

Magnetic field and curvature effects on pair production. II. Vectors and implications for chromodynamics

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We calculate the pair production rates for spin-1 or vector particles on spaces of the form $M \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$, with M corresponding to \mathbb{R}^2 (flat), S^2 (positive curvature), and H^2 (negative curvature), with and without a background (chromo)magnetic field on M . Beyond highlighting the effects of curvature and background magnetic field, this is particularly interesting since vector particles are known to suffer from the Nielsen-Olesen instability, which can dramatically increase pair production rates. The form of this instability for S^2 and H^2 is obtained. We also give a brief discussion of how our results relate to ideas about confinement in non-Abelian theories.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In part 1 [1], we analyzed the Schwinger pair production process on spacetimes with nonzero curvature and with a background magnetic field, in addition to the uniform electric field [1]. The general motivation for this was to elucidate the impact of spin-curvature and spin-magnetic field couplings on threshold effects and hence on pair production rates. We considered cases of the spacetime manifolds which would provide explicit solvable examples. The analysis in [1] was for spin-0 and spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ particles. Specifically, in addition to flat Minkowski space $\mathbb{R}^{3,1}$, we considered the manifolds $M \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$, with $M = S^2, H^2, T^2$, where S^2 is the two-sphere, H^2 the two-dimensional hyperbolic plane, and T^2 the flat two-torus. In the present paper, we will consider similar analyses for the spin-1 particles. The Schwinger process has a long history. For the proper placement of our work and for some of the relevant literature, we refer the reader to references cited in [1].

There are many issues which make the discussion of spin-1 particles more involved compared to the scalar and spinor cases and there are some interesting and new facets as well. There are well-known no-go theorems which point to difficulties in constructing a field theory of charged

spin-1 particles [2]. The only consistent formulation is to consider the spin-1 charged fields as part of a non-Abelian gauge field, minimally an $SU(2)$ gauge theory. One of the non-Abelian fields, say the A_μ^3 field for the $SU(2)$ example, can be considered as the electromagnetic field and the other components as the charged spin-1 fields. In this case, the Yang-Mills action automatically incorporates the correct spin-magnetic field and spin-curvature couplings, the gyromagnetic ratio being 2, as it is for Dirac particles. We also have to ensure that only the physical polarizations are effective in the pair production process. This will require the elimination of the unphysical polarizations via gauge fixing or via suitable constraints on the quantum states. The simplest way will be to use the Becchi-Rouet-Stora-Tyutin (BRST) formalism, which is what we do in what follows.

Since the spin-1 fields are part of a Yang-Mills multiplet, our analysis has the potential to generate results relevant to QCD; this is another motivation for the present work. For Yang-Mills fields, it has been known for a long time that the vacuum tends to generate chromomagnetic fields [3,4] and at the same time that there is an instability for such fields [5,6]. The decay of chromoelectric fields via the Schwinger effect has also been considered in [7], where it was argued that, for a non-Abelian plasma, there is an instability which does not allow for a net nonzero color charge along with field configurations which are coherent over a length scale given by the chemical potential. Therefore the situation with both chromoelectric and chromomagnetic fields is clearly an interesting case.

This paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we set up the basic framework and the calculation of the rate for pair

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production in flat Minkowski space $\mathbb{R}^{3,1}$. By taking the limit of this result for zero electric field we are also able to recover the Nielsen-Olesen result [5]. The two sections that follow are devoted to similar calculations for $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$ and $H^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$. In Sec. V, we give a brief summary and also consider our results in the context of chromodynamics, commenting on the difficulties of maintaining stable chromoelectric configurations. Calculation of the energy spectrum for the charged vector particles and the corresponding density of states on the hyperbolic plane requires the use of the representation theory of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$. Essential points regarding this as well as a semiclassical estimate of the density of states on S^n and H^n , using the Hamilton-Jacobi theory, are provided in the Appendixes A and B, respectively.

II. PAIR PRODUCTION OF VECTOR PARTICLES IN FLAT SPACE

We launch our discussion by considering vector particles in flat space. For this we need the action for a charged vector field coupled to background magnetic fields, including the magnetic moment or Zeeman coupling term. We have already seen, for the case of spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ particles, that the Zeeman coupling has a crucial role in enhancing pair production via the zero modes [1]. The only consistent theory for charged vector fields must treat them as part of a non-Abelian multiplet. Thus we start with an $SU(2)$ gauge theory with the dynamics given by the Yang-Mills action. Some of the arguments we develop can be applied to QCD as well, so the Yang-Mills theory is indeed the appropriate starting point. The Euclidean Yang-Mills action is given by

$$S = \frac{1}{4} \int d^4x F_{\mu\nu}^a F_{\mu\nu}^a = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \text{Tr}(F_{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}), \quad (2.1)$$

where, as usual, $F_{\mu\nu} = (-it^a)F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu + [A_\mu, A_\nu]$ and $A_\mu = (-it^a)A_\mu^a$ is the gauge potential. $\{t^a\}$, $a = 1, 2, 3$, are Hermitian matrices forming a basis for the Lie algebra of $SU(2)$; thus t^a obey the usual commutator algebra with the structure constants f^{abc} , i.e., $[t^a, t^b] = if^{abc}t^c$, and we take them to be normalized as $\text{Tr}(t^a t^b) = \frac{1}{2}\delta^{ab}$.

We introduce a background for the $SU(2)$ gauge potential by $A_\mu^a \rightarrow A_\mu^a + W_\mu^a$, where A_μ^a is now the background field and W_μ^a denote the fluctuations around the background. The problem of gauge fixing and reduction to the physical polarizations can be dealt with using the BRST formalism. The BRST transformations are given by

$$\begin{aligned} Q(A_\mu^a + W_\mu^a) &= \partial_\mu c^a + [A_\mu + W_\mu, c]^a = (D_\mu c)^a + [W_\mu, c]^a \\ Qc^a &= -\frac{1}{2}f^{abc}c^b c^c \\ Q\bar{c}^a &= b^a, \quad Qb^a = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

Here D_μ denotes the covariant derivative with the background field A_μ as the connection and b^a is the Nakanishi-Lautrup field. Since this is a fixed background, $QA_\mu^a = 0$, and the first of the equations in (2.2) is to be interpreted as $QW_\mu^a = (D_\mu c)^a + [W_\mu, c]^a$. We take the gauge-fixed action to be

$$\begin{aligned} S &= S_{\text{YM}}(A + W) + Q \left[\int \bar{c}^a \left((D_\mu W^\mu)^a - \frac{1}{2}b^a \right) \right] \\ &= S_{\text{YM}}(A + W) + \int d^4x \left[(D_\mu \bar{c})^a (D^\mu c + [W^\mu, c])^a \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2}(D \cdot W)^a (D \cdot W)^a \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

We have done some partial integrations and also, in the second line, eliminated b^a by its equation of motion, which is equivalent to integrating it out in the functional integral. The Yang-Mills part of the action simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{YM}}(A + W) &= \frac{1}{4} \int d^4x f_{\mu\nu}^a f^{a\mu\nu} + \tilde{S} \\ \tilde{S} &= \int d^4x \left[\frac{1}{2}(D_\mu W_\nu)^a (D^\mu W^\nu)^a \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{2}(D \cdot W)^a (D \cdot W)^a + f^{abc} f_{\mu\nu}^a W_\mu^b W_\nu^c \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{cubic and quartic terms in } W \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

Here $f_{\mu\nu}$ is the field strength tensor for the background field A_μ . We have omitted the term linear in W as it vanishes for backgrounds which obey the classical equations of motion. The term $f^{abc} f_{\mu\nu}^a W_\mu^b W_\nu^c$ is the Zeeman coupling corresponding to a gyromagnetic ratio of 2. Combining (2.3) and (2.4), we find

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \int d^4x \left[\frac{1}{2}(D_\mu W_\nu)^a (D^\mu W^\nu)^a \right. \\ &\quad \left. + f^{abc} f_{\mu\nu}^a W_\mu^b W_\nu^c + (D_\mu \bar{c})^a (D^\mu c)^a \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{cubic and quartic terms in } W, \bar{c}, c \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

We take the background field to be along the t^3 direction in the $SU(2)$ algebra, so that

$$f_{12}^3 = -f_{21}^3 = B_1, \quad f_{34}^3 = -f_{43}^3 = B_2. \quad (2.6)$$

Further, we take combinations of W_μ^a and the ghosts to define the fields

$$\begin{aligned}
W_+^+ &= \frac{1}{2}[W_1^1 - W_2^2 + i(W_2^1 + W_1^2)], & W_-^- &= \frac{1}{2}[W_1^1 + W_2^2 + i(W_2^1 - W_1^2)] \\
w_+^+ &= \frac{1}{2}[W_3^1 - W_4^2 + i(W_4^1 + W_3^2)], & w_-^- &= \frac{1}{2}[W_3^1 + W_4^2 + i(W_4^1 - W_3^2)] \\
c^\pm &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(c^1 \pm i c^2), & \bar{c}^\pm &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\bar{c}^1 \pm i \bar{c}^2).
\end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

The fields W_μ^3 , c^3 , \bar{c}^3 are uncharged with respect to the background field. Further, $W_-^- = W_+^{+*}$, $W_-^+ = W_+^{-*}$, etc. The quadratic terms in the action (2.5) become

$$\begin{aligned}
S = \int d^4x \Big[& (D_\mu W_+)^{+*}(D^\mu W_+)^+ + (D_\mu W_-)^{+*}(D^\mu W_-)^+ - 2B_1(W_+^{+*}W_+^+ - W_-^{-*}W_-^-) \\
& + (D_\mu w_+)^{+*}(D^\mu w_+)^+ + (D_\mu w_-)^{+*}(D^\mu w_-)^+ - 2B_2(w_+^{+*}w_+^+ - w_-^{-*}w_-^-) \\
& + (D_\mu \bar{c})^-(D^\mu c)^+ + (D_\mu \bar{c})^+(D^\mu c)^- + \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu W_\nu^3 \partial^\mu W^{3\nu} + \partial_\mu \bar{c}^3 \partial^\mu c^3 \Big].
\end{aligned} \tag{2.8}$$

The eigenvalues of the kinetic operator (which we shall often refer to as the energy eigenvalues even though we are discussing the Euclidean action) for W_μ^3 and c^3 , \bar{c}^3 are independent of the magnetic fields and lead to an infinite constant in the effective action which is removed by renormalization. The eigenvalues for the charged fields are shown in Table I. The density of states is $(B_1 B_2 / 4\pi^2)$, for all cases. Using these values, we find the effective action $\Gamma = \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2$ with

$$\begin{aligned}
-\Gamma_1 &= \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \int d^4x \frac{ds}{s} \left(\frac{B_2}{\sinh s B_2} \right) \left[B_1 \sum_{n_1} (e^{-s[m^2 + (2n_1 - 1)B_1]} + e^{-s(2n_1 + 3)B_1}) \right] \\
-\Gamma_2 &= \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int d^4x \frac{ds}{s} \left(\frac{B_2}{\sinh s B_2} \right) (\cosh 2s B_2 - 1) \left[B_1 \sum_{n_1} e^{-s(2n_1 + 1)B_1} \right].
\end{aligned} \tag{2.9}$$

Γ_1 is the contribution from W_\pm^+ . Rather than a zero mode as in the case of spin $\frac{1}{2}$, we now have a negative mode $(2n_1 + 1)B_1 - 2B_1 = -B_1$ (for $n_1 = 0$), due to the Zeeman term. This instability is what was noticed long ago by Nielsen and Olesen [5] and has led to arguments in favor of the QCD vacuum spontaneously generating chromomagnetic fields with a consequent instability which is then eliminated by mass generation. We will discuss the physics of this later. For now, we notice that the negative mode can lead to a divergence, so we have introduced a mass term as an *ad hoc* infrared cutoff.

The rate for pair production or decay of the field is obtained by continuing Γ to the Minkowski signature by using $x_4 \rightarrow ix_0$, $B_2 \rightarrow -iE$. The continuation of $-\Gamma$ should

TABLE I. Eigenvalues for the charged components of the vector fields and ghosts.

Fields	Eigenvalues
c^\pm	$(2n_1 + 1)B_1 + (2n_2 + 1)B_2$
w_+^+	$(2n_1 + 1)B_1 + \frac{(2n_2 + 3)B_2}{(2n_2 - 1)B_2}$
W_-^-	$\frac{(2n_1 + 3)B_1}{(2n_1 - 1)B_1} + (2n_2 + 1)B_2$
W_+^+	

then be identified as iS_{eff} , with the vacuum-to-vacuum amplitude given as $\langle 0|0 \rangle = e^{iS_{\text{eff}}}$. We are thus interested in the real part of iS_{eff} . The factor $(\sinh s B_2)^{-1}$ in (2.9), upon continuation, becomes $(-i \sin Es)^{-1}$ and can potentially produce poles at $sE = n\pi$, $n = 1, 2, \dots$. (There is no singularity at $n = 0$, or $s = 0$, since the integration over s starts at $s = \epsilon$, with ϵ being an ultraviolet cutoff. To put it another way, the $s = 0$ singularity is subtracted out via renormalization before taking $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.) The imaginary part of S_{eff} (i.e., the real part of iS_{eff}) arises from going around the poles in doing the s -integration. Near $sE = n\pi$, we write $s = (n\pi/E) + z$, $\sin sE = \sin(n\pi + Ez) \simeq (-1)^n Ez$ and calculate the contribution from integration over a small semicircle around these points to obtain $\Re(iS_{\text{eff}})$ [1].

The second term in the effective action, namely, Γ_2 , is the contribution from w 's and the ghosts. In going over to Minkowski space, we note that since $\cosh 2s B_2 - 1 = 2 \sinh^2 s B_2$, the continuation of Γ_2 to the Minkowski signature does not have any poles and so it does not contribute to the pair production. This is a reflection of the ghosts canceling out the effects of two polarizations of the vector particle, reducing the physics to that of the two physical polarizations.

From Γ_1 , which is due to W_{\pm}^+ , we get

$$\begin{aligned}\Re e(iS_{\text{eff}}) &= \int d^4x \frac{E}{8\pi^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n} B_1 \\ &\quad \times \sum_{n_1} (e^{-s[m^2+(2n_1-1)B_1]} + e^{-s(2n_1+3)B_1})_{s=n\pi/E} \\ &= - \int d^4x \frac{E^2}{96\pi} f_1(B_1/E)\end{aligned}\quad (2.10)$$

$$\begin{aligned}f_1(x) &= \frac{12x}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \\ &\quad \times \sum_{n_1} (e^{-[m^2(n\pi/E)+(2n_1-1)n\pi x]} + e^{-(2n_1+3)n\pi x}) \\ &= \frac{12x}{\pi} \left[\log(1 + e^{\pi x}) + \log(1 + e^{-\pi x}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2 \sum_{n_1=1}^{\infty} \log(1 + e^{-(2n_1+1)\pi x}) \right].\end{aligned}\quad (2.11)$$

The summation over n in $f_1(x)$ will converge if $m^2 > B_1$. We have used this to calculate the sum and then set $m^2 = 0$. This may be viewed as defining the sum in a region where it converges and then defining the result in the larger domain by continuation. For zero magnetic field, we have $f_1 = 1$, so enhancement effects can be identified by considering values of $f_1(x)$. A graph of this function is shown in Fig. 1. We see clearly that there is enhancement of pair production due to the magnetic field, namely, $f_1(x) \geq 1$.

It is also interesting to consider the large x limit of $f_1(x) \approx 12x^2$ from (2.11). In this limit, which also corresponds to $E \rightarrow 0$, we find

$$\Re e(iS_{\text{eff}}) = - \int d^4x \frac{B_1^2}{8\pi}. \quad (2.12)$$

This is exactly the result for the magnetic instability given in [5]. Thus Eqs. (2.10) and (2.11) do incorporate the Nielsen-Olesen instability.

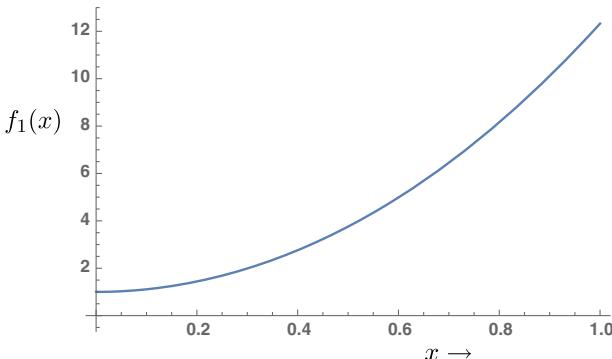


FIG. 1. The graph of $f_1(x)$ showing enhancement due to the background magnetic field.

III. PAIR CREATION OF VECTOR PARTICLES ON $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$

The case of vector particles on $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ can be analyzed using what we did in flat space, with only a couple of changes. We will consider uniform magnetic fields on S^2 and \mathbb{R}^2 , which we take to be of the form $B_1 t^3$ and $B_2 t^3$, respectively. On the sphere there is a quantization condition for the field B_1 ; it can be written as $B_1 = \frac{N}{2a^2}$, with $N \in \mathbb{Z}$, a being the radius of curvature of the sphere. The wave functions for the S^2 part will be given by representation matrices for $SU(2)$ of the form $\langle j, m | \hat{g} | j, m' \rangle$, for $\hat{g} \in SU(2)$, where we regard S^2 as $SU(2)/U(1)$. [The $SU(2)$ here is used to define the manifold S^2 and it is not related to the gauge group which we have chosen to be $SU(2)$ as well.] The Laplace operator now takes the form of $-D_3^2 - D_4^2 + (R_1^2 + R_2^2)/a^2$, where R_a are the right translation operators acting on \hat{g} . iR_1/a , iR_2/a define the covariant derivatives on the sphere, the commutator of which should be the magnetic field (multiplied by the charge matrix) plus the curvature (multiplied by the spin). Since

$$[D_1, D_2] = -\frac{[R_1, R_2]}{a^2} = -i \frac{R_3}{a^2}, \quad (3.1)$$

we see that the eigenvalue of R_3 must be chosen to represent the sum of the magnetic field and the appropriate spin-curvature term. The eigenvalues of $R_1^2 + R_2^2$ can be evaluated by writing it as $(R_1^2 + R_2^2 + R_3^2) - R_3^2 = j(j+1) - R_3^2$, with R_3 set to the appropriate values for the various components, keeping in mind that w_{\pm} are scalars on S^2 , while W_{\pm} are vectors. This means that we must have the R_3 and j values as given in Table II, where q is an integer, $q \geq 0$. The degeneracy factor for the Landau levels on the sphere will be $2j+1$ as usual. (For the general background on such calculations, see [8].)

In the action, there is also an additional Zeeman-like term due to the coupling of spin to curvature. We can simplify the action as follows. With the background fields, we have

$$F_{\mu\nu} = f_{\mu\nu} + (D_{\mu}W_{\nu} - D_{\nu}W_{\mu}) + [W_{\mu}, W_{\nu}]. \quad (3.2)$$

In using this in (2.1), the quadratic terms are given by

TABLE II. R_3 and j values for the charged fields.

Fields	R_3	j
c^{\pm}, w_{\pm}^+	$-\frac{N}{2}$	$q + \frac{N}{2}$
W_{\pm}^+	$-1 - \frac{N}{2}$	$q + 1 + \frac{N}{2}$
W_{+}^+	$1 - \frac{N}{2}$	$q - 1 + \frac{N}{2}$
	$\frac{1}{2}$	$q + \frac{1}{2}$
	1	$q + 1$

$$\begin{aligned}
S(A + W) &= \int d^4x [-\text{Tr}(D_\mu W_\nu D_\mu W_\nu) + \text{Tr}(D_\mu W_\nu D_\nu W_\mu) \\
&\quad - \text{Tr}(f_{\mu\nu}[W_\mu, W_\nu]) + \dots] \\
&= \int d^4x [-\text{Tr}(W_\nu(-D^2)W_\nu) \\
&\quad - \text{Tr}(W_\nu[D_\mu, D_\nu]W_\mu) + \text{Tr}(D \cdot W)^2 \\
&\quad - \text{Tr}(f_{\mu\nu}[W_\mu, W_\nu]) + \dots] \quad (3.3)
\end{aligned}$$

In the case of flat space, the commutator of the two covariant derivatives acting on W_μ gives $[f_{\mu\nu}, W_\mu]$, which is added on to the last term and gives the Zeeman term $-2\text{Tr}f_{\mu\nu}[W_\mu, W_\nu]$. As mentioned above, the commutator also gives a term proportional to the Riemann tensor. For $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$, this applies to the case of $\mu, \nu = 1, 2$. Using $D_b = iR_b/a$, $b = 1, 2$, this term can be evaluated as

$$\begin{aligned}
-\text{Tr}(W_\nu[D_\mu, D_\nu]W_\mu) &= \frac{1}{a^2} \text{Tr}(W_b[R_a, R_b]W_a) \\
&= \frac{i}{a^2} \text{Tr}(-W_1R_3W_2 + W_2R_3W_1) \\
&= \frac{1}{a^2} \text{Tr}(W_+R_3W_- - W_-R_3W_+) \\
&= \frac{1}{2a^2} (W_-^c R_3 W_+^c - W_+^c R_3 W_-^c) \\
&= \frac{1}{a^2} W_-^c W_+^c. \quad (3.4)
\end{aligned}$$

In this equation, in evaluating the action of R_3 , we have only indicated the gravitational or curvature part since the gauge field part involving $f_{\mu\nu}$ was already included (as part of the Zeeman term). It is now easy to write down the spectrum of various fields. Ignoring the uncharged fields W_μ^3, \bar{c}^3, c^3 , which do not contribute to the pair production, the fields and the corresponding eigenvalues and densities of states ρ are as given in Table III. We have not indicated the conjugate fields.

From the values given in the table, there is a useful observation we can make regarding the decay rate. Notice that w_+^+, w_-^+ have the same eigenvalues and degeneracies as the ghosts except for an additional $\mp 2B_2$, respectively. In the formula for the effective action, this will give an additional factor $e^{-s(\mp 2B_2)}$. Upon continuation to

Minkowski space, when this is evaluated at the poles of the $(\sin sE)^{-1}$ factor, we get $e^{\mp 2\pi in} = 1$. So these factors will not affect the decay rate. Since all other terms are identical, the contribution of the w -fields (i.e., W_3, W_4) is exactly canceled by the ghosts. Again, this is essentially the reduction of the degrees of freedom to the two physical polarizations. The decay rate can thus be obtained from just the W_\pm^+ -fields and is given by

$$\text{Re}(iS_{\text{eff}}) = - \int dudx_0dx_3 \frac{E^2}{16\pi^3} \beta_1(\omega), \quad (3.5)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_1(\omega) &= \omega \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \sum_q [(2q + N + 3) \\
&\quad \times e^{-n\omega(q^2 + q(N+3) + 3(N/2) + 2 + m^2 a^2)} \\
&\quad + (2q + N - 1) e^{-n\omega(q^2 + q(N-1) - (N/2) + m^2 a^2)}], \quad (3.6)
\end{aligned}$$

where $\omega = \pi/(Ea^2)$. For $N \geq 2$, the eigenvalue for W_+^+ for $q = 0$ is negative, namely, $-(N/2)$, so there is a convergence problem for the summation over n . So we have again added a mass term as an *ad hoc* infrared regulator. The eigenvalues and degeneracy for W_+^+ for $q \geq 2$ coincide with those of W_-^+ . Thus after separating out the $q = 0, 1$ terms for the W_+^+ spectrum and redefining q , we can write the formula for $\beta_1(\omega)$ as

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_1(\omega) &= \omega \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \left[(N-1) e^{-n\omega(m^2 a^2 - (N/2))} \right. \\
&\quad + (N+1) e^{-n\omega(m^2 a^2 + (N/2))} \\
&\quad + 2 \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} (2q + N + 1) e^{-n\omega(m^2 a^2 + q^2 + q(N+1) + (N/2))} \Big] \\
&= \omega \left[(N-1) \log(1 + e^{-\omega(m^2 a^2 - (N/2))}) \right. \\
&\quad + (N+1) \log(1 + e^{-\omega(m^2 a^2 + (N/2))}) \\
&\quad + 2 \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} (2q + N + 1) \\
&\quad \times \log(1 + e^{-\omega(m^2 a^2 + q^2 + q(N+1) + (N/2))}) \Big]. \quad (3.7)
\end{aligned}$$

TABLE III. Eigenvalues and degeneracies for the charged components of the vector fields and ghosts.

Fields	Eigenvalues	$8\pi^2 a^2 \rho$
c^\pm	$(2n_2 + 1)B_2 + (q(q + 1) + N(q + \frac{1}{2}))/a^2$	$B_2(N + 2q + 1)$
w_+^+	$\frac{(2n_2 + 3)B_2}{(2n_2 - 1)B_2} + (q(q + 1) + N(q + \frac{1}{2}))/a^2$	$B_2(N + 2q + 1)$
W_-^+	$(2n_2 + 1)B_2 + (q^2 + q(N + 3) + 3(N/2) + 2)/a^2$	$B_2(N + 2q + 3)$
W_+^+	$(2n_2 + 1)B_2 + (q^2 + 2q + \frac{1}{2})/a^2$ $+(q^2 + 3q + 2)/a^2$	$B_2(N + 2q - 1)$, if $N \geq 2$ $B_2(2q + 2)$, if $N = 1$ $B_2(2q + 3)$, if $N = 0$

This equation holds for any $N \geq 1$. It is easy to verify that, for large a^2 or the flat limit of S^2 , we can approximate $\beta_1(\omega)$ by

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_1^{\text{flat}}(\omega) &= \omega \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} N \sum_q [e^{-n\omega(qN+3(N/2)+m^2a^2)} \\ &\quad + e^{-n\omega(qN-(N/2)+m^2a^2)}] \\ &= \omega N \left[\log(1 + e^{-\omega(m^2a^2-(N/2))}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \log(1 + e^{-\omega(m^2a^2+(N/2))}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2 \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} \log(1 + e^{-\omega(m^2a^2+qN+(N/2))}) \right]. \quad (3.8) \end{aligned}$$

If we use this limiting value in (3.5) and take $m = 0$, we get the formulas (2.10) and (2.11), which apply for the flat case with a background field, with the identification $N = 2B_1a^2$. We can now define

$$\gamma_1(\omega) = \left[\frac{\beta_1(\omega)}{\beta_1^{\text{flat}}(\omega)} \right]. \quad (3.9)$$

This gives a good measure of the effect of curvature. In the absence of the transverse magnetic field, i.e., for the $N = 0$ case, $\beta_1(\omega)$ takes the form

$$\beta_1(\omega, N = 0) = 2\omega \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} (2q+1) \log(1 + e^{-\omega q(q+1)}), \quad (3.10)$$

while the corresponding quantity in the flat limit is $\pi^2/6$. Therefore, for $N = 0$, we find $\gamma_1(\omega, N = 0) = \frac{6}{\pi^2} \beta_1(\omega, N = 0)$. The graphs of $\gamma_1(\omega)$, for different values of the magnetic field, or N , are shown in Figs. 2 and 3. It is clear that the main features of these graphs are independent of the cutoff used. Notice that, for all values of N ($\neq 0$), $\gamma_1(\omega)$ is less than 1, with an asymptotic limit of $(N-1)/N$

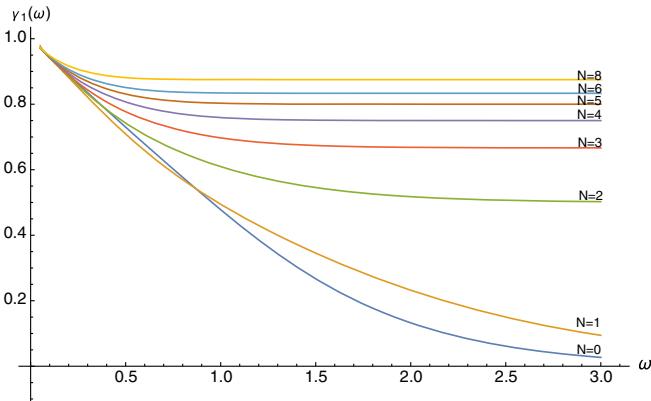


FIG. 2. Cutoff $m^2 a^2 = 4$.

for large ω . Thus the effect of the positive curvature of S^2 is to suppress pair production compared to the rate in flat space. As the asymptotic value shows, this effect is essentially due to the degeneracy factors. (In broad terms, the situation is similar to what happens for spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ fields, but is very different from the result for scalar fields; see [1].) It is also clear that the pair production rate is higher with a background magnetic field than it is for zero magnetic field since the graphs show clearly that $\gamma_1(\omega, N) > \gamma_1(\omega, N = 0)$, although the enhancement is less pronounced than it is for the flat case, since $\gamma_1(\omega, N) < 1$.

In this example of $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$ also, it is instructive to take the small E limit or large ω limit. The expression for the real part of iS_{eff} becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \Re(iS_{\text{eff}}) &= - \int d\mu dx_0 dx_3 \frac{1}{8\pi} B_1 \left(B_1 - \frac{1}{2a^2} \right) \\ &= - \int d\mu dx_0 dx_3 \frac{1}{8\pi} B_1 \left(B_1 - \frac{R}{4} \right), \quad (3.11) \end{aligned}$$

where R is the Ricci scalar for the sphere, $R = 2/a^2$. Notice that the instability is cured by a small enough radius for the sphere, $2B_1a^2 = 1$. This is intuitively in agreement with curing the instability with a mass term [6]; both provide suitable infrared cutoffs.

We also want to contrast this result with the calculation reported in [9], where the imaginary part of the effective action is obtained as

$$\Re(iS_{\text{eff}}) = - \int d\mu d^2x \frac{1}{8\pi} B_1 \left(B_1 + \frac{1}{3a^2} \right). \quad (3.12)$$

(We have rewritten the formula in our notation.) It should be emphasized that the case considered in [9] is for $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2$ with the magnetic field purely in the \mathbb{R}^2 part and not on the S^2 , as we are doing here. So, while (3.12) is an interesting result, it cannot be compared to our calculation.

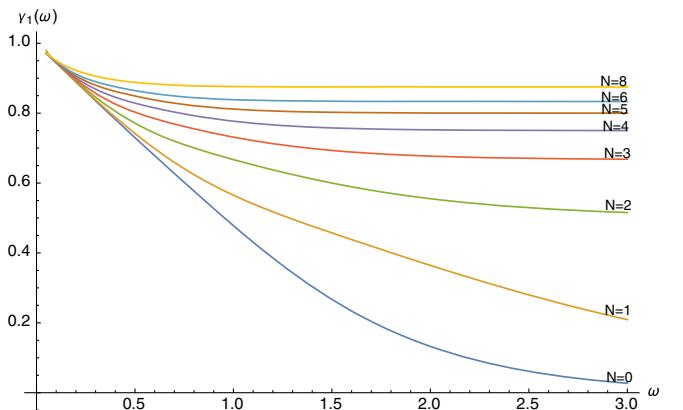


FIG. 3. No cutoff, $m^2 a^2 = 0$.

TABLE IV. Charged fields and the eigenvalues for the continuous part of the spectrum on H^2 .

Field	Eigenvalues	$4\pi^2 a^2 \rho$
c^\pm	$(2n_2 + 1)B_2 + (\lambda^2 + \frac{1}{4} + b^2)/a^2$	$B_2 \frac{\lambda \sinh 2\pi\lambda}{\cosh 2\pi\lambda + \cos 2\pi b}$
w_+^+	$(2n_2 + 3)B_2 + (\lambda^2 + \frac{1}{4} + b^2)/a^2$	$B_2 \frac{\lambda \sinh 2\pi\lambda}{\cosh 2\pi\lambda + \cos 2\pi b}$
w_+^+	$(2n_2 - 1)B_2 + (\lambda^2 + \frac{1}{4} + b^2)/a^2$	$B_2 \frac{\lambda \sinh 2\pi\lambda}{\cosh 2\pi\lambda + \cos 2\pi b}$

IV. PAIR CREATION OF VECTOR PARTICLES ON $H^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$

As before we consider a magnetic field B_1 on H^2 and a magnetic field B_2 on \mathbb{R}^2 (which will be continued to the electric field on $\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$). We also define $b = B_1 a^2$, where the curvature on H^2 is $-2/a^2$. The space H^2 can be analyzed using group theory in a way similar to what we did for S^2 , since $H^2 = SU(1,1)/U(1)$. The eigenvalues for the Laplacian for H^2 can be obtained in terms of unitary representations of $SU(1,1) \sim SL(2, \mathbb{R})$, as explained in [10,11] and [1]. The generators R_\pm, R_3 of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ satisfy the commutation relations

$$[R_3, R_\pm] = \pm R_\pm, \quad [R_+, R_-] = -2R_3. \quad (4.1)$$

The wave functions are the group elements of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ with R_3 -values fixed by the magnetic field and the curvature, similar to what we did for $S^2 = SU(2)/U(1)$. The relevant representations in the present case are the discrete series bounded below and the principal continuous series. In considering the kinetic operators, which have the spin-magnetic field and spin-curvature couplings as well, we note that, since H^2 has constant negative curvature, the sign of the curvature term used in the spherical case (3.4) now flips to the negative sign. Therefore, we have

$$\begin{aligned} -\text{Tr}W_\nu[D_\mu, D_\nu]W_\mu &= -\frac{1}{2a^2}(W_-^c R_3 W_+^c - W_+^c R_3 W_-^c) \\ &= -\frac{1}{a^2}W_-^c W_+^c. \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

Keeping these facts in mind, the energy eigenvalues and the corresponding densities for the charged fields can be determined in a straightforward manner. The eigenvalues

of the H^2 part of the kinetic operator for W_\pm^+ , including the spin-magnetic field and spin-curvature terms, are of the form

$$-\mathcal{D}_{W_\pm^+} = \frac{1}{a^2}[(R^2 + R_3^2) \mp 2b - 1], \quad (4.3)$$

where $R_3 = b \pm 1$ for W_\pm^+ and R^2 is the eigenvalue for the quadratic Casimir operator of $SU(1,1)$. Explicitly, for the principal continuous series representation, $R^2 = \lambda^2 + \frac{1}{4}$, where λ is real, $0 \leq \lambda < \infty$, and for the discrete series $R^2 = -\Lambda(\Lambda - 1)$, where $\Lambda = R_3 - k \geq \frac{1}{2}$. We use the discrete series representations which are bounded below as is appropriate with the finite norm condition defined by the parametrization we have chosen for H^2 [1]. Detailed calculations are given in Appendix A and the results are summarized in the tables given below for convenience. Table IV gives the continuous part of the energy spectrum on H^2 , while Table V refers to the discrete part. The discrete energy levels are labeled by an integer $k \geq 0$. It is clear from the table of discrete levels that, for $0 \leq b < \frac{1}{2}$ only a single discrete energy level exists for W_+^+ , which has energy $-b/a^2$ on H^2 , which is a zero mode in the absence of the magnetic field. For $\frac{1}{2} < b < \frac{3}{2}$, there is an additional discrete level for W_+^+ with energy b/a^2 . For $b > \frac{3}{2}$, there is a finite number of discrete states, labeled by the integer $k \geq 0$ with $k \leq [b - \frac{3}{2}]$. ([X] indicates the integer part of the argument X.) It is also easily verified that the continuum starts at a higher energy than the highest discrete level.

Contributions to the imaginary part of the effective action coming from the w_\pm^\pm and the ghosts c^\pm cancel in the same manner as they do in the $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$ case. This leaves us with the contributions coming from the W_\pm^+ fields, which lead to

$$\Re e(iS_{\text{eff}}) = - \int_{H^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}} du dx_0 dx_3 \frac{E^2}{16\pi^3} \beta_1(\omega), \quad (4.4)$$

where $\beta_1(\omega) = \beta_{1,C}(\omega) + \beta_{1,D}(\omega)$, with

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{1,C}(\omega) &= 4\omega \int_0^\infty d\lambda \frac{\lambda \sinh 2\pi\lambda}{\cosh 2\pi\lambda + \cos 2\pi b} \\ &\times \log[1 + e^{-\omega(\lambda^2 + \frac{1}{4} + b^2 + m^2 a^2)}] \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

TABLE V. Charged fields and the eigenvalues for the discrete part of the spectrum on H^2 .

Field	Eigenvalues	$4\pi^2 a^2 \rho$
c^\pm	$(2n_2 + 1)B_2 + (-k(k + 1) + 2bk + b)/a^2$	$k \leq [b - \frac{1}{2}] \quad B_2(b - k - \frac{1}{2})$
w_+^+	$(2n_2 + 3)B_2 + (-k(k + 1) + 2bk + b)/a^2$	$k \leq [b - \frac{1}{2}] \quad B_2(b - k - \frac{1}{2})$
w_+^+	$(2n_2 - 1)B_2 + (-k(k + 1) + 2bk + b)/a^2$	$k \leq [b - \frac{3}{2}] \quad B_2(b - k - \frac{3}{2})$
W_+^+	$(2n_2 + 1)B_2 + \frac{(-k(k + 3) + 2bk + 3b - 2)/a^2}{(-k(k - 1) + 2bk - b)/a^2}$	$k \leq [b + \frac{1}{2}] \quad B_2(b - k + \frac{1}{2})$

$$\beta_{1,D}(\omega) = 2\omega \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n} \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor b+\frac{1}{2} \rfloor} \left(b - k + \frac{1}{2} \right) e^{-\omega n(-k(k-1)+2bk-b+m^2a^2)} + \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor b-\frac{3}{2} \rfloor} \left(b - k - \frac{3}{2} \right) e^{-\omega n(-k(k+3)+2bk+3b-2+m^2a^2)} \right). \quad (4.6)$$

After separating out the $k = 0, 1$ terms, the first sum in (4.7) gives an identical contribution to the second and we can express $\beta_{1,D}(\omega)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{1,D}(\omega) &= 2\omega \left[\left(b + \frac{1}{2} \right) \log(1 + e^{-\omega(-b+m^2a^2)}) + \left(b - \frac{1}{2} \right) \log(1 + e^{-\omega(b+m^2a^2)}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2 \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor b-\frac{3}{2} \rfloor} \left(b - k - \frac{3}{2} \right) \log(1 + e^{-\omega(-k(k+3)+2bk+3b-2+m^2a^2)}) \right] \equiv \beta_{1,D}^{(<1/2)}(\omega) + \beta_{1,D}^{(<3/2)}(\omega) + \beta_{1,D}^{(>3/2)}(\omega), \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

where in the last line we have introduced a helpful notation to facilitate the fact that not all the terms in $\beta_{1,D}(\omega)$ are present for all b . Thus, only $\beta_{1,D}^{(<1/2)}(\omega)$ is present for $0 \leq b < \frac{1}{2}$, $\beta_{1,D}^{(<1/2)}(\omega) + \beta_{1,D}^{(<3/2)}(\omega)$ for $\frac{1}{2} < b < \frac{3}{2}$, and all three terms are present for $b > \frac{3}{2}$. The degeneracy factors should be positive; this gives a quick check on which terms are present when.

In the flat limit of the hyperbolic plane, $\beta_{1,C}(\omega)$ does not give any contribution, while $\beta_{1,D}(\omega)$ takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{1,D}^{\text{flat}}(\omega) &= 2\omega b \sum_{k=0}^{k_{\max} \rightarrow \infty} [\log(1 + e^{-\omega(2bk-b+m^2a^2)}) + \log(1 + e^{-\omega(2bk+3b+m^2a^2)})] \\ &= 2\omega b \left(\log(1 + e^{-\omega(-b+m^2a^2)}) + \log(1 + e^{-\omega(b+m^2a^2)}) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2 \sum_{k=0}^{k_{\max} \rightarrow \infty} \log(1 + e^{-\omega(2bk+3b+m^2a^2)}) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

As before, to probe the curvature effects at a given magnetic field, we compare $\beta_1(\omega)$ to its flat space value by defining the functions

$$\gamma_1(\omega) = \begin{cases} \frac{\beta_{1,D}^{(<1/2)}(\omega) + \beta_{1,C}(\omega)}{\beta_{1,D}^{\text{flat}}(\omega)}, & 0 \leq b < \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{\beta_{1,D}^{(<1/2)}(\omega) + \beta_{1,D}^{(<3/2)}(\omega) + \beta_{1,C}(\omega)}{\beta_{1,D}^{\text{flat}}(\omega)}, & \frac{1}{2} < b < \frac{3}{2} \\ \frac{\beta_{1,D}(\omega) + \beta_{1,C}(\omega)}{\beta_{1,D}^{\text{flat}}(\omega)}, & b > \frac{3}{2}. \end{cases} \quad (4.9)$$

For the special case of $b = 0$, we find

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_1^{(0)}(\omega) &= \frac{6}{\pi^2} \left(\omega \log 2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 4\omega \int_0^\infty d\lambda \tanh \pi\lambda \log[1 + e^{-\omega(\lambda^2+\frac{1}{4})}] \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

In the absence of the transverse magnetic field, in addition to the contribution from the continuous energy spectrum, there is a single discrete mode, which is a zero mode, with a constant density of states, whose contribution to $\gamma_1^{(0)}(\omega)$ is $\frac{6}{\pi^2} \omega \log 2$. This mode is essentially responsible

for the monotonic increase in the pair production rate compared to the flat case by accommodating produced particles at virtually no energy cost. This feature is clearly seen in the profile of $\gamma_1^{(0)}(\omega)$ provided in Fig. 4.

In order to understand the emerging physics from the profiles of $\gamma_1(\omega)$, several facts should be simultaneously taken into account. From Figs. 5–8, we can see that the pair production rate on $H^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$ is always larger than that for vector particles on flat space and converges to the latter at

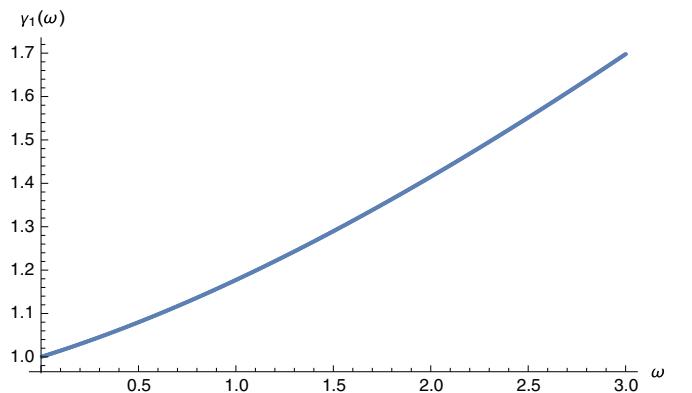
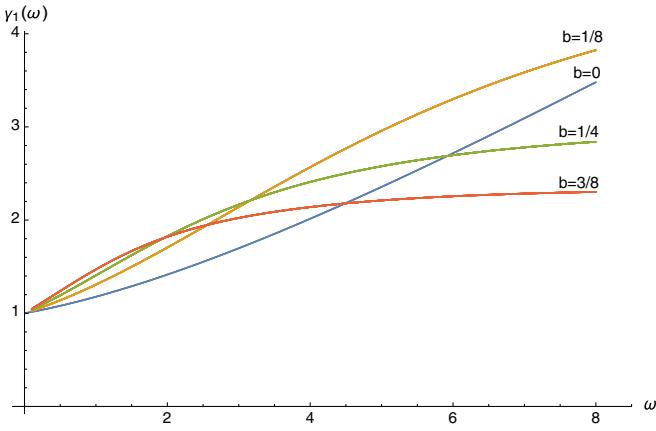
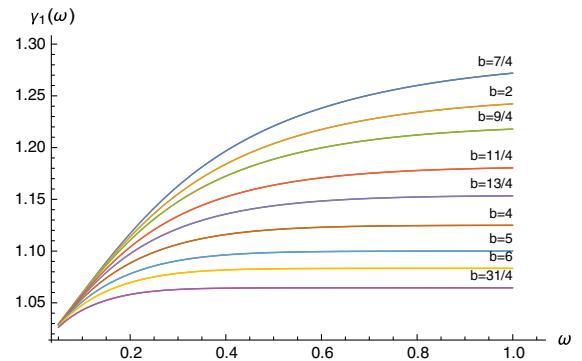


FIG. 4. $\gamma_1(\omega)$ at $b = 0$.

FIG. 5. $\gamma_1(\omega)$ at $0 < b < \frac{1}{2}$ and no infrared cutoff.

sufficiently large magnetic fields. Next, it is important to emphasize that all the ensuing results regarding the comparison of pair production rates at different values of the magnetic field or comparison with the results obtained in the flat case are insensitive to the value of the mass term $m^2 a^2$, which is acting as an effective infrared cutoff. In retrospect, this may be expected since the infrared cutoff is introduced formally to facilitate certain summations because the negative energy mode is present in the spectrum of W_+^+ . As such, the cutoff appears in all the exponentials in the expressions for $\gamma_1(\omega)$, and that makes the latter almost completely insensitive to whatever value it may take (as long as it is not unphysically large). From now on, we therefore set it to zero without loss of generality.

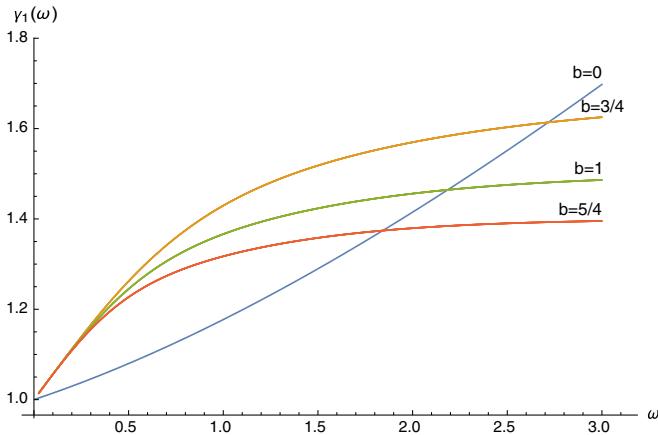
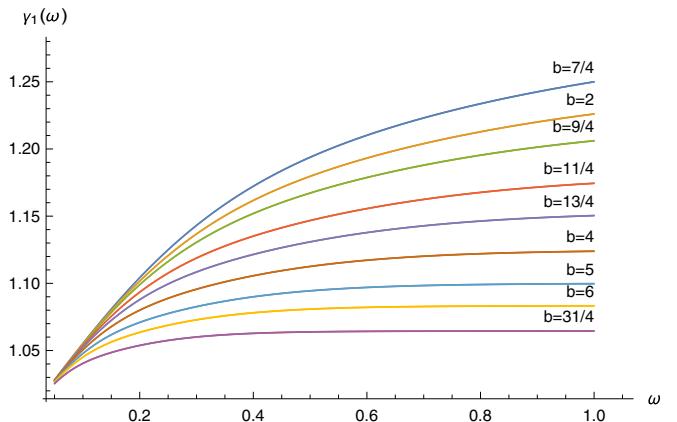
For $0 < b < \frac{1}{2}$, we observe from the profiles of $\gamma_1(\omega)$ in Fig. 5 that there is a further increase in the pair production effect over and above the rate at $b = 0$. For this range of values for the magnetic field there is still just one discrete mode but now with energy $-\frac{b}{a^2} + m^2$, which, in the absence of infrared cutoff m^2 , is the one and only negative energy mode. This, in itself, is sufficient to render the effect larger than what it is for the flat case and also larger than for the

FIG. 7. $\gamma_1(\omega)$ at $b > \frac{3}{2}$ and infrared cutoff value $m^2 a^2 = 8$.

$b = 0$ case as long as ω is not too large. The reason for this is the larger degeneracy of this state compared to that of the corresponding state in the flat limit; i.e., $b + \frac{1}{2} > b$, with the extra $\frac{1}{2}$ due to the nonzero curvature. In fact, for sufficiently large ω , we infer that $\gamma_1(\omega)$ goes like $\simeq 1 + \frac{1}{2b} > 1$.

For $\frac{1}{2} < b < \frac{3}{2}$, there are two discrete modes, one with energy $-b/a^2$ and one with energy b/a^2 . Profiles of $\gamma_1(\omega)$ in Fig. 6 show that the enhancement in pair production over and above the $b = 0$ case is sustained in a shorter interval of ω which gets gradually narrower with increasing b -field. The observed behavior of $\gamma_1(\omega)$ can be anticipated from the foregoing discussion, since, besides the opposing effect from the continuous energy levels, the additional discrete level also becomes costlier to fill with increasing b .

Finally, for $b > \frac{3}{2}$, there are as many additional discrete energy levels as is consistent with $q < [b - 3/2]$. From the profiles of $\gamma_1(\omega)$ shown in Figs. 7 and 8, we see that the influence of increasing magnetic field on pair production rate is to drive its value back towards that for the flat case, since it becomes progressively costlier in energy for produced particles to fill the available quantum states at higher magnetic fields. (We include two sets of figures to emphasize that the basic features are independent of the cutoff.)

FIG. 6. $\gamma_1(\omega)$ at $\frac{1}{2} < b < \frac{3}{2}$ and no infrared cutoff.FIG. 8. $\gamma_1(\omega)$ at $b > \frac{3}{2}$ and no infrared cutoff.

Finally, as in the case of flat space and $S^2 \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$, we can take the limit of $E \rightarrow 0$ or $\omega \rightarrow \infty$. From Eqs. (4.5) and (4.7), we see that only $\beta_{1,D}^{(<1/2)}(\omega)$ can give a nonzero value in this limit. The result is that

$$\begin{aligned} \Re(iS_{\text{eff}}) &= - \int d\mu dx_0 dx_3 \frac{1}{8\pi} B_1 \left(B_1 + \frac{1}{2a^2} \right) \\ &= - \int d\mu dx_0 dx_3 \frac{1}{8\pi} B_1 \left(B_1 - \frac{R}{4} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

Comparison of this formula with (2.12) and (3.11) shows that this formula, as written in terms of the Ricci scalar, captures the general result for the Nielsen-Olesen instability for all three cases, $M = \mathbb{R}^2, S^2, H^2$.

V. SUMMARY AND REMARKS ON QCD VACUUM AND CONFINEMENT

We calculated the pair production rate for vector particles, and corresponding decay of a background electric field, on manifolds of the form $M \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$, with a background magnetic field on M , where $M = \mathbb{R}^2, S^2$, and H^2 . In order for this to be embedded in a consistent theory of vector particles we used the Yang-Mills action. The latter specified the spin-magnetic field and spin-curvature couplings. The pair production rate is enhanced by the negative eigenvalues for the kinetic operator due to the spin-magnetic field coupling. The additional spin-curvature coupling suppresses this effect to some extent for positive curvature and enhances it further for negative curvature. Comparison of $\gamma_1(\omega)$ for S^2 and H^2 at zero magnetic field can be made by inspecting Fig. 9, which shows the deviation of $\gamma_1(\omega)$ for S^2 and H^2 compared to the flat case which has $f_1(x=0) = 1$ for $M = \mathbb{R}^2$ for all ω . Our calculations also give the generalization of the Nielsen-Olesen instability to include nonzero curvature.

Since we obtained the action for charged vector particles by considering an expansion around a background field of

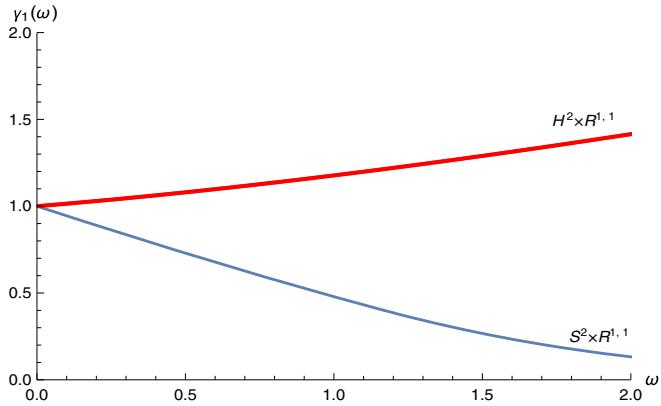


FIG. 9. Comparison of γ_1 at zero magnetic field for the sphere and hyperboloid.

the standard Yang-Mills action, our calculations have some implications for non-Abelian gauge theories. Admittedly, even though our calculations are not entirely perturbative, they are still equivalent to a one-loop effective action and hence it is not possible to make definitive conclusions about confinement and related phenomena. Nevertheless, we know that there are many calculations, which, while not definitive, do carry intimations of confinement. Beyond the well-known issue of asymptotic freedom, among these we can include the difficulty with unitary implementation of color rotations [12], the problem of sustaining a statistical distribution of nonzero color charge [7], etc. Our calculation of the pair production in this paper, coupled with the known instability of chromomagnetic fields, leads to a similar suggestive view on confinement.

A consequence of asymptotic freedom is that the vacuum of QCD has a tendency to spontaneously develop nonzero expectation values for chromomagnetic fields. In other words, a state with a nonzero magnetic field can have lower energy than the perturbative vacuum with zero field. This was noticed decades ago [3]. It has been used as the basis for assigning a nonzero vacuum value $\langle 0|F^2|0 \rangle$ and used in sum rules [4]. A chromomagnetic field, however, can lead to instability due to the negative eigenvalue for the kinetic operator arising from the spin-magnetic field coupling [5]. This is also clear from our Eqs. (2.12), (3.11), and (4.11). There have been many attempts to use this observation due to Nielsen and Olesen to develop an understanding of the nonperturbative confining vacuum of Yang-Mills theory, leading to the so-called spaghetti vacuum, or Copenhagen vacuum [5]. Arguments have also been made that the instability could be cured by a new vacuum state which generates a “mass” for the gluons [6].

Combining these observations with the calculations in this paper gives another perspective on some aspects of confinement. Asymptotic freedom moves the theory in the direction of generating a chromomagnetic field. Such a field, by our arguments, leads to a highly enhanced decay rate for any chromoelectric field. Our calculations are for uniform fields, but they should still apply approximately to fields which are uniform over some small range. Thus any chromoelectric field decays at an enhanced rate by pair production. But the particles produced in this process of the decay of the field are themselves charged and have their own chromoelectric fields, so in principle, the process can continue. (For the electromagnetic case, a similar statement is true as well, but the field carried by the decay products is weak and further pair production is suppressed by mass thresholds.) Thus further decays (of the chromoelectric fields of the produced pairs), in fact a whole cascade of decays, can be terminated and stability obtained only if the charged particles which are produced combine into color-singlets and so become free of any accompanying chromoelectric fields. This gives a dynamic view of how confinement could arise.

Admittedly, the calculations we have given have limited validity. But we see that, even within a one-loop background field approximation, or within a resummation of one-loop diagrams, there are serious difficulties in maintaining chromoelectric fields.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX A: SPECTRUM OF THE KINETIC OPERATOR FOR VECTORS ON H^2

Using (2.8) and (4.2) it is straightforward to see that the relevant quadratic differential operators for W_{\pm}^+ on H^2 are given as

$$-\mathcal{D}_V^2 := -D_{H^2}^2 \mp 2 \frac{b}{a^2} - \frac{1}{a^2}, \quad (\text{A1})$$

where the second and third terms in the right-hand side are due to the spin-magnetic field and the spin-curvature couplings, respectively.

Following the discussion and the results given in the Appendix of [1], we can determine the discrete and the continuous spectrum of $-\mathcal{D}_V^2$. (For general references on the relevant representation theory, see [13].) For W_{\pm}^+ , to compute the discrete part of the spectrum of the first term in (A1), we see that the $U(1)$ subgroup of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ has the charge $R_3 = b + 1$, taking into account the intrinsic vector charge of W_{\pm}^+ and the curvature contribution. The corresponding unitary irreducible representation of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ therefore has the extremal weight $\Lambda = b + 1 - k$ with $k \in \mathbb{Z}_+$. Putting this information together, we find

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathcal{D}_{V+}^{2+} &= \frac{1}{a^2} (-\Lambda(\Lambda - 1) + R_3^2 - 2b - 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{a^2} (-(b + 1 - k)(b + 1 - k - 1) \\ &\quad + (b + 1)^2 - 2b - 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{a^2} (-k(k - 1) + 2bk - b), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A2})$$

where $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ labels the Landau levels (LLs). The ground state, $|b + 1, 0\rangle$, is specified by taking $k = 0$ and has negative energy $-\frac{b}{a^2}$. Representation theory of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ requires the condition $\Lambda = b + 1 - k \geq \frac{1}{2}$ to be fulfilled which gives $k \leq [b + \frac{1}{2}]$. This means that, for a given value of b , there are only as many LLs as allowed by this inequality and they are labeled by the integers k .

In particular, contrary to the scalar case, there is a single discrete mode even at $b = 0$. Clearly this is a zero mode. Following the same reasoning, the discrete part of the spectrum of $-\mathcal{D}_V^2$ on W_{-}^+ follows from taking $R_3 = b - 1$ and $\Lambda = b - 1 - k$. This gives

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathcal{D}_{V-}^{2+} &= \frac{1}{a^2} (-\Lambda(\Lambda - 1) + R_3^2 + 2b - 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{a^2} (-(b - 1 - k)(b - 1 - k - 1) \\ &\quad + (b - 1)^2 + 2b - 1) \\ &= \frac{1}{a^2} (-k(k + 3) + 2bk + 3b - 2), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A3})$$

with the ground state $|b - 1, 0\rangle$ carrying the energy $(3b - 2)/a^2$. We note that the requirement $\Lambda = b - 1 - k \geq \frac{1}{2}$ gives $k \leq [b - \frac{3}{2}]$. Thus, there are no discrete states for W_{-}^+ if $b < \frac{3}{2}$.

For the continuous part of the spectrum of $-\mathcal{D}_V^2$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Spec}_C(-\mathcal{D}_V^2) &= \frac{\lambda^2 + \frac{1}{4} + (b \pm 1)^2}{a^2} \mp \frac{2b}{a^2} - \frac{1}{a^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{a^2} \left(\lambda^2 + \frac{1}{4} + b^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A4})$$

This result shows that contributions to the spectrum from the spin-magnetic field coupling and the spin-curvature coupling and the vector charges ± 1 for H^2 cancel each other and the continuous part of the spectrum for W_{\pm}^+ over H^2 is the same as that of a scalar [1,10,11]. The term $1/(4a^2)$ is obviously related to the Breitenlohner-Freedman bound [14].

In the Appendix of [1], we have briefly stated the techniques used in the derivation of the exact expressions for the density of states for the discrete and the continuous spectrum of states of scalar and spinor particles and referred to the relevant literature [10,11] and [13] for full details. In order to determine the corresponding density of states for the fields W_{\pm}^+ , all we need to perform is the shift $b \rightarrow b \pm 1$ in the density of states of the scalar field, which leads to the expressions given in Tables IV and V. In particular, we note that the density of states for the continuous spectrum remains the same as that for the scalars, since $\cos(2\pi b)$ is periodic under $b \rightarrow b \pm 1$. Thus both the eigenvalues and the density of states are the same as those obtained for scalars.

APPENDIX B: SEMICLASSICAL ESTIMATE OF THE DENSITY OF STATES

For the analysis of the pair production effect on curved spaces, a crucial ingredient in the calculation of the trace of the logarithm of the energy eigenvalues of the relevant differential operator for charged particles is the knowledge

of the density of quantum states at a given energy. In this paper and part 1 [1], which treated the scalar and spinor particles, we have focused on the spaces of the form $M \times \mathbb{R}^{1,1}$, where M can be S^2 or H^2 . General expressions for the density of states on these spaces are known. While these are fairly simple to obtain in the case of S^2 , the corresponding calculations for the harmonics on H^2 [or more generally sections of $U(1)$ -bundles over the hyperbolic plane], which correspond to the principal continuous series representations of $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$, are rather more involved, requiring more sophisticated group theoretical techniques. Although we already know the exact density of states on S^2 and H^2 for spin 0 and spin $\frac{1}{2}$ from the existing literature, and inferred the result for spin-1 particles on S^2 and H^2 from the properties of the corresponding isometry groups, it is still desirable to have a semiclassical estimate of the density of states on such spaces to further our understanding and physical intuition. This is the subject of this Appendix.

The key procedure is the following. We obtain the classical trajectories for a point-particle moving on the space of interest. These trajectories will be labeled by a number of parameters. The volume element of the phase space [divided by $(2\pi)^n$] can be evaluated on the set of all such trajectories, trading the momenta for the parameters labeling the trajectories. The result is then the semiclassical measure of the number of trajectories needed in a path integral formula for evaluating the trace of the evolution kernel for the operator which serves as the Hamiltonian for the trajectories. The key result is that the Plancherel measure, semiclassically, is simply the symplectic volume evaluated on the classical trajectories.

Perhaps not so surprisingly, the Hamilton-Jacobi theory can be successfully exploited for this purpose and, in fact, we are able to obtain semiclassical estimates for the density of harmonics over S^n and H^n . In order to see how this can be achieved and to handle both cases (and also the flat case \mathbb{R}^n) on essentially equal footing, we may use the Friedmann-Robertson-Walker type parametrization of the metric for M as

$$ds^2 = \frac{dr^2}{1 - kr^2} + r^2 d\Omega_{n-1}, \quad (B1)$$

where $k = 0, \frac{1}{a^2}, -\frac{1}{a^2}$ for \mathbb{R}^n , S^n , and H^n , respectively, and a is the radius/length parameter of the latter. $d\Omega_{n-1}$ is the “solid-angle” in $n - 1$ dimensions and it can be expressed using the standard hyperspherical coordinates. In particular, the inverse metric $g_{\mu\nu}^{-1} = g^{\mu\nu}$ has the diagonal form

$$g^{\mu\nu} \equiv \text{diag} \left(1 - kr^2, \frac{1}{r^2}, \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta_2}, \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta_2 \sin^2 \theta_3}, \dots, \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta_2 \sin^2 \theta_3 \dots \sin^2 \theta_{n-1}} \right), \quad (B2)$$

where $\mu, \nu = 1, 2, \dots, n$.

We introduce the Hamilton's principal function on $\mathbb{R}^{1,1} \times M$ by $S(t, z, r, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots, \theta_n)$, with t, z denoting the time and the spatial direction on $\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$. Although it is not necessary for the main purpose of this Appendix, we also assume a uniform electric field, E , in the z -direction. After these preparatory steps, the Hamilton-Jacobi equation for a charged scalar of mass m can be written as

$$- \left(-\frac{\partial S}{\partial t} - Ez \right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial z} \right)^2 + (1 - kr^2) \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial r} \right)^2 + g^{ij} \frac{\partial S}{\partial \theta_i} \frac{\partial S}{\partial \theta_j} + m^2 = 0, \quad (B3)$$

where $i, j = 2, 3, \dots, n$. Canonical momenta can be written as usual

$$p_t \equiv \varepsilon = -\frac{\partial S}{\partial t}, \quad p_z = \frac{\partial S}{\partial z}, \quad p_r = \frac{\partial S}{\partial r}, \quad p_i = \frac{\partial S}{\partial \theta_i}. \quad (B4)$$

From (B3), we immediately observe that the Hamilton-Jacobi equation is cyclic in t and the “azimuthal”-angle θ_n . The corresponding canonical momenta, i.e., the energy ε and the azimuthal angular momentum p_n are conserved quantities; other conserved quantities will be determined shortly. We may factor $S \equiv S(t, z, r, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots, \theta_n)$ as

$$S = W(z, r, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots, \theta_{n-1}) + p_n \theta_n - \varepsilon t, \quad (B5)$$

where $W(z, r, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots, \theta_{n-1})$ can be identified as Hamilton's characteristic function. We can further separate variables by writing $W(z, r, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots, \theta_{n-1}) = W_n(z) + \tilde{W}(r, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots, \theta_{n-1})$. Using this in (B3) we get the equations

$$(1 - kr^2) \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{W}}{\partial r} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{r^2} \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{W}}{\partial \theta_2} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta_2} \left(\frac{\partial \tilde{W}}{\partial \theta_3} \right)^2 + \dots + \frac{p_n^2}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta_2 \dots \sin^2 \theta_{n-1}} = \lambda_1^2 \quad (B6)$$

$$\left(\frac{dW_n}{dz} \right)^2 - (\varepsilon - Ez)^2 + m^2 = -\lambda_1^2,$$

where λ_1^2 is introduced as a separation constant. The first equation in (B6) gives rise to two equations after multiplying the entire equation by r^2 and introducing another separation constant, λ_2^2 , and this pattern can be continued until a set of $(n - 1)$ decoupled ordinary differential equations is obtained. This is equivalent to the separation ansatz $\tilde{W}(r, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_{n-1}) = W_1(r) + W_2(\theta_2) + \dots + W_{n-1}(\theta_{n-1})$. The full set of decoupled equations is thus

$$\begin{aligned} r^2(1-kr^2)\left(\frac{dW_1}{dr}\right)^2 &= \lambda_1^2 r^2 - \lambda_2^2, \\ \sin^2 \theta_i \left(\frac{dW_i}{d\theta_i}\right)^2 &= \sin^2 \theta_i \lambda_i^2 - \lambda_{i+1}^2, \\ i &= 2, 3, \dots, (n-1), \end{aligned} \quad (B7)$$

where $\lambda_n \equiv p_n$. We solve these equations as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dW_1}{dr} &= \pm \sqrt{\frac{\lambda_1^2 r^2 - \lambda_2^2}{r^2(1-kr^2)}}, & \frac{dW_i}{d\theta_i} &= \pm \sqrt{\lambda_i^2 - \frac{\lambda_{i+1}^2}{\sin^2 \theta_i}}. \\ (B8) \end{aligned}$$

The phase space volume element in terms of the dynamical variables $(r, \theta_i, \theta_n, p_r, p_i, p_n)$ is

$$\frac{\omega \wedge \omega \cdots \wedge \omega}{(2\pi)^n} \equiv \frac{1}{(2\pi)^n} dp_r dr \prod_{i=2}^{n-1} dp_i d\theta_i dp_n d\theta_n. \quad (B9)$$

The separation constants (λ_1, λ_i) can be used instead of the momentum variables p_r, p_i to express the phase space volume element. The transformation between the dynamical variables $(r, \theta_i, \theta_n, p_r, p_i, p_n)$ and $(r, \theta_i, \theta_n, p_r, \lambda_i, p_n)$ leads to the Jacobian matrix J , whose determinant is not an identity, and the phase space volume element takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\omega \wedge \omega \cdots \wedge \omega}{(2\pi)^n} &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^n} |\det J| dp_r dr \prod_{i=2}^{n-1} d\lambda_i d\theta_i dp_n d\theta_n, \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^n} \frac{\lambda_1 d\lambda_1}{\sqrt{\lambda_1^2 r^2 - \lambda_2^2}} \frac{r dr}{\sqrt{1-kr^2}} \\ &\quad \times \prod_{i=2}^{n-1} \frac{\lambda_i d\lambda_i d\theta_i}{\sqrt{\lambda_i^2 - \frac{\lambda_{i+1}^2}{\sin^2 \theta_i}}} dp_n d\theta_n. \end{aligned} \quad (B10)$$

Performing the integrals over λ_i and p_n in the reverse order, that is, starting with the integral over p_n , and following this up with integrals over λ_i , with i from $n-1$ to 2, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-c}^c \frac{dp_n}{\sqrt{\lambda_{n-1}^2 - \frac{p_n^2}{\sin^2 \theta_{n-1}}}} &= \pi |\sin \theta_{n-1}|, & c &= \sqrt{\lambda_{n-1}^2 \sin^2 \theta_{n-1}}, \\ \int |\lambda_i|^{n-i-1} \frac{\lambda_i d\lambda_i}{\sqrt{\lambda_{i-1}^2 - \frac{\lambda_i^2}{\sin^2 \theta_{i-1}}}} &= |\sin \theta_{i-1}|^{n-i+1} |\lambda_{i-1}|^{n-i} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{n-i+1}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{1}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{n-i+2}{2})}, & i &= 3, \dots, n-1, \\ \int |\lambda_2|^{n-3} \frac{\lambda_2 d\lambda_2}{\sqrt{\lambda_1^2 r^2 - \lambda_2^2}} &= |\lambda_1|^{n-2} r^{n-2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{n-1}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{1}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})}, \end{aligned} \quad (B11)$$

where the integrations over the λ_i , $i = 2, \dots, (n-1)$, are from zero to the positive turning points of the integrands. The phase space element can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\omega \wedge \omega \cdots \wedge \omega}{(2\pi)^n} &\equiv \frac{1}{(2\pi)^n} \lambda^{n-1} d\lambda \pi 2^{n-1} \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{n-2} \prod_{i=2}^{n-1} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{n-i+1}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{1}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{n-i+2}{2})} dV, \\ &= \lambda^{n-1} d\lambda \frac{1}{(2\pi)^n} \frac{2\pi^{\frac{n}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} dV, \\ &=: \mathbb{P}_n(\lambda) dV. \end{aligned} \quad (B12)$$

We have included an additional factor 2^{n-1} in this expression. This can be viewed as accounting for both the signs in the expressions for W_i , $i = 1, 2, \dots, (n-1)$ as in (B8). Equivalently, we may think of this as being due to the twofold orientation of the paths in each case. We have also dropped the subscript in λ_1 , since after the integrations over λ_i ($i = 2, \dots, n-1$), this is the only variable remaining in the phase space measure apart from the configuration space volume element dV . The latter is

$$\begin{aligned} dV &= \frac{r^{n-1}}{\sqrt{1-kr^2}} |\sin \theta_2^{n-2} \sin \theta_3^{n-3} \cdots \sin^{n-2} \theta_{n-2} \sin \theta_{n-1}| dr d\theta_2 d\theta_3 \cdots d\theta_n \\ &= \frac{r^{n-1}}{\sqrt{1-kr^2}} dr d\Omega_{n-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (B13)$$

The quantity $\mathbb{P}_n(\lambda)$ introduced in the last line of (B12) can be identified as our semiclassical estimate for the density of harmonic functions on S^n and H^n in terms of a continuous parameter, λ , which can naturally be thought of as a wave number. For comparison with group theoretical results, it is useful to express \mathbb{P}_n for even and odd values of n separately. We have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}_{2m}(\lambda) &= \frac{\lambda^{2m-1} d\lambda}{(2\pi)^m (2m-2)!!}, \\ \mathbb{P}_{2m+1}(\lambda) &= \frac{\lambda^{2m} d\lambda}{(2\pi)^m \pi (2m-1)!!}.\end{aligned}\quad (\text{B14})$$

For $S^n = \frac{SO(n+1)}{SO(n)}$, the density of harmonic functions can be given as a sum over the dimensions of the irreducible representation $(l, 0, \dots, 0)$ (in the Dynkin notation) of $SO(n+1)$ divided by the volume of S^n , i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}_{S^n} &\equiv \sum_{l \geq 0} \frac{\dim(l, 0, \dots, 0)}{\text{vol}(S^n)} = \sum_{l \geq 0} \frac{(l+n-2)!(2l+n-1)}{2\pi^{(n+1)/2} l!(n-1)! a^n} \\ &\quad \times \Gamma\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) \\ &\stackrel{(l/a) \rightarrow \lambda}{\rightarrow} \frac{\lambda^{n-1} d\lambda}{\pi^{(n+1)/2} (n-1)!} \Gamma\left(\frac{n+1}{2}\right) \\ &= \begin{cases} \mathbb{P}_{2m}(\lambda) & n = 2m, \\ \mathbb{P}_{2m+1}(\lambda) & n = 2m+1. \end{cases}\end{aligned}\quad (\text{B15})$$

From this expression, we infer that the semiclassical formulas $\mathbb{P}_{2m}(\lambda)$ and $\mathbb{P}_{2m+1}(\lambda)$ obtained from the Hamilton-Jacobi theory give estimates, which are in complete agreement with the large l , $(l/a) \rightarrow \lambda$, limit of the exact result.

For the hyperbolic spaces H^n , the situation is a little more intricate. In this case, the exact result for the density of harmonic states is given in terms of the Plancherel measure, which can be obtained after rather tedious considerations of the properties of the noncompact group $SO(n, 1)$ as [13]

$$\mathbb{M}_{H^{2m}} = \frac{|\Gamma(m - \frac{1}{2} + i\lambda)|^2}{|\Gamma(i\lambda)|^2}, \quad \mathbb{M}_{H^{2m+1}} = \frac{|\Gamma(m + i\lambda)|^2}{|\Gamma(i\lambda)|^2},\quad (\text{B16})$$

Multiplying these with the phase space factor $\frac{1}{(2\pi)^n}$, the total solid angle $\frac{2\pi^{n/2}}{\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})}$, and the differential element $d\lambda$, and

simplifying the expressions involving the Γ -functions, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}_{H^{2m}}(\lambda) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{2m}} \frac{2\pi^m}{\Gamma(m)} \lambda \tanh \pi \lambda d\lambda \prod_{k=2}^m \left[\left(k - \frac{3}{2} \right)^2 + \lambda^2 \right], \\ m &\geq 2 \\ \lambda \rightarrow \infty \frac{\lambda^{2m-1} d\lambda}{(2\pi)^m (2m-2)!!} &= \mathbb{P}_{2m}(\lambda)\end{aligned}\quad (\text{B17})$$

$$\mathbb{P}_{H^2}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \lambda \tanh \pi \lambda d\lambda \stackrel{\lambda \rightarrow \infty}{\rightarrow} \frac{\lambda d\lambda}{2\pi} = \mathbb{P}_2(\lambda) \quad (\text{B18})$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}_{H^{2m+1}}(\lambda) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{2m+1}} \frac{2\pi^m \sqrt{\pi}}{\Gamma(m + \frac{1}{2})} d\lambda \prod_{k=1}^m [(k-1)^2 + \lambda^2] \\ &\stackrel{\lambda \rightarrow \infty}{\rightarrow} \frac{\lambda^{2m} d\lambda}{(2\pi)^m \pi (2m-1)!!} = \mathbb{P}_{2m+1}(\lambda).\end{aligned}\quad (\text{B19})$$

Thus, we see that the semiclassical estimates obtained from the Hamilton-Jacobi theory match with the large λ limit of the exact results on H^{2m} and H^{2m+1} . For odd dimensions, the difference between the exact and semiclassical results is a polynomial of lower order in λ , while for even dimensions there are similar polynomial corrections and also corrections of the type $\lambda^{2m-1} e^{-2\pi\lambda}$ (and further subdominant terms), due to the $\tanh \pi \lambda$ factor.

We have not discussed the second equation in (B6) which deals with the z -dependence of the action. This can be used to calculate a tunneling amplitude as in the usual WKB analyses, giving a semiclassical estimate of the pair production rate. We have not done this, since, in the main text, we have already calculated the rate without making such an approximation, focusing instead on the Plancherel measure.

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