}$, ($\theta = \frac{5\pi}{4}$)

$$E_{\text{quint}} \leq E_{\text{triplet}} \quad (\theta = \frac{\pi}{2})$$

② SU(3) line: $\theta = \frac{\pi}{4}$, we have $E_{\text{quint}} = E_{\text{singlet}}$

at $\frac{\pi}{4} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$, we have $E_{\text{triplet}} < E_{\text{quint}} < E_{\text{singlet}}$
this is the gapless phase

③ Between $-\frac{\pi}{4} < \theta < \frac{\pi}{4}$, it's the Halden phase - spin gapped

In this region, E_{quint} is the largest, and the low energy sectors are the singlet and triplet, $E_{\text{singlet}} = E_{\text{triplet}}$ at $\theta = \tan^{-1} \frac{1}{3}$, which is the AKLT point. When $\theta \geq \tan^{-1} \frac{1}{3}$, we have

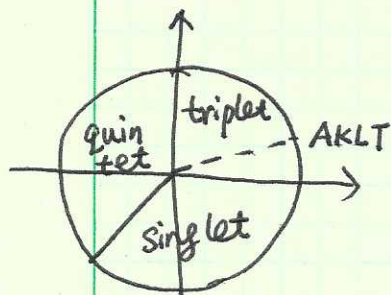
$$E_{\text{triplet}} \leq E_{\text{singlet}} \leq E_{\text{quint}}$$

when $\theta \leq \tan^{-1} \frac{1}{3}$, we have $E_{\text{singlet}} \leq E_{\text{triplet}} \leq E_{\text{quint}}$

④ $\theta = -\frac{\pi}{4}$ is an exact solvable point

(Babujan - Takhtajan chain)

it's a gapless phase



⑤ $\theta \in [-\frac{\pi}{4}, -\frac{3\pi}{4}] \rightarrow$ dimerized phase

The staggered SU(3) lies in $\theta = -\frac{\pi}{2}$

in which the $E_{\text{singlet}} < E_{\text{triplet}} = E_{\text{quint}}$

