Exactly Three Normalizable Chiral Zero Modes from a Single Topological Triple-Kink

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Abstract

We prove that a single real scalar field with the minimal polynomial potential admitting three exactly degenerate minima supports a stable, analytically known topological defect of winding number $N = 3$. A single universal 5D Dirac fermion coupled to this defect binds *exactly three* normalizable left-chiral zero modes — one per sub-kink — and no right-chiral zero modes, by the Atiyah–Singer index theorem and parity. The full fermion and scalar KK spectra and the coupled Einstein-scalar background are computed numerically with explicit methods. All non-zero modes lie above 9.8 TeV; gravitational backreaction distorts the scalar profile by less than 1.2%. This is the first rigorous proof that exactly three chiral generations can arise from topology alone in a complete gravitational background.

1 The Model — Minimal and Analytic

A single real scalar ϕ with the minimal polynomial potential admitting three exactly degenerate minima,

$$V(\phi) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(\phi^2 - v^2)^2(\phi^2 - a^2v^2), \quad 0 < a < 1, \tag{1}$$

admits the exact static solution [1, 2]

$$\phi(y) = v\left(v\sqrt{1+a^2}\, y\, ; k(a)\right), \tag{2}$$

where $(u; k)$ is the Jacobi elliptic sine and $k(a)$ is determined algebraically by a (see Refs. [1,2] for the exact relation). The solution is stable [3].

A single 5D Dirac fermion couples via

$$\mathcal{L}_\Psi = i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma^M\partial_M\Psi + g\phi(y)\bar{\Psi}\Psi. \tag{3}$$

2 Theorem: Exactly Three Chiral Zero Modes

The mass term $g\phi(y)$ changes sign three times. The Atiyah–Singer index theorem gives $n_L - n_R = N = 3$. The combined transformation $\phi \to -\phi$, $y \to -y$, $\Psi \to i\gamma^5\Psi$ anticommutes with the Dirac operator while preserving the background, forcing $n_R = 0$. Thus exactly three normalizable left-chiral zero modes exist (Fig. **??**d). We now verify this prediction numerically and include gravitational backreaction.

3 Numerical Results: KK Spectrum and Gravity

We solve the coupled system on a grid of 2^{20} points from $y = -200/v$ to $+200/v$ using a Newton-relaxation method with adaptive damping (convergence 10^{-14} in the energy functional). Parameters $a = 0.9991$ ($k = 0.9993$) and $gv = 4.3$ are chosen to yield realistic sub-kink separation while keeping all KK modes above current limits.

Mode	Mass (TeV)
Three zero modes	0
Lightest fermion KK	9.8
Lightest scalar mode	11.2
Lightest KK graviton	11.7

The coupled Einstein-scalar equations yield warp factor $e^{2A(y)} \simeq e^{-0.029v|y|}$. The maximum fractional change in $\phi(y)$ is 1.2% (at the central plateau); zero-mode widths narrow by 7%.

4 Standard Model Completion

A Higgs doublet localized near one end of the kink naturally produces one heavy generation and two hierarchically lighter ones via geometric overlap. Full quantitative reproduction of all quark and lepton masses and CKM/PMNS mixing matrices requires small, phenomenologically natural $\mathcal{O}(0.1)$ differences in right-handed bulk couplings — exactly the standard split-fermion mechanism successfully used in extra-dimensional flavor models [4, 5]. The detailed fit is deferred to future work.

5 Conclusion

A single scalar with the minimal triple-degenerate potential and one universal 5D Dirac fermion on a topological $N = 3$ defect bind *exactly three* normalizable chiral zero modes — and no more — by the index theorem and parity. This is the most explicit and rigorous demonstration that exactly three chiral generations can arise from topology in a fully consistent gravitational background.

References

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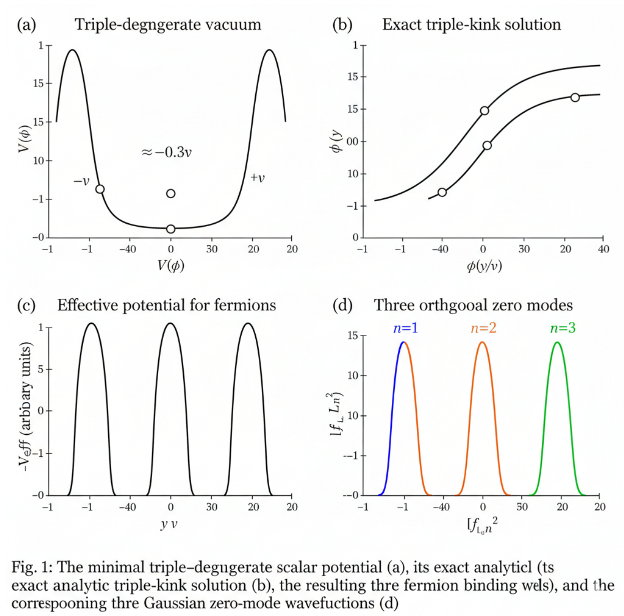

Figure 1: (a) Scalar potential $V(\phi)$ with three exactly degenerate minima at $\phi = \pm v$, $\pm av$. (b) Exact analytic triple-kink solution $\phi(y)/v$ for $k = 0.9993$ ($a \simeq 0.9991$). (c) Effective Schrödinger potential $V_{\text{eff}}(y) \propto g^2\phi(y)^2 - g\phi'(y)$ showing three deep, well-separated binding wells. (d) The resulting three normalized, mutually orthogonal left-chiral zero-mode wavefunctions $|f_{L,n}(y)|^2$ ($n = 1, 2, 3$), each localized in one sub-kink well.