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Topological susceptibility and the second normalized cumulant in the chiral perturbation theory of QCD

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We derive the topological susceptibility to the one-loop order in chiral perturbation theory (ChPT), for an arbitrary number of flavors. This formula provides a viable way for lattice QCD to determine the low-energy constants, F_{π} , L_6 , L_7 , L_8 and the chiral condensate Σ . Moreover, we derive the second normalized cumulant c_4 at the tree level of ChPT, and point out that the ratio $c_4/\chi_t = -1/4$ for $N_f = 2$ in the isospin limit ($m_u = m_d$), which agrees with recent results from unquenched lattice QCD, and rules out the instanton gas/liquid model which gives $c_4/\chi_t = -1$.

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1. Introduction

In Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD), the topological susceptibility (χ_t) is the most crucial quantity to measure the topological charge fluctuation of the QCD vacuum, which plays an important role in breaking the $U_A(1)$ symmetry. Theoretically, χ_t is defined as

$$\chi_t = \int d^4 x \langle \rho(x) \rho(0) \rangle, \quad \rho(x) = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \text{tr}[F_{\mu\nu}(x)F_{\lambda\sigma}(x)].$$
(1.1)

Using the Chiral Perturbation Theory (ChPT), Leutwyler and Smilga [1] obtained the following relations in the chiral limit

$$\chi_t = \Sigma \left(\frac{1}{m_u} + \frac{1}{m_d} \right)^{-1}, \quad (N_f = 2),$$
(1.2)

$$\chi_t = \Sigma \left(\frac{1}{m_u} + \frac{1}{m_d} + \frac{1}{m_s} \right)^{-1}, \quad (N_f = 3),$$
(1.3)

where m_u , m_d , and m_s are the quark masses, and Σ is the chiral condensate. This implies that in the chiral limit ($m_u \rightarrow 0$) the topological susceptibility is suppressed due to internal quark loops. Most importantly, (1.2) and (1.3) provide a viable way to extract Σ from χ_t in the chiral limit.

From (1.1), one obtains

$$\chi_t = \frac{\langle Q_t^2 \rangle}{\Omega}, \quad Q_t \equiv \int d^4 x \rho(x),$$
 (1.4)

where Ω is the volume of the system, and Q_t is the topological charge (which is an integer for QCD). Thus, one can determine χ_t by counting the number of gauge configurations for each topological sector. Furthermore, we can also obtain the second normalized cumulant

$$c_4 = -\frac{1}{\Omega} \left[\langle Q_t^4 \rangle - 3 \langle Q_t^2 \rangle^2 \right], \qquad (1.5)$$

which is related to the leading anomalous contribution to the $\eta' - \eta'$ scattering amplitude in QCD, as well as the dependence of the vacuum energy on the vacuum angle θ .

Recently, the topological susceptibility and the second normalized cumulant have been measured in unquenched lattice QCD with exact chiral symmetry, for $N_f = 2$ and $N_f = 2 + 1$ lattice QCD with overlap fermion in a fixed topology [2, 3, 4], and $N_f = 2 + 1$ lattice QCD with domainwall fermion [5]. The results of topological susceptibility turn out in good agreement with the Leutwyler-Smilga relation in the chiral limit, with the values of the chiral condensate as follows.

$$\begin{split} \Sigma^{\rm MS}(2~{\rm GeV}) &= [259(7)(8)~{\rm MeV}]^3, \quad (N_f=2), \qquad {\rm Ref.}[2,~3], \\ \Sigma^{\overline{\rm MS}}(2~{\rm GeV}) &= [258(8)(7)~{\rm MeV}]^3, \quad (N_f=2+1), \qquad {\rm Ref.}[4], \\ \Sigma^{\overline{\rm MS}}(2~{\rm GeV}) &= [259(6)(9)~{\rm MeV}]^3, \quad (N_f=2+1), \qquad {\rm Ref.}[5]. \end{split}$$

These results assure that lattice QCD with exact chiral symmetry is the proper framework to tackle the strong interaction physics with topologically non-trivial vacuum fluctuations. Obviously, the next task for unquenched lattice QCD with exact chiral symmetry is to determine the second normalized cumulant c_4 to a good precision, and to address the question how the vacuum energy depends on the vacuum angle θ and related problems. Theoretically, it is interesting to obtain an analytic expression of c_4 in ChPT, as well as to extend the Leutwyler-Smilga relation to the one-loop order of ChPT.

Recently, we have derived the topological susceptibility χ_t to the one-loop order in ChPT, for an arbitrary number of flavors, as well as the second normalized cumulant c_4 at the tree level of ChPT [6]. In this talk, we outline our derivations and point out the salient features of our results.

2. Topological susceptibility and c₄ at the tree level of ChPT

The leading terms of the effective chiral lagrangian for QCD with N_f flavor at $\theta = 0$ [7] are the kinetic term and the symmetry breaking term,

$$\mathscr{L}^{(2)} = \mathscr{L}^{(2)}_{\text{eff}} + \mathscr{L}^{(2)}_{\text{s.b.}} = \frac{F_{\pi}^2}{4} \text{Tr}(\partial_{\mu}U\partial^{\mu}U^{\dagger}) + \frac{\Sigma}{2}\text{Tr}(\mathscr{M}U^{\dagger} + U\mathscr{M}^{\dagger}), \qquad (2.1)$$

where $U(x) = \exp\{2i\phi^a(x)t^a/F_\pi\}$ is a group element of $SU(N_f)$, \mathscr{M} is the quark mass matrix, F_{π} is the pion decay constant, and $\Sigma = \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_{vac}$ is the chiral condensate of the QCD vacuum. It is well known that the physical vacuum angle on which all physical quantities depend is $\theta_{phys} = \theta + \arg \det(\mathscr{M})$ rather than θ . Also, the θ -dependence of $Z_{N_f}(\theta)$ always enters through the combinations $\mathscr{M}e^{i\theta/N_f}$ and $\mathscr{M}^{\dagger}e^{-i\theta/N_f}$. For small quark masses ($L \ll m_{\pi}^{-1}$), the unitary matrix U does not depend on x_{μ} . Thus the kinetic term in the leading-order chiral lagrangian can be dropped, the partition function becomes

$$Z_{N_f}(\theta) = \int dU \exp\left\{\Omega \Sigma \operatorname{Re}\left[\operatorname{Tr}(\mathscr{M}e^{i\theta/N_f}U^{\dagger})\right]\right\},\tag{2.2}$$

where $\Omega = L^3 T$ is the space-time volume. If we consider a sufficiently large volume Ω satisfying $m_j \Sigma \Omega \gg 1$, then the group integral in the partition function (2.2) is largely due to the U which minimizes the minus exponent of the integrand. So we have the vacuum energy density,

$$\varepsilon_{\rm vac}(\mathscr{M},\theta) = -\frac{1}{\Omega}\log Z_{N_f}(\theta) = \varepsilon_0 - \Sigma \min_U \left\{ -\operatorname{Re}\left[\operatorname{Tr}(\mathscr{M}e^{i\theta/N_f}U^{\dagger})\right] \right\},\tag{2.3}$$

where ε_0 corresponds to the normalization factor of the partition function.

Without loss of generality, the unitary matrix U can be taken to be diagonal with elements $e^{i\alpha_j}$, where $\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} \alpha_j = 0$. We can also choose the mass matrix to be diagonal $\mathcal{M} = \text{diag}(m_1, \dots, m_{N_f})$. Then the vacuum energy density can be written as

$$\varepsilon_0 - \Sigma \min_{\phi} \left\{ -\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} m_j \cos \phi_j \right\}, \quad \sum_{j=1}^{N_f} \phi_j = \theta, \qquad (2.4)$$

where $\phi_j = \theta / N_f - \alpha_j$, and $\sum_j \phi_j = \theta$.

Now we solve the minimization problem. For the purpose of obtaining the topological susceptibility and the second normalized culmulant, we can consider the limit of small θ (and ϕ_j 's) because $U = \mathbf{I}$ gives the minimal vacuum energy at $\theta = 0$. To the order of θ^4 , we still have the exact result of χ_t and c_4 (at the tree level). Expanding $\cos \phi \simeq 1 - \frac{1}{2}\phi^2 + \frac{1}{24}\phi^4$ and introducing

the Lagrange multiplier λ to incorporate the constraint $\sum_i \phi_i = \theta$, we can solve the minimization problem and get ϕ_i to the order of θ^3 ,

$$\phi_i = \frac{\bar{m}}{m_i}\theta + \frac{\theta^3}{6}\left[\left(\frac{\bar{m}}{m_i}\right)^3 - \left(\frac{\bar{m}}{m_i}\right)\sum_{j=1}^{N_f}\left(\frac{\bar{m}}{m_j}\right)^3\right] + \mathcal{O}(\theta^5).$$

where $\bar{m} \equiv \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N_f} m_i^{-1}\right)^{-1}$ is the "reduced mass" of the N_f quark flavors. Keeping to the order of θ^4 , the vacuum energy density is

$$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{vac}}(\theta) = \varepsilon_0 + \Sigma \left(\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} \frac{1}{m_j}\right)^{-1} \frac{\theta^2}{2} - \Sigma \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} m_i^{-3} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} \frac{1}{m_j}\right)^{-4} \frac{\theta^4}{24} + \mathscr{O}(\theta^6).$$

It immediately follows that the topological susceptibility and the second normalized culmulant are

$$\chi_t = \frac{\partial^2 \varepsilon_{\text{vac}}}{\partial \theta^2} \Big|_{\theta=0} = \Sigma \left(\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} \frac{1}{m_j} \right)^{-1}, \qquad (2.5)$$

$$c_4 = \frac{\partial^4 \varepsilon_{\text{vac}}}{\partial \theta^4} \bigg|_{\theta=0} = -\Sigma \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} m_i^{-3} \left(\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} \frac{1}{m_j} \right)^{-4}.$$
 (2.6)

3. Topological susceptibility to the one-loop order of ChPT

To the one-loop order of ChPT, one has to include $\mathscr{L}^{(4)}$ [7] at the tree level as well as the one-loop contributions of $\mathscr{L}^{(2)}$. In 1984, Gasser and Leutwyler [7] considered the low-energy expansion, where both p and \mathscr{M} are assumed to be small but \mathscr{M}/p^2 can have a finite value, such that the value of M_{π}^2/p^2 can be fixed. In this case, the external sources $a_{\mu}(x)$ and p(x) can be counted as order of Φ , and $v_{\mu}(x)$ and $s(x) - \mathscr{M}$ as order of Φ^2 . Gasser and Leutwyler showed that at the one-loop order, the chiral effective action can be written as $W = W_t + W_u + W_A + \mathscr{O}(\Phi^6)$, where W_t denotes the sum of tree diagrams and tadpole contributions (of order Φ^2), W_u the unitarity correction (of order Φ^3), and W_A the anomaly contribution (of order Φ^4). Because the θ dependence enters the Lagrangian only through \mathscr{M} , we can count χ_t as order of Φ^2 , thus for the evaluation of topological susceptibility to the one-loop order, and it suffices to consider W_t only.

Moreover, Gasser and Leutwyler [7] showed that the pole terms due to the one-loop contributions of $\mathscr{L}^{(2)}$ can be absorbed by the low-energy coupling constants of $\mathscr{L}^{(4)}$, and W_t is given by [7]

$$W_{t} = \sum_{P} \int d^{4}x \frac{F_{\pi}^{2}}{2} \left\{ \frac{1}{N_{f}} - \frac{M_{P}^{2}}{16\pi^{2}F_{\pi}^{2}} \ln \frac{M_{P}^{2}}{\mu_{sub}^{2}} \right\} \sigma_{PP}^{\Delta} + \sum_{P} \int d^{4}x \frac{F_{\pi}^{2}}{2} \left\{ \frac{N_{f}}{N_{f}^{2} - 1} - \frac{M_{P}^{2}}{16\pi^{2}F_{\pi}^{2}} \ln \frac{M_{P}^{2}}{\mu_{sub}^{2}} \right\} \sigma_{PP}^{\chi} + \int d^{4}x \mathscr{L}^{r(4)}, \quad (3.1)$$

where M_P^2 's are the squared meson masses, σ_{PP}^{Δ} corresponds to the kinetic term which can be dropped in the limit of small quark masses, σ_{PP}^{χ} corresponds to the symmetry breaking term,

$$\sigma_{PP}^{\chi} = \frac{1}{8} \operatorname{Tr}\left(\left\{\lambda_{P}, \lambda_{P}^{\dagger}\right\} \left(\chi^{\dagger} U + U^{\dagger} \chi\right)\right) - M_{P}^{2}, \qquad (3.2)$$

and $\mathscr{L}^{r(4)}$ is just $\mathscr{L}^{(4)}$ with renormalized low-energy coupling constants,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathscr{L}^{r(4)} &= L_{1}^{r} \left\{ \mathrm{Tr}[D_{\mu}U(D^{\mu}U)^{\dagger}] \right\}^{2} + L_{2}^{r} \mathrm{Tr} \left[D_{\mu}U(D_{\nu}U)^{\dagger} \right] \mathrm{Tr} \left[D^{\mu}U(D^{\nu}U)^{\dagger} \right] \\ &+ L_{3}^{r} \mathrm{Tr} \left[D_{\mu}U(D^{\mu}U)^{\dagger} D_{\nu}U(D^{\nu}U)^{\dagger} \right] + L_{4}^{r} \mathrm{Tr} \left[D_{\mu}U(D^{\mu}U)^{\dagger} \right] \mathrm{Tr} \left(\chi U^{\dagger} + U \chi^{\dagger} \right) \\ &+ L_{5}^{r} \mathrm{Tr} \left[D_{\mu}U(D^{\mu}U)^{\dagger} (\chi U^{\dagger} + U \chi^{\dagger}) \right] + L_{6}^{r} \left[\mathrm{Tr} \left(\chi U^{\dagger} + U \chi^{\dagger} \right) \right]^{2} \\ &+ L_{7}^{r} \left[\mathrm{Tr} \left(\chi U^{\dagger} - U \chi^{\dagger} \right) \right]^{2} + L_{8}^{r} \mathrm{Tr} \left(U \chi^{\dagger} U \chi^{\dagger} + \chi U^{\dagger} \chi U^{\dagger} \right) \\ &- i L_{9}^{r} \mathrm{Tr} \left[F_{\mu\nu}^{R} D^{\mu}U(D^{\nu}U)^{\dagger} + F_{\mu\nu}^{L} (D^{\mu}U)^{\dagger} D^{\nu}U \right] + L_{10}^{r} \mathrm{Tr} \left(U F_{\mu\nu}^{L} U^{\dagger} F_{R}^{\mu\nu} \right) \\ &+ H_{1}^{r} \mathrm{Tr} \left(F_{\mu\nu}^{R} F_{R}^{\mu\nu} + F_{\mu\nu}^{L} F_{L}^{\mu\nu} \right) + H_{2}^{r} \mathrm{Tr} \left(\chi \chi^{\dagger} \right). \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.3)$$

Here $\chi = 2(\Sigma/F_{\pi}^2)\mathcal{M} \equiv 2B_0\mathcal{M}$, λ_P 's are the generators of SU(N) in the physical basis, $\{L_i^r(\mu_{sub}), i = 1, \dots, 10\}$ are renormalized low-energy coupling constants, and the last two contact terms (with couplings $H_1^r(\mu_{sub})$ and $H_2^r(\mu_{sub})$) are the counter terms required for renormalization of the one-loop diagrams.

For small quark masses $(L \ll m_{\pi}^{-1})$, the unitary matrix U does not depend on x_{μ} , thus the term involving σ_{PP}^{Δ} in (3.1) can be dropped. Only the term with σ_{PP}^{χ} in (3.1), and the sixth, seventh, and eighth terms in $\mathscr{L}^{r(4)}$ (3.3) are relevant to the partition function.

Now we follow the same procedure as that in deriving the tree-level formula. First, we replace \mathscr{M} with $\mathscr{M}e^{i\theta/N_f}$. Then we take U and \mathscr{M} to be diagonal, defining $\phi_j = \theta/N_f - \alpha_j$, and $\sum_j \phi_j = \theta$, similar to Eq. (2.4). Next we consider a sufficiently large volume $m_j\Omega\Sigma \gg 1$, such that we can use saddle-point approximation to evaluate the partition function. Also we use small θ (small ϕ_j 's) approximation and keep terms up to the order of ϕ_j^2 . Then to obtain the vacuum energy density amounts to the minimization problem,

$$\varepsilon_{vac} = \varepsilon_0 - \min_{\phi} \left[\frac{\Sigma}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{N_f} m_j \phi_j^2 - \frac{\Sigma}{8F_{\pi}^2} \sum_P \sum_{j=1}^{N_f} \left\{ \lambda_P, \lambda_P^{\dagger} \right\}_{jj} m_j \phi_j^2 \frac{M_P^2}{16\pi^2} \ln \frac{M_P^2}{\mu_{sub}^2} + 16B_0^2 L_6^r \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} m_i \sum_{j=1}^{N_f} m_j \phi_j^2 + 16B_0^2 L_7^r \left(\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} m_j \phi_j \right)^2 + 16B_0^2 L_8^r \sum_{j=1}^{N_f} m_j^2 \phi_j^2 \right], \quad (3.4)$$

with the constraint $\sum_j \phi_j = \theta$. We introduce the Lagrange multiplier λ to incorporate this constraint in finding the minimum. For simplicity, we define

$$A_{j} \equiv \frac{\Sigma}{2}m_{j} - \frac{\Sigma}{8F_{\pi}^{2}} \sum_{P} \left\{ \lambda_{P}, \lambda_{P}^{\dagger} \right\}_{jj} m_{j} \frac{M_{P}^{2}}{16\pi^{2}} \ln \frac{M_{P}^{2}}{\mu_{sub}^{2}} + 16B_{0}^{2} \left(L_{6}^{r}m_{j} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{f}} m_{i} + L_{8}^{r}m_{j}^{2} \right)$$

$$B_{j} \equiv 4B_{0} (L_{7}^{r})^{1/2} m_{j}.$$

Then the minimization problem amounts to solving the equation

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} \left[\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} A_j \phi_j^2 + \left(\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} B_j \phi_j \right)^2 - \lambda \left(\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} \phi_j - \theta \right) \right] = 0.$$
(3.5)

Defining $(\mathbf{T})_{ij} \equiv 2A_i \delta_{ij} + 2B_i B_j$, (3.5) becomes $\sum_{j=1}^{N_f} (\mathbf{T})_{ij} \phi_j = \lambda$, which is a set of linear equations. Thus we can solve ϕ_i 's and obtain λ from this set of equations and the constraint. Finally we obtain the vacuum energy density

$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{\text{vac}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_0 + \frac{\boldsymbol{\theta}^2}{2} \left[\sum_{i,j=1}^{N_f} (\mathbf{T}^{-1})_{ij} \right]^{-1}.$$
 (3.6)

To simplify the expression, we rewrite the matrix \mathbf{T} as

$$(\mathbf{T})_{ij} \equiv 2A_i \delta_{ij} + 2B_i B_j = \Sigma (\mathscr{M} + \mathbf{T}')_{ij}.$$
(3.7)

Since $\mathcal{M}^{-1/2}\mathbf{T}'\mathcal{M}^{-1/2}$ is real and symmetric, and each eigenvalue is much less than one in the chiral limit, we can use the Taylor expansion

$$(\mathbf{I} + \mathcal{M}^{-1/2}\mathbf{T}'\mathcal{M}^{-1/2})^{-1} \simeq \mathbf{I} - \mathcal{M}^{-1/2}\mathbf{T}'\mathcal{M}^{-1/2} + \mathcal{O}(m^2),$$

and obtain the topological susceptibility

$$\chi_{t} = \frac{\partial^{2} \varepsilon_{\text{vac}}}{\partial \theta^{2}} \bigg|_{\theta=0} = \left[\sum_{i,j=1}^{N_{f}} (\mathbf{T}^{-1})_{ij} \right]^{-1}$$
$$\simeq \Sigma \bar{m} \left\{ 1 - \frac{1}{4F_{\pi}^{2}} \sum_{P} \sum_{j=1}^{N_{f}} \left\{ \lambda_{P}, \lambda_{P}^{\dagger} \right\}_{jj} \left(\frac{\bar{m}}{m_{j}} \right) \frac{M_{P}^{2}}{16\pi^{2}} \ln \frac{M_{P}^{2}}{\mu_{sub}^{2}} + K_{6} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{f}} m_{i} + N_{f} (N_{f} K_{7} + K_{8}) \bar{m} \right\}, (3.8)$$

where

$$K_i \equiv \frac{32B_0^2 L_i^r(\mu_{sub})}{\Sigma} = 32 \left(\frac{\Sigma}{F_\pi^4}\right) L_i^r(\mu_{sub}), \qquad \bar{m} \equiv \left(\sum_{i=1}^{N_f} m_i^{-1}\right)^{-1},$$

and all terms proportional to K_i^2 or K_iK_j have been dropped. Equation (3.8) is the main result we have derived in [6].

For $N_f = 2$, there are three mesons, π^+ , π^0 , and π^- . If we take their masses to be the same, we obtain

$$\chi_t = \Sigma \left(\frac{1}{m_u} + \frac{1}{m_d}\right)^{-1} \left[1 - \frac{3}{2F_\pi^2} \frac{M_\pi^2}{16\pi^2} \ln \frac{M_\pi^2}{\mu_{sub}^2} + K_6(m_u + m_d) + 2(2K_7 + K_8) \frac{m_u m_d}{m_u + m_d}\right].$$
 (3.9)

Next we turn to the case $N_f = 3$. Taking the eight pseudoscalar mesons with non-degenerate masses, we obtain

$$\chi_{t} = \Sigma \bar{m} \Biggl\{ 1 - \frac{1}{2F_{\pi}^{2}} \Biggl[\sum_{i \neq j} \left(\frac{\bar{m}}{m_{i}} + \frac{\bar{m}}{m_{j}} \right) \frac{B_{0}(m_{i} + m_{j})}{16\pi^{2}} \ln \frac{B_{0}(m_{i} + m_{j})}{\mu_{sub}^{2}} \\ + \left(\frac{\bar{m}}{m_{u}} + \frac{\bar{m}}{m_{d}} \right) \frac{M_{\pi^{0}}^{2}}{16\pi^{2}} \ln \frac{M_{\pi^{0}}^{2}}{\mu_{sub}^{2}} + \frac{1}{3} \left(\frac{\bar{m}}{m_{u}} + \frac{\bar{m}}{m_{d}} + 4\frac{\bar{m}}{m_{s}} \right) \frac{M_{\eta}^{2}}{16\pi^{2}} \ln \frac{M_{\eta}^{2}}{\mu_{sub}^{2}} \Biggr] \\ + K_{6}(m_{u} + m_{d} + m_{s}) + 3(3K_{7} + K_{8})\bar{m} \Biggr\},$$
(3.10)

where $\bar{m} = (m_u^{-1} + m_d^{-1} + m_s^{-1})^{-1}$, and $B_0 = \Sigma / F_{\pi}^2$.

4. Concluding remark

We have derived the topological susceptibility to the one-loop order in ChPT, in the limit $m\Sigma\Omega \gg 1$, for $N_f = 2$ [Eq. (3.9)], $N_f = 3$ [Eq. (3.10)], and an arbitrary number of flavors N_f [Eq. (3.8)] respectively.

For $N_f = 3$, since the mass of the strange quark is much heavier than the masses of u and d quarks, it seems reasonable just to incorporate the one-loop corrections due to the u and d quarks. Then, for $N_f = 2 + 1$ (u and d quarks to the one-loop order, and s quark at the tree level), the topological susceptibility becomes

$$\chi_t = \Sigma \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{m_u} + \frac{1}{m_d} \right) \left[1 + \frac{3}{2F_\pi^2} \frac{M_\pi^2}{16\pi^2} \ln \frac{M_\pi^2}{\mu_{sub}^2} - K_6(m_u + m_d) - 2(2K_7 + K_8) \frac{m_u m_d}{m_u + m_d} \right] + \frac{1}{m_s} \right\}^{-1}.$$
(4.1)

This supplements (3.10) for the case $N_f = 2 + 1$.

In view of the one-loop results of χ_t , [Eqs. (3.9), (3.10), and (4.1)], it would be interesting to see whether the χ_t measured in lattice QCD with exact chiral symmetry would agree with the prediction of ChPT. Most importantly, these one-loop formulas provide a viable way to determine the low-energy constants F_{π} , L_6 , L_7 and L_8 , in addition to the chiral condensate Σ which has already been determined [3, 5, 4] using the formula of χ_t at the tree level (2.5). At this point, we note that the finite volume effect on χ_t (to one-loop order in ChPT) has been recently studied in [8].

Finally, we turn to the second normalized cumulant c_4 . At this moment, we only have a formula of c_4 (2.6) at the tree level. For $N_f = 2$, the ratio $c_4/\chi_t = -1/4$ in the isospin limit ($m_u = m_d$) seems to rule out the instanton gas/liquid model which predicts that $c_4/\chi_t = -1$. Obviously, it would be interesting to derive a formula of c_4 for the next (non-vanishing) order in ChPT.

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