

# Charge quantization conditions based on the Atiyah-Singer index theorem

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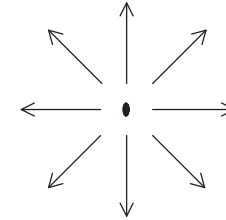
## References

- S. Deguchi and K. Kitsukawa, PTP 115 (2006) 1137, hep-th/0512063.
- S. Deguchi, in preparation.

# 1. Introduction

The magnetic field due to a point magnetic monopole of strength  $g$  situated at the origin is given by

$$\mathbf{B}_g = g \frac{\mathbf{r}}{r^3}, \quad g : \text{magnetic charge.}$$



One of the vector potentials that yield  $\mathbf{B}_g$ , with the relation  $\mathbf{B}_g = \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$ , is found to be

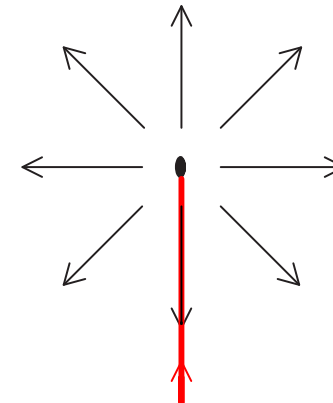
$$\mathbf{A}_g = \frac{g(1 - \cos \theta)}{r \sin \theta} \mathbf{e}_\phi, \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \theta : \text{zenith angle, } 0 \leq \theta \leq \pi \\ \phi : \text{azimuthal angle, } 0 \leq \phi < 2\pi \\ \mathbf{e}_\phi : \text{unit vector in the } \phi\text{-direction} \end{array} \right.$$

This potential has singularities:

- $r = 0$  : monopole singularity
- $\theta = \pi$  : Dirac **string** singularity

Existence of the singularities guarantees

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B}_g = \nabla \cdot (\nabla \times \mathbf{A}_g) (\neq 0) = 4\pi g \delta^3(\mathbf{r}).$$



Now, we consider **quantum mechanics** for a particle of electric charge  $e$  in the monopole background. Then we find the **Dirac quantization condition** (Dirac,1931),

$$eg = \frac{n}{2}, \quad n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots \quad (\text{in natural units } c = \hbar = 1).$$

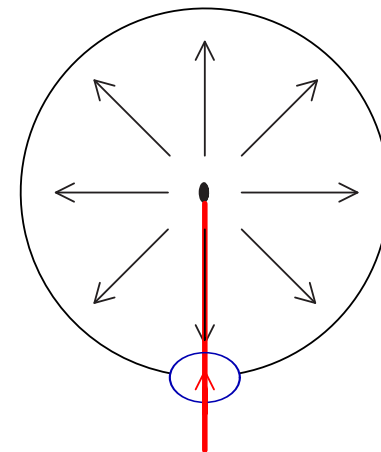
Dirac found this condition in the following way: The Schrödinger equation and its solution are given by

$$-\frac{1}{2m}(\nabla - ie\mathbf{A}_g)^2\psi = E\psi \Rightarrow \psi = \psi_0 \exp\left[ie \int_C d\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{A}_g\right], \quad \begin{array}{l} \psi_0 : \text{wave function} \\ \text{of a free particle} \end{array}$$

The phase of the wave function can change modulo  $2\pi$  under a single turn of the wave function around the Dirac string,

$$e \oint_C d\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{A}_g = 2\pi n.$$

By taking  $C$  to be an extremely small loop and using Stokes' theorem, the integral in the LHS reduces to the total magnetic flux due to  $g$ ; thus,  $e \times 4\pi g = 2\pi n$ .

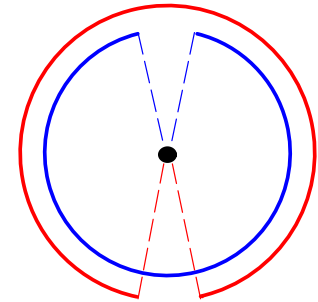


Without treating the Dirac string, Wu and Yang derived  $eg = n/2$  using two gauge potentials (Wu and Yang,1975).

Consider two potentials that give the magnetic field  $\mathbf{B}_g$ ,

$$\mathbf{A}_N = \frac{g(1 - \cos \theta)}{r \sin \theta} \mathbf{e}_\phi \quad \text{for } \theta < \pi - \epsilon : U_N$$

$$\mathbf{A}_S = \frac{g(-1 - \cos \theta)}{r \sin \theta} \mathbf{e}_\phi \quad \text{for } \theta > \epsilon : U_S.$$



The potential  $\mathbf{A}_N$  is regular on the region  $U_N$ , while  $\mathbf{A}_S$  is regular on  $U_S$ . No string singularities in this system.

In the overlap region  $U_N \cap U_S$ , the following gauge transformation is valid:

$$\psi_N = \exp \left[ ie \int_C d\mathbf{r} \cdot (\mathbf{A}_N - \mathbf{A}_S) \right] \psi_S = \exp \left[ ie \int_C d\mathbf{r} \cdot \nabla (2g\phi) \right] \psi_S = e^{2ieg\phi} \psi_S,$$

where  $\psi_N$  and  $\psi_S$  are wave functions on  $U_N$  and  $U_S$ , respectively. Comparing  $\psi_N(2\pi) = e^{4\piieg} \psi_S(2\pi)$  with  $\psi_N(0) = \psi_S(0)$  leads to  $eg = n/2$ .

In Dirac's method and Wu-Yang's method,  $eg = n/2$  is derived from consideration of the Dirac phase factor  $\exp \left[ ie \int d\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{A} \right]$ .

In addition to  $eg = n/2$ , the Schwinger quantization condition (Schwinger,1966) is known,

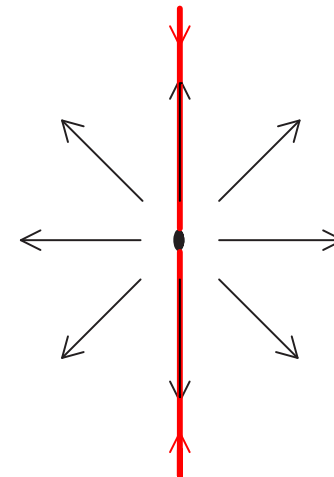
$$eg = n, \quad n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots \quad (\text{in natural units } c = \hbar = 1).$$

Schwinger discovered this condition in study of a relativistic quantum field theory of electric and magnetic charges (J. Schwinger, Phys. Rev. 144 (1966), 1087 ). There, it was verified that the relativistic invariance at the *operator level* is maintained only when the gauge potential involves an infinite string singularity and  $eg = n$  is satisfied.

A suitable potential that gives  $\mathbf{B}_g$  is

$$\mathbf{A}_{\text{Schwinger}} = \frac{g(-\cos\theta)}{r \sin\theta} \mathbf{e}_\phi.$$

This potential has singularities at both the north and south poles.



## In the present work,

- We derive the charge quantization conditions  $eg = n/2$  and  $eg = n$  by utilizing the **Atiyah-Singer index theorem** in two dimensions.
- We treat the Dirac potentials  $\mathbf{A}_N$ ,  $\mathbf{A}_S$  and the Schwinger potential  $\mathbf{A}_{\text{Schwinger}}$  in a unified manner. This can be done by taking

$$\mathbf{A}_\kappa = \frac{g(\kappa - \cos \theta)}{r \sin \theta} \mathbf{e}_\phi, \quad \mathbf{A}_\kappa = \begin{cases} \mathbf{A}_N & \text{for } \kappa = 1 \\ \mathbf{A}_S & \text{for } \kappa = -1 \\ \mathbf{A}_{\text{Schwinger}} & \text{for } \kappa = 0 \end{cases}$$

## 2. Atiyah-Singer index theorem in two dimensions (Atiyah and Singer, 1968)

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a two-dimensional compact manifold. In terms of local coordinates  $(q^\alpha)$  ( $\alpha = 1, 2$ ) on  $\mathcal{M}$ , the Dirac operator is expressed as

$$i\mathcal{D} \equiv i\sigma_a e_a^\alpha D_\alpha \quad (a, \alpha = 1, 2), \quad D_\alpha \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\alpha} + \frac{i}{2}\omega_\alpha \sigma_3 - ieA_\alpha.$$

Here  $\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3$  are the Pauli matrices,  $e_a^\alpha$  is an inverse zweibein on  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $\omega_\alpha$  is a spin connection in two dimensions,  $A_\alpha$  is a Yang-Mills field, and  $e$  is a coupling constant.

Consider the positive chirality zero-modes  $\varphi_{\nu_+}^+$  ( $\nu_+ = 1, \dots, n_+$ ) and the negative chirality zero-modes  $\varphi_{\nu_-}^-$  ( $\nu_- = 1, \dots, n_-$ ) of  $i\mathcal{D}$ , characterized by

$$i\mathcal{D}\varphi_{\nu_\pm}^\pm = 0, \quad \sigma_3\varphi_{\nu_\pm}^\pm = \pm\varphi_{\nu_\pm}^\pm,$$

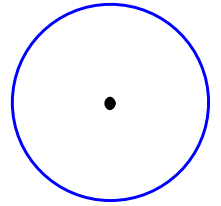
where  $n_+$  ( $n_-$ ) denotes the number of positive (negative) chirality zero-modes. Then, the Atiyah-Singer index theorem in two dimensions reads

$$n_+ - n_- = \frac{e}{4\pi} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^2q \operatorname{tr} \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\beta}$$

where  $F_{\alpha\beta} \equiv \partial_\alpha A_\beta - \partial_\beta A_\alpha - ie[A_\alpha, A_\beta]$ , and  $\operatorname{tr}$  is the trace over the gauge group.

Now, we consider the case in which  $\mathcal{M} = S^2$  and gauge group =  $U(1)$ . Then the Atiyah-Singer index theorem reads, in the coordinates  $(q^1, q^2) = (\theta, \phi)$ ,

$$\mathbf{n}_+ - \mathbf{n}_- = \frac{e}{4\pi} \int_{S^2} d\theta d\phi \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} F_{\alpha\beta}, \quad F_{\alpha\beta} \equiv \partial_\alpha A_\beta - \partial_\beta A_\alpha.$$



Also, we choose the monopole gauge potential  $\mathbf{A}_\kappa$ ; in a component form, it is written as

$$A_a = \delta_{a2} \frac{g(\kappa - \cos \theta)}{r \sin \theta} \quad \text{in the local orthonormal frame,}$$

$$A_\alpha = e_\alpha^a A_a = \delta_{\alpha 2} g(\kappa - \cos \theta) \quad \text{in the general coordinates.}$$

Accordingly, it follows that  $F_{ab} = \epsilon_{ab} \frac{g}{r^2}$  and  $F_{\alpha\beta} = \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} g \sin \theta$ . The Atiyah-Singer index theorem reduces to

$$\mathbf{n}_+ - \mathbf{n}_- = 2eg$$

This seems to be a charge quantization condition. *But*, at this stage, we don't know what numbers the LHS may take: **all integers or even numbers or some particular numbers?** In order to know possible numbers in the LHS, we need to solve  $i\mathcal{D}\varphi = 0$ .



### 3. Solving the massless Dirac equation

The massless Dirac equation  $i\mathcal{D}\varphi = 0$  can be written in a matrix form,

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \nabla_\theta - \frac{i}{\sin\theta} \nabla_\phi \\ \nabla_\theta + \frac{i}{\sin\theta} \nabla_\phi & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u^+(\theta, \phi) \\ u^-(\theta, \phi) \end{pmatrix} = 0, \quad \varphi \equiv \begin{pmatrix} u^+ \\ u^- \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$\nabla_\theta \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial\theta} + \frac{1}{2} \cot\theta, \quad \nabla_\phi \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} - ieg(\kappa - \cos\theta).$$

Because of the periodicity in  $\phi$ ,  $u^\pm$  takes the form  $u^\pm(\theta, \phi) = v^\pm(\theta) \exp(im_\pm\phi)$ . Here  $m_+$  and  $m_-$  are half-integers, that is,  $m_+, m_- = \pm\frac{1}{2}, \pm\frac{3}{2}, \dots$ , because the spinor field  $\varphi$  has to change sign under a  $2\pi$  rotation in  $\phi$ . The differential equation in  $\theta$  is obtained as

$$\left[ \frac{d}{d\theta} + \left( \frac{1}{2} \mp eg \right) \cot\theta \mp \frac{m_\pm - eg\kappa}{\sin\theta} \right] v^\pm(\theta) = 0.$$

The solutions of this equation are readily found to be

$$v_{m_\pm}^\pm(\theta) = \left( \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \right)^{s_{m_\pm}^\pm} \left( \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \right)^{c_{m_\pm}^\pm}.$$

Here the constants  $s_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm}$  and  $c_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm}$  are defined by

$$s_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm} \equiv \pm\{m_{\pm} - eg(\kappa - 1)\} - \frac{1}{2}, \quad c_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm} \equiv \mp\{m_{\pm} - eg(\kappa + 1)\} - \frac{1}{2}.$$

The solution  $v_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm}(\theta)$  diverges at neither  $\theta = 0$  nor  $\pi$ , **if and only if**  $s_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm}, c_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm} \geq 0$ .

- The conditions  $s_{m_{+}}^{+}, c_{m_{+}}^{+} \geq 0$  can be expressed as

$$\frac{1}{2} + eg(\kappa - 1) \leq m_{+} \leq -\frac{1}{2} + eg(\kappa + 1) \Rightarrow eg \geq \frac{1}{2}.$$

- The conditions  $s_{m_{-}}^{-}, c_{m_{-}}^{-} \geq 0$  can be expressed as

$$\frac{1}{2} + eg(\kappa + 1) \leq m_{-} \leq -\frac{1}{2} + eg(\kappa - 1) \Rightarrow eg \leq -\frac{1}{2}.$$

The conditions  $s_{m_{+}}^{+}, c_{m_{+}}^{+} \geq 0$  and the conditions  $s_{m_{-}}^{-}, c_{m_{-}}^{-} \geq 0$  are never satisfied simultaneously with a given  $eg$ . The possible solutions of  $i\mathcal{D}\varphi = 0$  are restricted to

$$\varphi_{m_{+}}^{+} = \begin{pmatrix} u_{m_{+}}^{+} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ for } eg \geq \frac{1}{2}, \quad \varphi_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm} = 0 \text{ for } |eg| < \frac{1}{2}, \quad \varphi_{m_{-}}^{-} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ u_{m_{-}}^{-} \end{pmatrix} \text{ for } eg \leq -\frac{1}{2},$$

where  $u_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm} = v_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm}(\theta) \exp(im_{\pm}\phi)$ . The chirality condition  $\sigma_3 \varphi_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm} = \pm \varphi_{m_{\pm}}^{\pm}$  is satisfied.

#### 4. Count of zero-modes and derivation of charge quantization conditions

First, consider the case  $\kappa = 1$ . The inequality for  $m_+$  and that for  $m_-$  read

$$\frac{1}{2} \leq m_+ \leq -\frac{1}{2} + 2eg, \quad \frac{1}{2} + 2eg \leq m_- \leq -\frac{1}{2}.$$

Suppose that  $eg \left( \geq \frac{1}{2} \right)$  is in the interval  $\frac{n}{2} \leq eg < \frac{n+1}{2}$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ). Because  $m_+$  takes half-integer values, the allowed values of  $m_+$  are seen to be

$$m_+ = \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{5}{2}, \dots, \frac{2n-1}{2} \Rightarrow \mathbf{n}_+ \equiv \#(\varphi_{m_+}^+) = n, \quad \text{while } \mathbf{n}_- = 0.$$

Next suppose that  $eg \left( \leq -\frac{1}{2} \right)$  is in the interval  $-\frac{n+1}{2} < eg \leq -\frac{n}{2}$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ).

Because  $m_-$  also takes half-integer values, the allowed values of  $m_-$  are seen to be

$$m_- = -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}, -\frac{5}{2}, \dots, -\frac{2n-1}{2} \Rightarrow \mathbf{n}_- \equiv \#(\varphi_{m_-}^-) = n, \quad \text{while } \mathbf{n}_+ = 0.$$

Therefore the AS index theorem  $\mathbf{n}_+ - \mathbf{n}_- = 2eg$  gives

$$n = 2eg \quad \text{for } eg \geq \frac{1}{2}, \quad 0 = 2eg \quad \text{for } |eg| < \frac{1}{2}, \quad -n = 2eg \quad \text{for } eg \leq -\frac{1}{2}.$$

The three relations obtained here,

$$n = 2eg \text{ for } eg \geq \frac{1}{2}, \quad 0 = 2eg \text{ for } |eg| < \frac{1}{2}, \quad -n = 2eg \text{ for } eg \leq -\frac{1}{2},$$

are brought together in the form

$$eg = \frac{n}{2}, \quad n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots .$$

This is precisely the **Dirac quantization condition**.

In the case  $\kappa = -1$ , we have the Dirac quantization condition *again*. This is quite natural, because the case  $\kappa = -1$  is a mirror image of the case  $\kappa = 1$ .

Finally, consider the case  $\kappa = 0$ . The inequality for  $m_+$  and that for  $m_-$  read

$$\frac{1}{2} - eg \leq m_+ \leq -\frac{1}{2} + eg, \quad \frac{1}{2} + eg \leq m_- \leq -\frac{1}{2} - eg.$$

When  $eg$  is in the interval  $\frac{1}{2} \leq eg < 1$ , there are no allowed values of  $m_+$ . When  $eg (\geq 1)$  is in the interval  $n \leq eg < n + 1$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ), the allowed values of  $m_+$  are found to be

$$m_+ = \pm \frac{1}{2}, \pm \frac{3}{2}, \pm \frac{5}{2}, \dots, \pm \frac{2n-1}{2} \Rightarrow \mathbf{n}_+ \equiv \#(\varphi_{m_+}^+) = 2n, \text{ while } \mathbf{n}_- = 0.$$

When  $eg$  is in the interval  $-1 < eg \leq -\frac{1}{2}$ , there are no allowed values of  $m_-$ . When  $eg (\leq -1)$  is in the interval  $-(n+1) < eg \leq -n$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ), the allowed values of  $m_-$  are found to be

$$m_- = \pm \frac{1}{2}, \pm \frac{3}{2}, \pm \frac{5}{2}, \dots, \pm \frac{2n-1}{2} \Rightarrow \mathbf{n}_- \equiv \#(\varphi_{m_-}^-) = 2n, \text{ while } \mathbf{n}_+ = 0.$$

Therefore, in this case, the AS index theorem  $\mathbf{n}_+ - \mathbf{n}_- = 2eg$  gives

$$2n = 2eg \text{ for } eg \geq 1, \quad 0 = 2eg \text{ for } |eg| < 1, \quad -2n = 2eg \text{ for } eg \leq -1.$$

The three relations obtained here,

$$2n = 2eg \text{ for } eg \geq 1, \quad 0 = 2eg \text{ for } |eg| < 1, \quad -2n = 2eg \text{ for } eg \leq -1,$$

are brought together in the form

$$eg = n, \quad n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

This is precisely the [Schwinger quantization condition](#).

## 5. Atiyah-Singer Index theorem in the Yang-Mills-Higgs system

Let  $A_\alpha$  be a Yang-Mills field on the two-dimensional manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  and let  $\Phi$  be an adjoint scalar field on  $\mathcal{M}$ . The gauge group is now assumed to be  $SU(2)$ . The fields  $A_\alpha$  and  $\Phi$  are thus expanded as

$$A_\alpha = A_\alpha^i \tau_i + A_\alpha^3 \tau_3 \quad (i = 1, 2), \quad \Phi = \phi^i \tau_i + \phi^3 \tau_3,$$

where  $\tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_3$  are the Pauli matrices. We now impose the normalization condition  $\text{tr}(\Phi^2) = 2$ , or equivalently  $(\phi^1)^2 + (\phi^2)^2 + (\phi^3)^2 = 1$ . Then,  $\Phi$  can be diagonalized as

$$v^\dagger \Phi v = \tau_3 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Phi = v \tau_3 v^\dagger,$$

with a  $2 \times 2$  unitary matrix  $v (\in SU(2))$ . Using  $A_\alpha, \Phi$  and  $\Psi^i \equiv v \tau_i v^\dagger$ , we define the vector field

$$A_\alpha^\perp \equiv A_\alpha - \frac{1}{2e} \epsilon_{ij3} \text{tr}(\Psi^i D_\alpha \Phi) \Psi^j,$$

where  $D_\alpha \Phi \equiv \partial_\alpha \Phi - i \frac{e}{2} [A_\alpha, \Phi]$ . Furthermore we define the Dirac operator

$$i\mathcal{D}^\perp \equiv i\sigma_a e_a^\alpha D_\alpha^\perp, \quad D_\alpha^\perp \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\alpha} + \frac{i}{2} \omega_\alpha \sigma_3 - i \frac{e}{2} A_\alpha^\perp.$$

Consider the chirality zero-modes  $\varphi_{\nu_{t,s}}^{t,s}$  ( $t, s = +, -$  ;  $\nu_{t,s} = 1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_{t,s}$ ) of  $i\mathcal{D}^\perp$ , characterized by

$$i\mathcal{D}^\perp \varphi_{\nu_{t,s}}^{t,s} = 0, \quad (\Phi \otimes \sigma_3) \varphi_{\nu_{t,s}}^{t,s} = ts \varphi_{\nu_{t,s}}^{t,s}. \quad \begin{cases} t : \text{eigenvalue of } \Phi \\ s : \text{eigenvalue of } \sigma_3 \end{cases}$$

Here  $\mathbf{n}_{t,s}$  denotes the number of chirality zero-modes specified by  $(t, s)$ .

We can prove the **AS index theorem in the 2-dimensional YMH system**, i.e.

$$\mathbf{n}_{++} - \mathbf{n}_{+-} - \mathbf{n}_{-+} + \mathbf{n}_{--} = \frac{e}{4\pi} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^2q \epsilon^{\alpha\beta} \mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta},$$

with

$$\mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[ \Phi F_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{i}{2e} \Phi (D_\alpha \Phi D_\beta \Phi - D_\beta \Phi D_\alpha \Phi) \right],$$

where  $F_{\alpha\beta} \equiv \partial_\alpha A_\beta - \partial_\beta A_\alpha - i \frac{e}{2} [A_\alpha, A_\beta]$ , and  $\text{tr}$  is the trace over the gauge group.

Note here that  $\mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta}$  is precisely the **'t Hooft tensor** in two-dimensions.



In the case of  $\mathcal{M} = S^2$ , the magnetic charge in the YMH system is defined by

$$g \equiv \frac{1}{8\pi} \int_{S^2} d^2q \epsilon^{\alpha\beta} \mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{S^2} \mathcal{F}.$$

With this  $g$ , the AS index theorem in the YMH system can be expressed as

$$\mathbf{n}_{++} - \mathbf{n}_{+-} - \mathbf{n}_{-+} + \mathbf{n}_{--} = 2eg$$

In the case of  $\mathcal{M} = S^2$ , there is some evidence that  $\mathbf{n}_{++} = \mathbf{n}_{--}$  and  $\mathbf{n}_{+-} = \mathbf{n}_{-+}$ . If it is justified, the AS index theorem takes the form

$$\mathbf{n}_{++} - \mathbf{n}_{+-} = eg.$$

According to an analysis made by [Arafune, Freund and Goebel in 1974](#), which is based on the *homotopy theory*, the charge quantization in the YMH system is determined to be

$$eg = n, \quad n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

The AS index theorem discussed here is compatible with this charge quantization.

## 6. Summary

- We have derived *both* the charge quantization conditions  $eg = n/2$  and  $eg = n$  by using the Atiyah-Singer index theorem in two dimensions.
- The *difference* between the Dirac and Schwinger quantization conditions simply results from the fact that

$$\begin{aligned} & \#(\text{zero-modes in the case } \kappa = 0, \text{ Schwinger formalism}) \\ &= 2 \times \#(\text{zero-modes in the case } \kappa = \pm 1, \text{ Dirac formalism}) \end{aligned}$$

- Our approach requires neither the classical notion of paths around a string singularity nor the concept of patches and sections.
- The charge quantization conditions are regarded as the necessary and sufficient conditions that zero-modes of the Dirac operator exist and the Atiyah-Singer index-theorem in two dimensions is valid.
- We have generalized the Atiyah-Singer index theorem in two dimensions into the Yang-Mills-Higgs system. This theorem appears to be consistent with the charge quantization condition  $eg = n$  found by Arafune, Freund and Goebel.