

Reducing Residual Mass of Domain-Wall Fermions using Machine Learning

Shunsuke Yasunaga^{1,2}

Kenta Yoshimura^{1,2}, Akio Tomiya^{2,3,4}, and Yuki Nagai⁵

¹Institute of Science Tokyo

²RIKEN R-CCS

³Tokyo Woman's Christian University

⁴Kyoto University

⁵The University of Tokyo

The 43rd International Symposium on Lattice Field Theory (Lattice 2026)
University of Maryland, 2026/7/27

Research overview

Scope of this talk

This talk is about **chiral symmetry in lattice QCD**:
domain-wall fermions are used as chirally symmetric discretization for QCD.

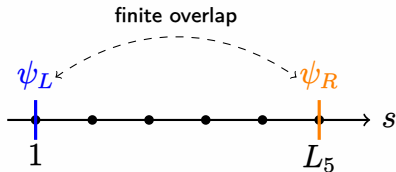
Main issue

At finite fifth-dimensional extent L_5 , the overlap fermion is approximated, and a small residual chiral-symmetry violation remains.

We set the fifth-dimensional parameters with machine learning.

Domain-wall fermions at finite fifth dimension

Domain-wall fermions introduce an auxiliary fifth dimension.



- Left- and right-handed modes are localized on opposite boundaries.
- In the limit $L_5 \rightarrow \infty$, the two boundaries decouple.
- At finite L_5 , the modes slightly mix.

Can we reduce violation of chiral symmetry at fixed L_5 without substantially increasing computational cost?

Domain-wall to overlap fermion

At finite L_5 , the effective four-dimensional boundary operator is

$$D_4 = \frac{1 + m_q}{2} + \frac{1 - m_q}{2} \gamma_5 \varepsilon_{L_5}(\{H_s\}),$$

where the finite- L_5 sign-function approximation is

$$\varepsilon_{L_5}(\{H_s\}) = \frac{1 - \prod_{s=1}^{L_5} T_s(H_s)}{1 + \prod_{s=1}^{L_5} T_s(H_s)}, \quad T_s(H_s) = \frac{1 - H_s}{1 + H_s}, \quad H_s = \gamma_5 \frac{(b_s + c_s) D_{\text{Wilson}}}{2 + (b_s - c_s) D_{\text{Wilson}}}.$$

$$L_5 \rightarrow \infty : \quad \varepsilon_{L_5}(H) \rightarrow \text{sgn}(H), \quad D_4 \rightarrow D_{\text{ov}}.$$

Parameters b_s, c_s tune the chiral symmetry.

Previous choices of b_s and c_s

$$H_s = \gamma_5 \frac{(b_s + c_s) D_{\text{Wilson}}}{2 + (b_s - c_s) D_{\text{Wilson}}}.$$

Shamir

$$b_s = 1, \quad c_s = 0$$

Fixed
coefficients.

Optimal DWF

$$b_s + c_s = \omega_s$$

ω_s is determined by
Zolotarev approx.

Möbius DWF

$$b_s = b, \quad c_s = c$$

are independent on s .
(More generally, s -dependent
coefficients are allowed.)

This work

$\{b_s, c_s\}$ are
trainable by
machine learning.

Shamir, Nucl. Phys. B 406, 90 (1993).

Chen and Chiu, Phys. Rev. D 86, 094508 (2012).

Brower, Neff, and Orginos, Comput. Phys. Commun. 220, 1 (2017).

Machine learning as parameter optimization

We optimize parameters $\theta = \{b_1, \dots, b_{L_5}, c_1, \dots, c_{L_5}\}$ by machine learning

Present method: gradient-based optimization

Starting from an initial parameter set, we update

$$\theta^{(n+1)} = \theta^{(n)} - \eta \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}.$$

- The gradient is calculated from the domain-wall operator.
- We use Adam to stabilize the stochastic updates.
- No neural network is used at this stage.

Loss function: residual mass

The training target is the residual mass evaluated with noise vectors,

$$m_{\text{res}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\text{Re}\langle \text{Tr } D_4^{-1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \rangle}{\langle \text{Tr}(D_4^\dagger D_4(\boldsymbol{\theta}))^{-1} \rangle} - m_q.$$

Y.-C. Chen and T.-W. Chiu, Phys. Rev. D **86**, 094508 (2012).

The traces are estimated stochastically,

$$\text{Tr } \mathcal{O} \simeq \frac{1}{N_\eta} \sum_{k=1}^{N_\eta} \eta_k^\dagger \mathcal{O} \eta_k.$$

Loss function

$$\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2} [m_{\text{res}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})]^2.$$

Gradient of the loss function

For $r_s = b_s$ or c_s ,

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial r_s} = m_{\text{res}} \frac{\partial m_{\text{res}}}{\partial r_s}.$$

The required inverse-operator derivative is

$$\frac{\partial D_5^{-1}}{\partial r_s} = -D_5^{-1} \frac{\partial D_5}{\partial r_s} D_5^{-1}.$$

For the fifth-dimensional coefficients,

$$\frac{\partial (D_5)_{t,u}}{\partial b_s} = \delta_{s,t} \delta_{t,u} D_{\text{Wilson}}, \quad \frac{\partial (D_5)_{t,u}}{\partial c_s} = \delta_{s,t} F_{t,u} D_{\text{Wilson}}.$$

Optimization workflow

- 1 Prepare gauge configuration.
- 2 Perform one standard HMC trajectory.
- 3 Estimate gradient of the loss function.
- 4 Update $\{b_s, c_s\}$ using Adam.
- 5 Repeat 2 – 4.
- 6 Measure the plateau value of $R(t)$:

$$R(t) = \frac{\sum_{\mathbf{x}} \langle J_{\text{mid}}(\mathbf{x}, t) J_{\text{edge}}(0) \rangle}{\sum_{\mathbf{x}} \langle J_{\text{edge}}(\mathbf{x}, t) J_{\text{edge}}(0) \rangle}.$$

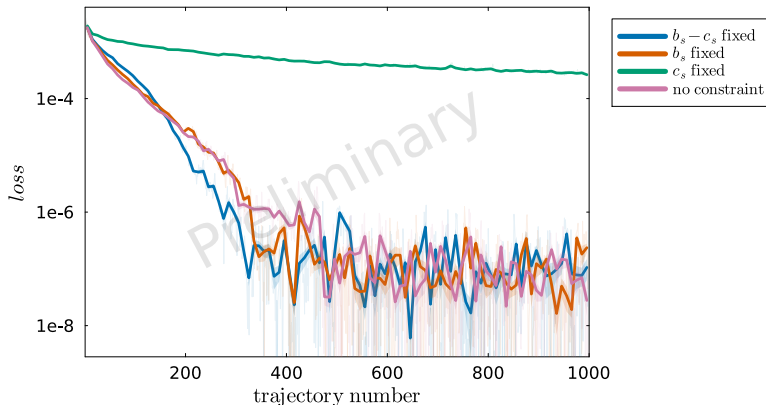
S. Aoki et al., Phys. Rev. D **62**, 094502 (2000).

Numerical setup

- Lattice: 16^4 , $L_5 = 8$
- Number of flavors: $N_f = 2$
- Coupling: $\beta = 5.7$
- Bare mass: $m_q a = 0.1$
- Domain-wall height: $M_5 = 1.5$
- Lattice spacing: $a = 0.1457(6)$ fm
- Initial value: $b_s = 1.5$, $c_s = 0.5$
- JuliaQCD
<https://github.com/JuliaQCD>

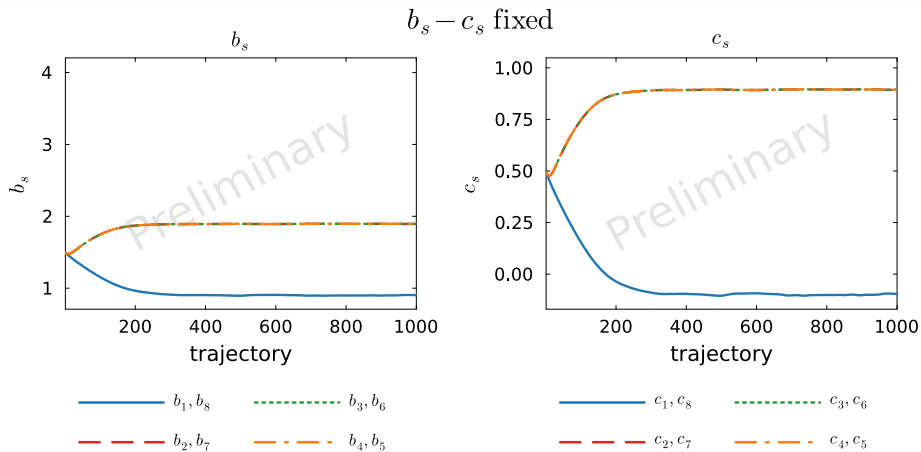
Loss history: noise-vector optimization

Loss by condition (average over 10 configurations)

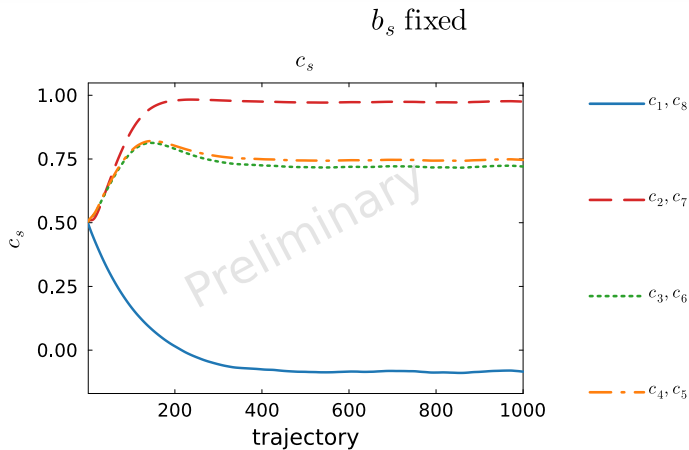


All cases except c_s fixed reach a common stochastic noise floor, while c_s fixed converges much more slowly.

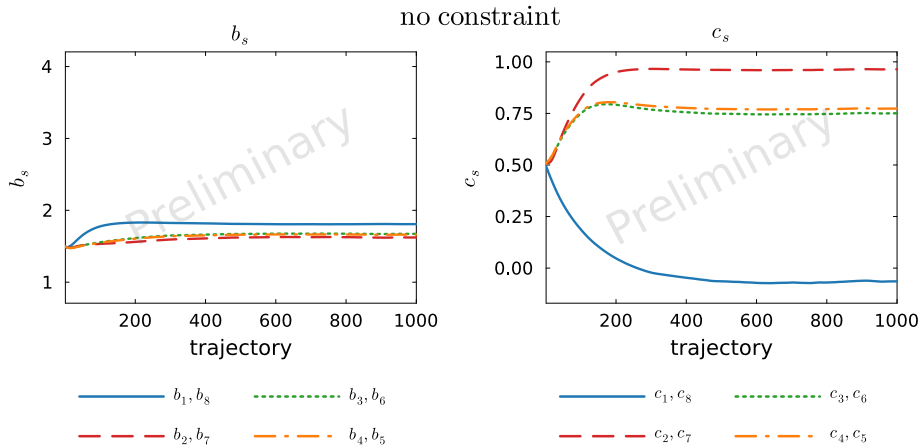
History of coefficients



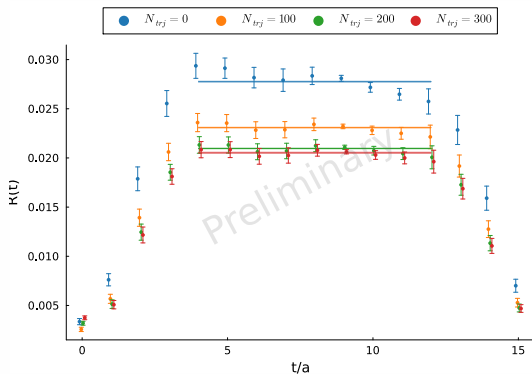
History of coefficients



History of coefficients



Plateau measurement during optimization



Plateau values during the $b_s - c_s$ fixed optimization.

The residual mass is extracted from the axial Ward–Takahashi identity:

$$R(t) = \frac{\sum_{\mathbf{x}} \langle J_{\text{mid}}(\mathbf{x}, t) J_{\text{edge}}(\mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle}{\sum_{\mathbf{x}} \langle J_{\text{edge}}(\mathbf{x}, t) J_{\text{edge}}(\mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle}.$$

Evaluation points

$$N_{trj} = 0, 100, 200, 300$$

Summary and outlook

Goal: Reduce residual chiral-symmetry breaking at fixed L_5 .

Method: Optimize b_s, c_s using a stochastic estimate of m_{res} and Adam updates.

Result: The optimized parameters reduce the plateau value of $R(t)$.

Outlook: Jointly optimize chiral symmetry, solver iterations, and computational cost.

Toward domain-wall fermions with improved chiral symmetry at controlled computational cost.

Backup: Code implementation



<https://github.com/JuliaQCD>



<https://bridge.kek.jp/Lattice-code/>

Implemented features

- Generalized domain-wall operator
- Global residual-mass (JuliaQCD)
- Plateau residual-mass (Bridge++)
- Adam update with
Optimisers.jl

Computing environment

- Current test size: $16^4 \times 8$
- GPU calculation on Miyabi-G
(at JCAHPC, The University of Tokyo)
- Heian computer
(at YITP, Kyoto University)

Backup: Fifth dimensional matrix

$$S_5 = \sum_{s,t} \bar{\Psi}_s (D_5)_{st} \Psi_t$$

$$(D_5)_{st} = \begin{pmatrix} D_+^{(1)} & D_-^{(1)} P_- & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & -m_q D_-^{(1)} P_+ \\ D_-^{(2)} P_+ & D_+^{(2)} & D_-^{(2)} P_- & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & D_-^{(3)} P_+ & D_+^{(3)} & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & D_+^{(L_5-2)} & D_-^{(L_5-2)} P_- & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & D_-^{(L_5-1)} P_+ & D_+^{(L_5-1)} & D_-^{(L_5-1)} P_- \\ -m_q D_-^{(L_5)} P_- & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & D_-^{(L_5)} P_+ & D_+^{(L_5)} \end{pmatrix}_{st}$$

$$D_+^{(s)} = b_s D_{\text{Wilson}}(-M) + 1$$

$$D_-^{(s)} = c_s D_{\text{Wilson}}(-M) - 1$$

Backup: Is fifth-dimensional reflection symmetry mandatory?

For the rational approximation itself

A product of transfer matrices can be defined without imposing $b_s = b_{L_5+1-s}$ and $c_s = c_{L_5+1-s}$.

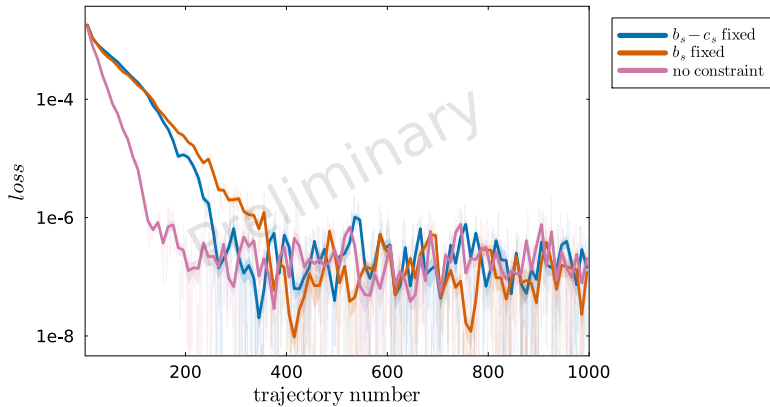
For the standard dynamical five-dimensional formulation

Reflection symmetry is a practical structural constraint because it preserves the usual $\gamma_5 R_5$ -Hermiticity and the corresponding convenient HMC formulation.

In the present optimization, we therefore impose the symmetry rather than treating all layers as independent.

Backup: Loss history without reflection symmetry

Loss by condition (average over 10 configurations)



The c_s -fixed case is not shown because the HMC became unstable.