

# Quarks, Partons, and Quantum Chromodynamics

## Lecture 3

### Groups and symmetries - group $SU(3)$

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# SU(3) generators - color matrices $T_a$

$SU(3)$  group – a set of  $3 \times 3$  unitary (U) complex matrices with unit determinant (S - special)

- $3 \times 3$  matrices form also representation on 3-dim  $\mathcal{H}$
- generators are  $3 \times 3$  Hermitian traceless matrices

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & c - id & e - if \\ c + id & b & g - ih \\ e + if & g + ih & -a - b \end{pmatrix} \quad \det e^A = e^{\text{Tr}(A)}$$

- 8 generators - Gell-Mann matrices

$$\lambda_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_5 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_6 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_7 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \lambda_8 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- **color matrices**  $T_a = \frac{1}{2}\lambda_a$  satisfy

$$\text{Tr}(T_a T_b^+) = \frac{1}{2}\delta_{ab}$$

- in analogy with Pauli matrices

$$T_a \cdot T_b = \frac{1}{6}\delta_{ab}\mathbf{1} + \frac{1}{2}(d_{abc} + if_{abc})T_c$$

Exercise 3.3

- $d_{abc} \in \mathbb{R}$  fully symmetric
- defined via anti-commutator

$$\{T_a, T_b\} = \frac{1}{3}\delta_{ab}\mathbf{1} + d_{abc}T_c$$

## Group SU(N)

- $N - 1$  real numbers on diagonal
  - $N^2 - N$  real numbers for off-diagonal elements
- $\Rightarrow N^2 - 1$  generators

# SU(3) fundamental representation and roots

- SU(3) rank is  $r = 2$ :

$$H_1 \equiv T_3 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad H_2 \equiv T_8 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{pmatrix}$$

- 3 eigen states forming basis of  $\mathcal{H}$ :

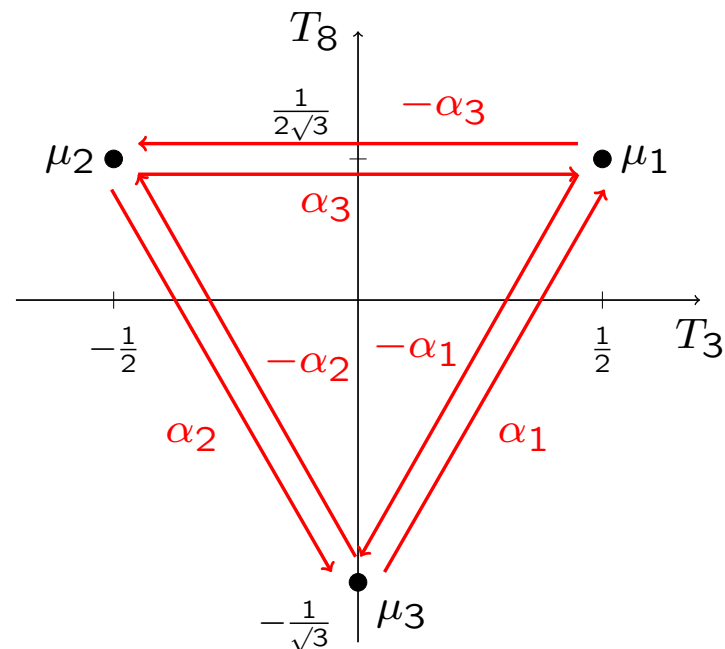
$$|e_1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad |e_2\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad |e_3\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$T_3 |e_1\rangle = \frac{1}{2} |e_1\rangle, \quad T_8 |e_1\rangle = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} |e_1\rangle \Rightarrow \mu_1 = \left( \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} \right)$$

- we find for  $|e_2\rangle$  and  $|e_3\rangle$

$$\mu_2 = \left( -\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} \right)$$

$$\mu_3 = \left( 0, -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right)$$



- $8-2=6$  roots:  $\pm\alpha_1, \pm\alpha_2, \pm\alpha_3$

$$\alpha_1 = \mu_1 - \mu_3 = \left( \frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right)$$

$$\alpha_2 = \mu_3 - \mu_2 = \left( \frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right)$$

$$\alpha_3 = \mu_1 - \mu_2 = (1, 0)$$

- note that  $|\alpha_i| = 1$  ... consequence of norm. choice  $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$

- corresponding 6 shifting operators could be guessed

$$E_{\alpha_3} = \frac{T_1 + iT_2}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad E_{-\alpha_3} = E_{\alpha_3}^+ = \frac{T_1 - iT_2}{\sqrt{2}}$$

- in analogy

$$E_{\alpha_1} = \frac{T_4 + iT_5}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad E_{-\alpha_1} = \frac{T_4 - iT_5}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$E_{\alpha_2} = \frac{T_6 - iT_7}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad E_{-\alpha_2} = \frac{T_6 + iT_7}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Exercise 3.4

# Roots and Weights

$$\times E_{\alpha}^{p+1} |\mu\rangle = 0$$

⋮

$$\bullet |\mu + p\alpha\rangle \propto E_{-\alpha}^p |\mu\rangle$$

⋮

$$\bullet |\mu + \alpha\rangle \propto E_{\alpha} |\mu\rangle$$

$$\uparrow E_{\alpha}$$

$$(p, q) \bullet |\mu\rangle$$

$$\downarrow E_{-\alpha}$$

$$\bullet |\mu - \alpha\rangle \propto E_{-\alpha} |\mu\rangle$$

⋮

$$\bullet |\mu - q\alpha\rangle \propto E_{-\alpha}^q |\mu\rangle$$

$$\downarrow E_{-\alpha}$$

$$\times E_{-\alpha}^{q+1} |\mu\rangle = 0$$

- Prop. 2: irred. rep. of compact groups are of finite dim.

⇒ state  $|\mu\rangle$  can be characterized by two integers

$p$ : number of times, the state can be risen with  $E_{\alpha}$

$q$ : number of times, the state can be lowered with  $E_{-\alpha}$

- in analogy with SU(2)

$$E_{\alpha} |\mu\rangle = N_{\alpha, \mu} |\mu + \alpha\rangle \quad E_{-\alpha} |\mu\rangle = N_{-\alpha, \mu} |\mu - \alpha\rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} N_{-\alpha, \mu} N_{\alpha, \mu}^* &= \langle \mu | E_{\alpha} E_{-\alpha} | \mu \rangle = \langle \mu | \overset{\alpha_i H_i}{[E_{\alpha}, E_{-\alpha}]} | \mu \rangle + \langle \mu | E_{-\alpha} E_{\alpha} | \mu \rangle \\ &= \alpha \cdot \mu + N_{\alpha, \mu} N_{\alpha, \mu}^* \end{aligned}$$

however

$$N_{-\alpha, \mu} = \langle \mu - \alpha | E_{-\alpha} | \mu \rangle \Rightarrow N_{-\alpha, \mu}^* = \langle \mu | \overset{E_{\alpha}^+ = E_{-\alpha}}{E_{\alpha}} | \mu - \alpha \rangle = N_{\alpha, \mu - \alpha}$$

$$\alpha \cdot \mu = |N_{-\alpha, \mu}|^2 - |N_{\alpha, \mu}|^2 = |N_{-\alpha, \mu}|^2 - |N_{-\alpha, \mu + \alpha}|^2$$

# Master formula

$$\times E_{\alpha}^{p+1} |\mu\rangle = 0$$

⋮

$$\bullet |\mu + p\alpha\rangle \propto E_{-\alpha}^p |\mu\rangle \quad \alpha \cdot (\mu + p\alpha) = |N_{-\alpha, \mu+p\alpha}|^2 - |N_{-\alpha, \mu+(p+1)\alpha}|^2 \stackrel{=0}{=}$$

⋮

$$\bullet |\mu + \alpha\rangle \propto E_{\alpha} |\mu\rangle \quad \alpha \cdot (\mu + \alpha) = |N_{-\alpha, \mu+\alpha}|^2 - |N_{-\alpha, \mu+2\alpha}|^2$$

↑  $E_{\alpha}$

$$(p, q) \bullet |\mu\rangle \quad \alpha \cdot \mu = |N_{-\alpha, \mu}|^2 - |N_{-\alpha, \mu+\alpha}|^2$$

↓  $E_{-\alpha}$

$$\bullet |\mu - \alpha\rangle \propto E_{-\alpha} |\mu\rangle \quad \alpha \cdot (\mu - \alpha) = |N_{-\alpha, \mu-\alpha}|^2 - |N_{-\alpha, \mu}|^2$$

⋮

$$\bullet |\mu - q\alpha\rangle \propto E_{-\alpha}^q |\mu\rangle \quad \alpha \cdot (\mu - q\alpha) = |N_{-\alpha, \mu-q\alpha}|^2 - |N_{-\alpha, \mu-(q-1)\alpha}|^2 \stackrel{=0}{=}$$

↓  $E_{-\alpha}$

$$\times E_{-\alpha}^{q+1} |\mu\rangle = 0$$

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$$\sum : \frac{p+q+1}{2} [2\alpha \cdot \mu + (p-q)\alpha \cdot \alpha] = 0$$

$$\alpha \cdot \mu = |N_{-\alpha, \mu}|^2 - |N_{-\alpha, \mu+\alpha}|^2$$

- summing over states from  $|\mu\rangle$  to  $|\mu + p\alpha\rangle$

$$|N_{-\alpha, \mu}|^2 = \frac{p+1}{2} (2\alpha \cdot \mu + p\alpha \cdot \alpha)$$

- summing over all  $p+q+1$  states

$$\frac{2\alpha \cdot \mu}{\alpha \cdot \alpha} = q - p$$

Master formula

- nontrivial relation between weights and roots

Trick with adj. repr. - for any 2 roots  $\alpha, \beta$

$$\frac{2\alpha \cdot \beta}{\alpha \cdot \alpha} = q - p = m \quad \frac{2\alpha \cdot \beta}{\beta \cdot \beta} = q' - p' = m'$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{(\alpha \cdot \beta)^2}{|\alpha|^2 |\beta|^2} = \cos^2 \vartheta_{\alpha, \beta} = \frac{m m'}{4} = 0, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{4}, 1$$

- only certain angles allowed between roots

# Root composition

- SU(3) roots:  $\pm\alpha_1, \pm\alpha_2, \pm\alpha_3$

$$\alpha_1 = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) \quad \alpha_2 = \left(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) \quad \alpha_3 = (1, 0)$$

- note that  $\alpha_3 = \alpha_2 + \alpha_1$
- order roots/weights

Vector  $\mu$  is **positive** ( $\mu > 0$ ) if and only if its first non-zero element is positive

$$\mu_1 > \mu_2 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad (\mu_1 - \mu_2) > 0$$

- we can characterize irreducible representation  $\mathcal{D}$  by the state with the highest weight
- concept of positive roots - SU(3) has 3 of them

**Simple root** - positive root that cannot be written as sum of 2 positive roots

- SU(3) has 2 positive roots:  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$

- Jacobi identity

$$[H_i, [E_\alpha, E_\beta]] = -\overset{\alpha_i E_\alpha}{[E_\beta, [H_i, E_\alpha]]} - \overset{-\beta_i E_\beta}{[E_\alpha, [E_\beta, H_i]]} = (\alpha_i + \beta_i)[E_\alpha, E_\beta]$$

- $[E_\alpha, E_\beta]$  satisfy the same relation as shifting operator
- three cases

1)  $\alpha + \beta = 0$ :  $[E_\alpha, E_{-\alpha}] = \alpha_i H_i$     *did you prove it?*

2)  $\alpha + \beta (\neq 0)$  is not root  $\Rightarrow [E_\alpha, E_\beta] = 0$

3)  $\alpha + \beta (\neq 0)$  is root  $\Rightarrow [E_\alpha, E_\beta] \propto E_{\alpha+\beta}$

Prop 4: difference of two simple roots is not a root

Prop 5: simple roots are linearly independent

Prop 6: Number of simple roots of simple Lie algebra is equal to the rank of algebra

Simple alg. - no generator that would commute with all alg. members

- try to prove them

◦ hint for Prop. 5, two simple roots  $\alpha, \beta$  satisfy  $\alpha \cdot \beta \leq 0$

in adj. rep. :  $E_{-\alpha} |\beta\rangle = |[E_{-\alpha}, E_\beta]\rangle = 0 \Rightarrow q = 0 : \frac{2\alpha \cdot \beta}{\alpha \cdot \alpha} = -p \leq 0$

# Fundamental weights and representations

- finite size  $\Rightarrow$  irr. repr.  $\mathcal{D}$  can be characterized by the weight of a state with maximal weight  $\mu_{\max}$

$$\frac{2 \alpha_i \cdot \mu_{\max}}{|\alpha_i|^2} = q_i - p_i = q_i (\geq 0)$$

$\Rightarrow$  instead of  $r$  (rank) real numbers ( $\mu_{\max}$ ) we can characterize  $\mathcal{D}$  by  $r$  non-negative whole numbers  $q_i$ , which specify how many times we can move from  $|\mu_{\max}\rangle$  in direction  $-\alpha_i$  corresponding to simple root  $\alpha_i$

(Prop. 6 says that number of simple roots is equal to rank)

**Fundamental representation**  $\mathcal{D}_F^{(i)}$  corresponding to the simple root  $\alpha_i$  is repr.  $\mathcal{D}(q_1, \dots, q_r)$  with  $q_j = \delta_{ij}$ .

**Fundamental weight**  $\mu_F^{(i)}$  is maximal weight of  $\mathcal{D}_F^{(i)}$ .

$$\frac{2 \alpha_j \cdot \mu_F^{(i)}}{|\alpha_j|^2} = q_j = \delta_{ij}$$

- maximal weight of  $\mathcal{D}(q_1, \dots, q_r)$  is from linearity

$$\mu_{\max} = q_i \mu_F^{(i)}$$

- from fundamental representations we can construct any irreducible representation  $\mathcal{D}(q_1, \dots, q_r)$  using direct product

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{D}_F^{(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{D}_F^{(1)}}_{q_1\text{-times}} \otimes \underbrace{\mathcal{D}_F^{(2)} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{D}_F^{(2)}}_{q_2\text{-times}} \otimes \dots \otimes \underbrace{\mathcal{D}_F^{(r)} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{D}_F^{(r)}}_{q_r\text{-times}}$$

- maximal weight of the direct product is  $q_i \mu_F^{(i)}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  the product must contain  $\mathcal{D}(q_1, \dots, q_r)$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{D}_F^{(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{D}_F^{(1)} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{D}_F^{(r)} \otimes \dots \otimes \mathcal{D}_F^{(r)} \\ = \mathcal{D}(q_1, \dots, q_r) \oplus \text{Rest} \end{aligned}$$

- Rest can be again decomposed by looking at the state with its maximal weight
- and so on ...

- 2 fundamental repr. defined

$$\frac{2\mu_{\max}^{(i)} \cdot \alpha_j}{|\alpha_j|^2} = \delta_{ij}, \quad \text{with } i, j = 1, 2$$

$$\alpha_1 = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right) \quad \alpha_2 = \left(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\right)$$

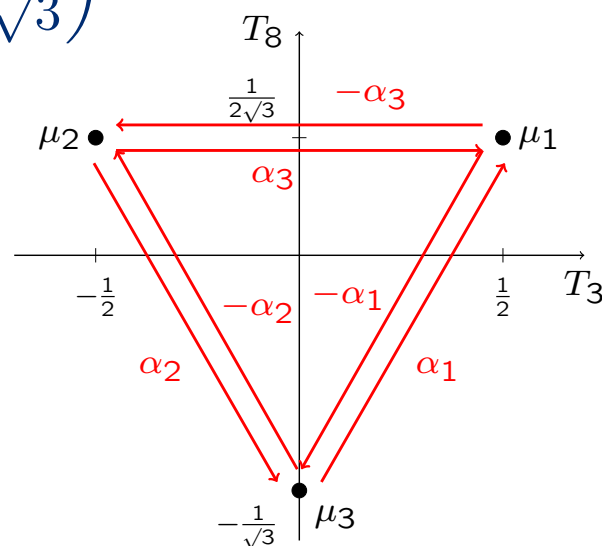
## SU(3) triplet

- state with maximal  $\mu_{\max}^{(1)}$  weight given by

$$2\mu_{\max}^{(1)} \cdot \alpha_1 = 1 \quad 2\mu_{\max}^{(1)} \cdot \alpha_2 = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \mu_{\max}^{(1)} = \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}\right)$$

- same state with maximal weight as in the case of matrices defining SU(3)



## SU(3) anti-triplet $\bar{3}$

$$2\mu_{\max}^{(2)} \cdot \alpha_1 = 0 \quad 2\mu_{\max}^{(2)} \cdot \alpha_2 = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mu_{\max}^{(2)} = \left(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}\right)$$

$$|\mu_{\max}^{(2)}\rangle : q_1 = 1, p_1 = 0, q_2 = p_2 = 0$$

- only possible move:  $|A\rangle = E_{-\alpha_2} |\mu_{\max}^{(2)}\rangle$
- moves from  $|A\rangle$ ,  $A = (0, \sqrt{3}/3)$

- dir.  $\alpha_2$  clear ( $p_2 = 1, q_2 = 0$ )

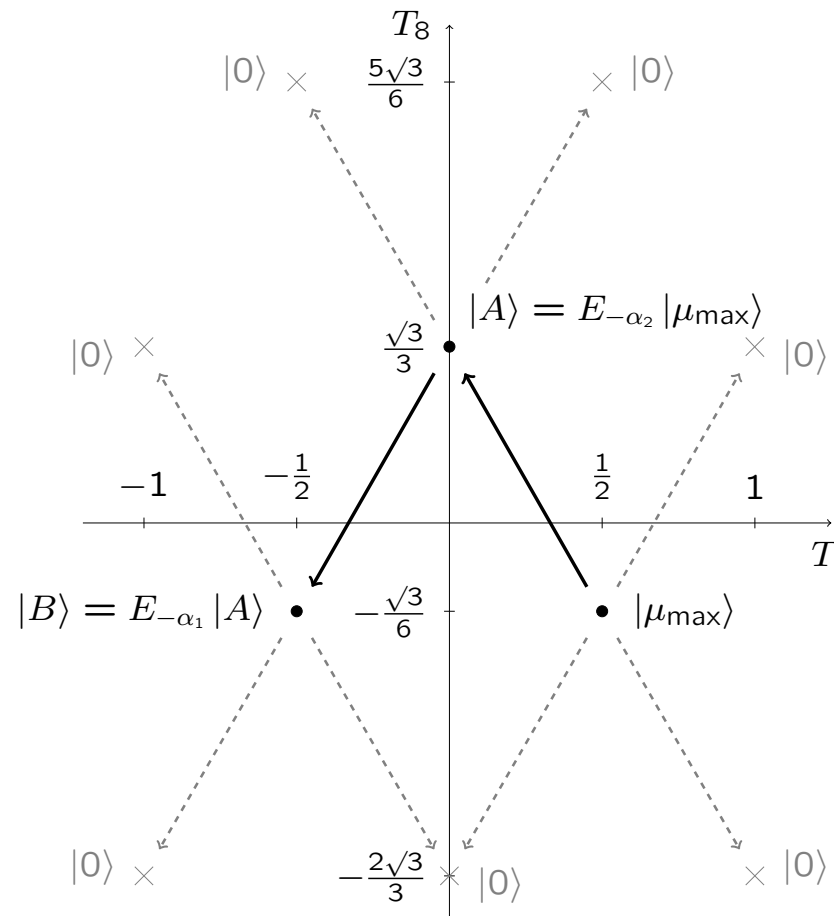
- dir.  $\alpha_1$ :  $2A \cdot \alpha_1 = q_1 - p_1$

$$q_1 - p_1 = 2A \cdot \alpha_1 = 2(0 + 1/2) = 1$$

- $E_{\alpha_1} |A\rangle = 0$  - state with weight larger than  $|\mu_{\max}^{(2)}\rangle \Rightarrow p_1 = 0, q_1 = 1$

- moves from  $|B\rangle = E_{-\alpha_1} |A\rangle$

$$q_2 - p_2 = 2B \cdot \alpha_2 = 2\left(-\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}\right) = 0$$



- $p_2 = 0$  ( $E_{\alpha_2} |B\rangle = 0$  as  $E_{-\alpha_1} |\mu_{\max}^{(2)}\rangle = 0$ )  $\Rightarrow q_2 = 0$  and we are done

- much faster using **Weyl symmetry**

# Weyl symmetry and Complex conjugate repr.

## Weyl symmetry

- master formula

$$\frac{2 \alpha \cdot \mu}{|\alpha|^2} = q - p$$

- implies that we can lower (if  $q - p \geq 0$ )  $|\mu\rangle$ , or rise (if  $q - p \leq 0$ ), at least  $2 \alpha \cdot \mu / |\alpha|^2$  times (if  $q - p \geq 0$ )  
 $\Rightarrow$  for every state  $|\mu\rangle$  there must be a state

$$\mu_r = \mu - \frac{2 \alpha \cdot \mu}{|\alpha|^2} \alpha$$

- in case of SU(3) and root  $\alpha_3 = (1, 0)$

$$\mu = (\mu_3, \mu_8) \rightarrow \mu_r = (\mu_3, \mu_8) - 2\mu_3(1, 0) = (-\mu_3, \mu_8)$$

- it is not a chance that weights in  $\bar{3}$  are minus the weights of 3:  $\{\mu_{(\bar{3})}\} = \{-\mu_{(3)}\}$
- anti-triplet  $\bar{3}$  is an example of complex conjugate repr. to triplet 3 this is the reason why it is called anti-triplet
- let's have repr.  $\mathcal{D}$  on Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$   
corresponding generators satisfy  $[T_a, T_b] = if_{abc}T_c$

## Complex conjugate representation $\bar{\mathcal{D}}$

Representation on the same Hilbert space as repr.  $\mathcal{D}$  with generators defined as  $-(T_a^*)$

- it is easy to verify that matrices  $-(T_a^*)$  satisfy the same commutator relations try it!
- relation between weights  $\{\mu_{(\bar{\mathcal{D}})}\} = \{-\mu_{(\mathcal{D})}\}$  follows directly from hermiticity of generators

## Real representation

such repr.  $\mathcal{D}$  for which  $\bar{\mathcal{D}}$  is equivalent with  $\mathcal{D}$ .

- example: in SU(2)  $\bar{2} = 2$ ,  $\begin{pmatrix} p \\ n \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \bar{n} \\ -\bar{p} \end{pmatrix}$

# Casimir operators (exercise 3.14)

- quadratic, or higher order, forms constructed out of Lie algebra of generators  $X_i$ , which commute with all its elements
- the simplest form is quadratic Casimir operator, for orthogonal generators  $X_i$

$$C_2 = C = \sum_1^n X_i X_i, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n : [C, X_i] = 0.$$

$$\begin{aligned} [X_a, X_i X_i] &= X_a X_i X_i - X_i X_i X_a = [X_a, X_i] X_i + X_i X_a X_i - X_i [X_i, X_a] - X_i X_a X_i = [X_a, X_i] X_i + X_i [X_a, X_i] = \\ &= f_{aib} X_b X_i + f_{aib} X_i X_b = f_{aib} \{X_b, X_i\} = -f_{abi} \{X_i, X_b\} = -f_{abi} \{X_i, X_b\} = -f_{aib} \{X_b, X_i\} = 0 \quad (A = -A \Rightarrow A = 0) \end{aligned}$$

Schur's Lemma: Casimir operator is for irreducible representation a multiple of unit matrix  $\mathbf{1}$

$\Rightarrow$  Casimir operator is not a member of algebra

- in SU(2):  $C = J_1^2 + J_2^2 + J_3^2$  is square of total orbital momentum  $C(\mathcal{D}(j)) = j(j+1)\mathbf{1}$
- SU(3) for  $\mathcal{D}(q_3, q_{\bar{3}})$ :  $C(q_3, q_{\bar{3}}) = \frac{1}{3} (q_3^2 + q_3 q_{\bar{3}} + q_{\bar{3}}^2) + (q_3 + q_{\bar{3}})$
- SU(N):  $C_F(N) = \frac{N^2-1}{2N}$ ,  $C_A(N) = N$  (exercise 3.16)

# Irreducible representation (2,0) – SU(3) sextet

Exercise 3.7

- $(2, 0) \Rightarrow \mu_{\max} = 2\mu_{\max}^{(1)} = (1, \sqrt{3}/3)$

$$|\mu_{\max}\rangle : q_1 = 2, p_1 = 0, q_2 = p_2 = 0$$

- 2 moves:  $|A\rangle = E_{-\alpha_1} |\mu_{\max}\rangle$ ,  $|B\rangle = E_{-\alpha_1} |A\rangle$

- moves from  $|A\rangle$  in direction  $\alpha_2$

$$2\mathbf{A} \cdot \alpha_2 = 2 \left( \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} \right) 1 = 1 = q_2 - p_2$$

$q_2 = 1$  (Weyl symmetry for non-existing state  $E_{-\alpha_2} |\mu_{\max}\rangle$ )

or  $p_2 = 0$  as

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\alpha_2} |A\rangle &= E_{\alpha_2} E_{-\alpha_1} |\mu_{\max}\rangle = [E_{\alpha_2}, E_{-\alpha_1}] |\mu_{\max}\rangle + E_{-\alpha_1} E_{\alpha_2} |\mu_{\max}\rangle = 0 \\ &= 0 \quad (\alpha_2 - \alpha_1 \text{ is not root}) \end{aligned}$$

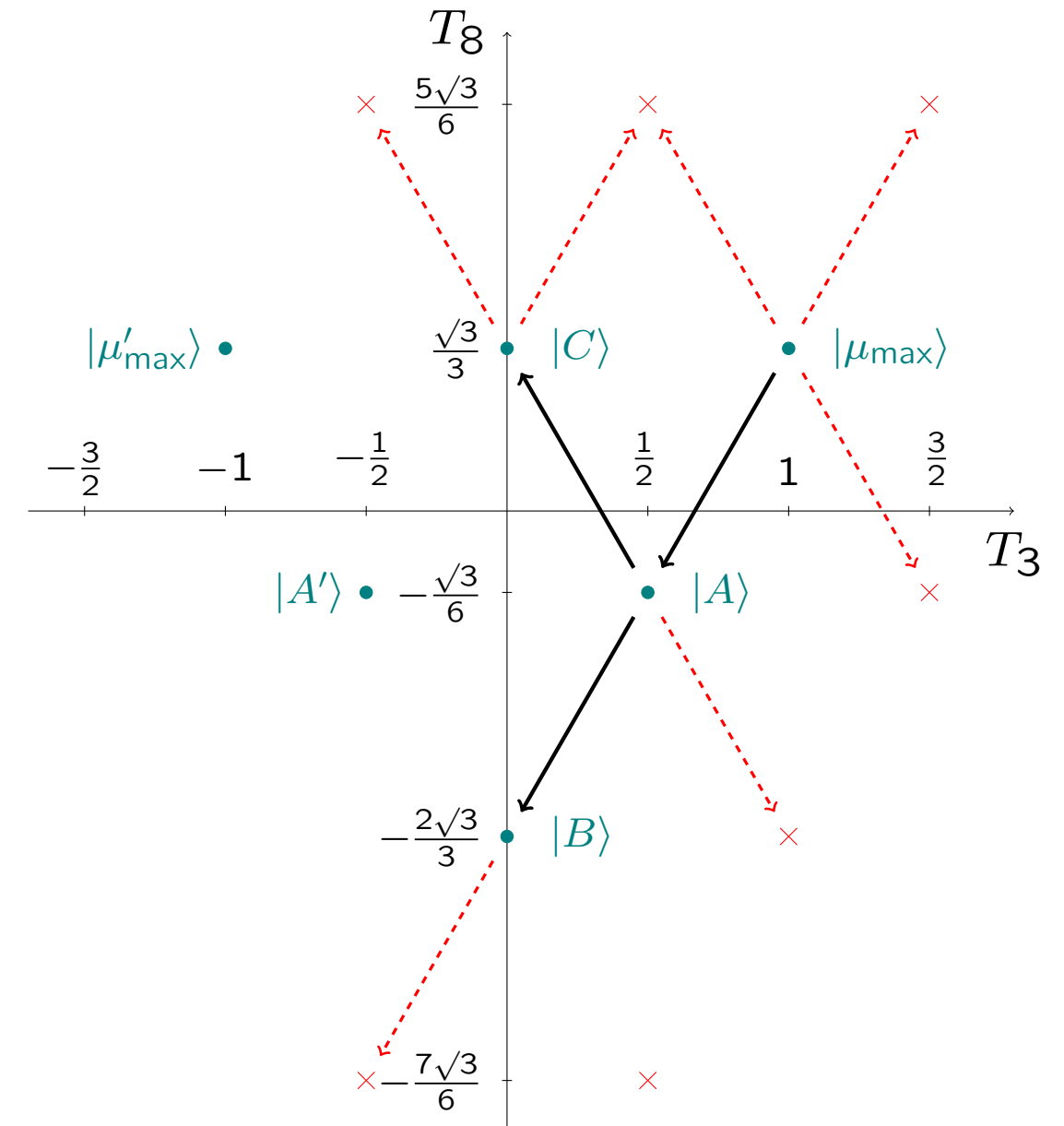
new state  $|C\rangle = E_{-\alpha_2} |A\rangle$

- moves from  $|B\rangle$  in direction  $\alpha_2$

$$E_{\alpha_2} |B\rangle = 0 \text{ as } E_{-\alpha_1} |B\rangle = 0 \text{ (Weyl sym.)}$$

- moves from  $|C\rangle$  in direction  $\alpha_1$

$$E_{\alpha_1} |C\rangle = 0 \text{ as } E_{-\alpha_2} |\mu_{\max}\rangle = 0 \text{ (Weyl sym.)}$$

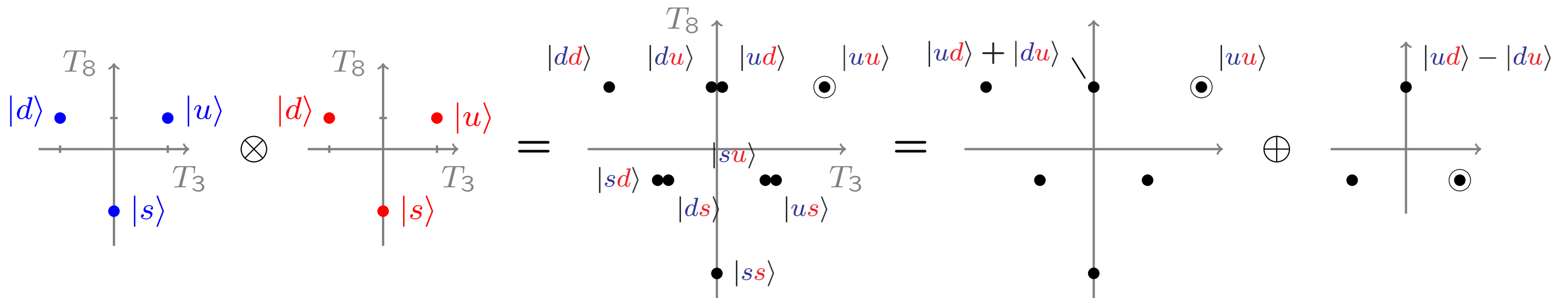


- we are done with  $T_3 \geq 0$  half-plane
- rest is given by reflection (Weyl sym.)

# Decomposition of $3 \otimes 3$

Exercise 3.10

- same approach as in the case of  $SU(2)$   $2 \otimes 2$  decomposition
- first construct Hilbert space of  $3 \otimes 3$
- find state with maximal weight and identify corresponding irreducible representation
- take the states from this representation out and continue until no state is left



$$3 \otimes 3 = 6_s \oplus \bar{3}_a$$

# Irreducible representation (1,1) – SU(3) octet

Exercise 3.8

- $(1,1) \Rightarrow \mu_{\max} = \mu_{\max}^{(1)} + \mu_{\max}^{(2)} = (1,0)$
- we can proceed in same way as in the case of sextet

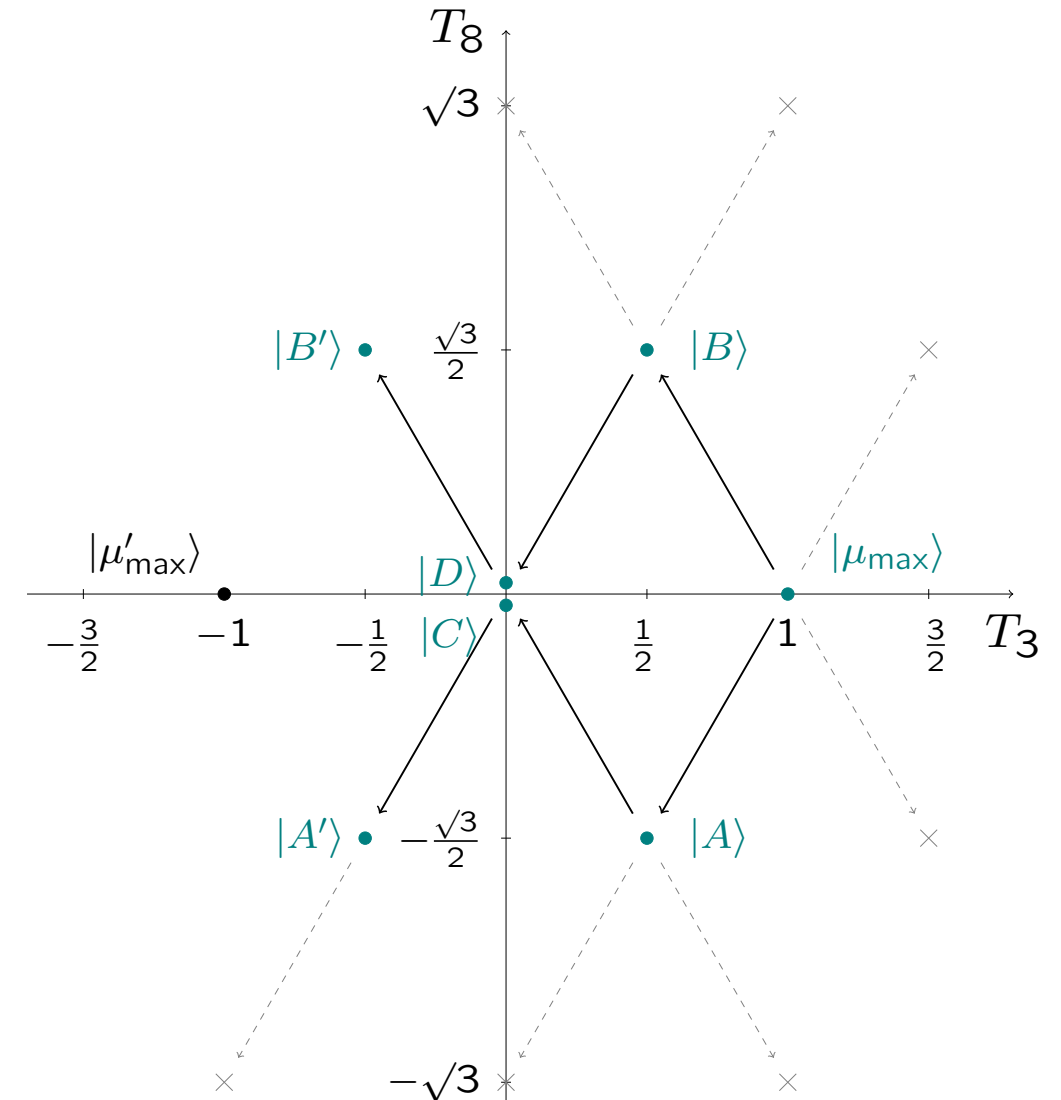
see Exercise 3.8

- but we know already the answer
- notice that the highest SU(3) root  $\alpha_3 = (1,0)$  is the same as  $\mu_{\max}$

$\Rightarrow$  repr. (1,1) is adjoint repr. of SU(3)

$$H_i |E_\alpha\rangle = |[H_i, E_\alpha]\rangle = \alpha_i |E_\alpha\rangle$$

- adjoint repr. is of dimension 8 (8 generators)
  - 6 states correspond to roots
  - 2 states at  $T_3 = T_8 = 0$  (they correspond to eigen-values of generators from Cartan subalgebra, which have quantum numbers equal to zero)

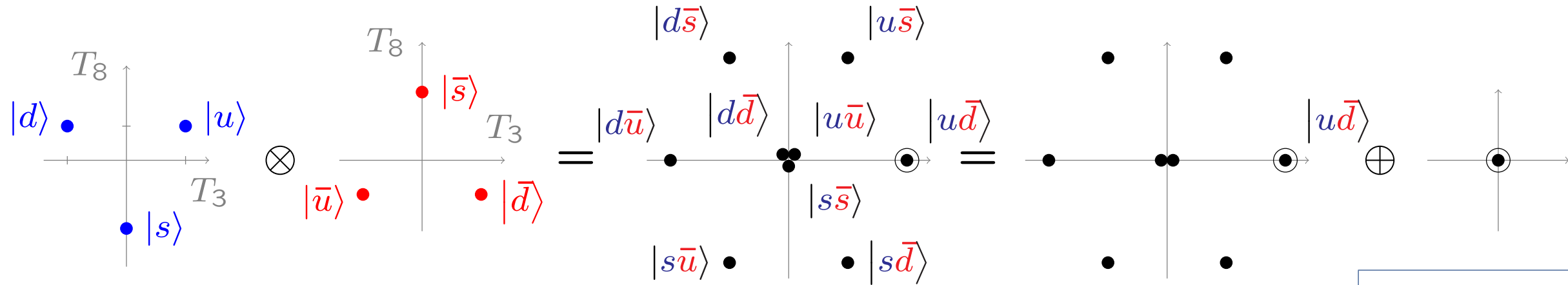


- states  $|C\rangle = E_{-\alpha_2} E_{-\alpha_1} |\mu_{\max}\rangle$  and  $|D\rangle = E_{-\alpha_1} E_{-\alpha_2} |\mu_{\max}\rangle$  linearly independent

$$\frac{\langle C|D\rangle \langle D|C\rangle}{\langle C|C\rangle \langle D|D\rangle} \neq 1$$

# Decomposition of $3 \otimes \bar{3}$

Exercise 3.11



- phase of normalization factor  $N_{\alpha,\mu}$  not fixed

$$|N_{-\alpha,\mu}|^2 = \frac{(p+1)q}{2} |\alpha|^2$$

- once we made a choice for  $3$ , phase of shifting operators in  $\bar{3}$  is fixed

$$E_{-\alpha_1} |u\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |d\rangle \quad E_{-\alpha_2} |\bar{d}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\varphi} |\bar{s}\rangle$$

**Singlet wave function:**  $|1\rangle = a |u\bar{u}\rangle + b |d\bar{d}\rangle + c |s\bar{s}\rangle$

$$E_{-\alpha_3} |1\rangle \propto a |d\bar{u}\rangle - b |d\bar{u}\rangle = 0 \Rightarrow a = b$$

$$E_{-\alpha_1} |1\rangle \propto a |s\bar{u}\rangle - c |d\bar{d}\rangle = 0 \Rightarrow a = c (= b)$$

$$|1\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (|u\bar{u}\rangle + |d\bar{d}\rangle + |s\bar{s}\rangle)$$

$$|C\rangle = E_{-\alpha_2} E_{-\alpha_1} |u\bar{d}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} E_{-\alpha_2} |s\bar{d}\rangle = \frac{1}{2} (|d\bar{d}\rangle + e^{i\varphi} |s\bar{s}\rangle)$$

$$|D\rangle = E_{-\alpha_1} E_{-\alpha_2} |u\bar{d}\rangle = \frac{e^{i\varphi}}{\sqrt{2}} E_{-\alpha_1} |u\bar{s}\rangle = \frac{1}{2} (e^{i\varphi} |s\bar{s}\rangle + e^{2i\varphi} |u\bar{u}\rangle)$$

- $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha_3 \Rightarrow [E_{-\alpha_1}, E_{-\alpha_2}] \propto E_{-\alpha_3}$

$$\begin{aligned} [E_{-\alpha_1}, E_{-\alpha_2}] |u\bar{d}\rangle &= |D\rangle - |C\rangle = \frac{1}{2} (e^{2i\varphi} |u\bar{u}\rangle - |d\bar{d}\rangle) \\ &\propto E_{-\alpha_3} |u\bar{d}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|d\bar{d}\rangle + e^{i\varphi} |u\bar{u}\rangle) \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow e^{2i\varphi} = -e^{i\varphi} \Rightarrow e^{i\varphi} = -1 \quad \text{expected from } SU(2)$$

# Exercises

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- in addition to exercises mentioned in the lecture
  - Construct SU(3) irreducible repr.  $(1, 1)$  - octet, using shifting operators [Exercise 3.8](#)
  - Construct SU(3) irreducible repr.  $(3, 0)$  - decuplet [Exercise 3.9](#)
  - for fun - higher SU(3) multiplets [Exercise 3.13](#)
  - Construct SU(4) fundamental representations [Exercise 3.15](#)
  - Generalization to SU(N) [Exercise 3.16](#)
- plan for today's exercises
  - Construct SU(3) irreducible repr.  $(3, 0)$  - decuplet [Exercise 3.9](#)
  - Decomposition  $3 \otimes 3 \otimes 3$  [Exercise 3.12](#)
  - Casimir operators of SU(2) and SU(3) [Exercise 3.14](#)