场论中的对称性

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1 连续对称性与守恒律

1.1 无穷小变换

对称性可以被定义为坐标和场的一组变换,这组变换使得系统在任何区间内的作用量不变,因此在对称变换下,系统的运动规律不变。我们这里只考虑连续对称性,考虑坐标和场的无穷小变换:

$$x^{\mu} \rightarrow x'^{\mu} = x^{\mu} + \delta x^{\mu}, \tag{1}$$

$$\phi_r(x) \rightarrow \phi_r'(x') = \phi_r(x) + \delta\phi_r(x),$$
 (2)

注意场的变换定义成由坐标变换前后对应的同一点上,因此与坐标变换无关。也就是说一个连续对称性包含坐标和场这两个独立的无穷小变换,其中如果一个对称变换完全由坐标变换造成,我们称之为时空对称性;反之,如果一个对称变换完全由场变化造成,我们称之为内秉对称性。一个连续对称性要求,在一组无穷小变换下,作用量积分在任何区域内不变,即:

$$\int_{\Omega'} d^4x' \mathcal{L}'(x') = \int_{\Omega} d^4x \mathcal{L}(x), \qquad (3)$$

其中:

$$\mathcal{L}'(x') = \mathcal{L}\left(\phi_r'(x'), \partial \phi_r'/\partial x'^{\mu}\right),\tag{4}$$

上式中 Ω' 是原区域 Ω 经过坐标变换后对应的区域。

1.2 诺特定理

诺特定理告诉我们一个连续对称性对应一个守恒量。我们在这一节中将证明这点。为了证明的方便,我们 对场定义一个总变分:

$$\tilde{\delta}\phi_r(x) := \phi_r'(x) - \phi_r(x), \qquad (5)$$

这个变分实际上包含了场的内秉变化和坐标变换,它和场内秉变化的关系为(保留至一阶意义下):

$$\tilde{\delta}\phi_{r}(x) = \phi'_{r}(x) - \phi'_{r}(x') + \phi'_{r}(x') - \phi_{r}(x)
= \delta\phi_{r}(x) - \delta x^{\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\mu}} \phi'(x)
\approx \delta\phi_{r}(x) - \delta x^{\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\mu}} \phi(x),$$
(6)

这个变分定义在坐标的同一点上,因此可以和微分算符对易,这使得数学处理更加方便。接下来我们写出作用力积分:

$$\delta S = \int_{\Omega'} d^4 x' \mathcal{L}'(x') - \int_{\Omega} d^4 x \mathcal{L}(x)$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} d^4 x \delta \mathcal{L}(x) + \int_{\Omega'} d^4 x' \mathcal{L}(x) - \int_{\Omega} d^4 x \mathcal{L}(x).$$
(7)

为计算第二第三项,我们需要首先计算雅可比矩阵(保留至一阶意义下):

$$\left| \frac{\partial x'^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\nu}} \right| = \left| \delta^{\mu}_{\nu} + \frac{\partial \delta x^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\nu}} \right| = \left(1 + \frac{\partial \delta x^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \right). \tag{8}$$

因此第二第三项可以化简为:

$$\int_{\Omega'} d^4 x' \mathcal{L}(x) - \int_{\Omega} d^4 x \mathcal{L}(x) = \int_{\Omega} d^4 x \left(1 + \frac{\partial \delta x^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \right) \mathcal{L}(x) - \int_{\Omega} d^4 x \mathcal{L}(x)$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} d^4 x \frac{\partial \delta x^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \mathcal{L}(x). \tag{9}$$

我们将上述变分式写成包含总变分的形式:

$$\delta S = \int_{\Omega} d^4x \left[\delta \mathcal{L}(x) + \frac{\partial \delta x^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \mathcal{L}(x) \right]$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} d^4x \left[\tilde{\delta} \mathcal{L}(x) + \delta x^{\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\mu}} \mathcal{L}(x) + \frac{\partial \delta x^{\mu}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \mathcal{L}(x) \right]$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} d^4x \left[\tilde{\delta} \mathcal{L}(x) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\mu}} (\mathcal{L}(x) \delta x^{\mu}) \right]. \tag{10}$$

上面定义的总变分表现地像一个"真正的"变分,将它作用于拉氏量密度上得到:

$$\begin{split} \tilde{\delta}\mathcal{L}\left(x\right) &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \left(\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r}\right)}\tilde{\delta}\left(\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r}\right) + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial\phi_{r}}\tilde{\delta}\phi_{r}\left(x\right) \\ &= \partial_{\mu}\left[\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \left(\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r}\right)}\tilde{\delta}\phi_{r}\left(x\right)\right] + \left[\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial\phi_{r}} - \partial_{\mu}\left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \left(\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r}\right)}\right)\right]\tilde{\delta}\phi_{r}\left(x\right). \end{split}$$

代入上式,并利用欧拉-拉格朗日方程化简:

$$\delta S = \int_{\Omega} d^{4}x \partial_{\mu} \left[\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r})} \tilde{\delta}\phi_{r}(x) + \mathcal{L}(x) \delta x^{\mu} \right]$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} d^{4}x \partial_{\mu} \left[\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r})} \delta\phi_{r}(x) - \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r})} \frac{\partial\phi_{r}}{\partial x^{\nu}} \delta x^{\nu} - \mathcal{L}(x) \delta x^{\mu} \right) \right]$$

$$= \int_{\Omega} d^{4}x \partial_{\mu} \left[\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r})} \delta\phi_{r}(x) - \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r})} \frac{\partial\phi_{r}}{\partial x^{\nu}} - \delta^{\mu}{}_{\nu} \mathcal{L}(x) \right) \delta x^{\nu} \right]. \tag{11}$$

对称性要求对所有 Ω , $\delta S=0$,所以被积函数应为 0 ,这样,我们就得到了一个无散度的流:

$$f^{\mu} := \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu} \phi_{r})} \delta \phi_{r} (x) - \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu} \phi_{r})} \frac{\partial \phi_{r}}{\partial x^{\nu}} - \delta^{\mu}{}_{\nu} \mathcal{L} (x) \right) \delta x^{\nu}, \tag{12}$$

$$\partial_{\mu}f^{\mu} = \partial_{t}f^{0} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{f} = 0. \tag{13}$$

这个无散流给出了系统守恒量:

$$Q := \int d^3x f^0. \tag{14}$$

2 能量-动量张量

2.1 时空平移不变性

第一个例子是我们提到过的时空对称性,这个对称性只由时空平移不变形生成,无穷小变换可以写为:

$$\begin{cases} \delta x^{\mu} = \epsilon^{\mu\nu} \alpha_{\nu} \\ \delta \phi_{r} = 0 \end{cases}$$
 (15)

考虑一个沿着 x^{ν} 方向的无穷小平移,对称性给出的守恒流为:

$$f^{\mu} = -\left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \left(\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r}\right)} \frac{\partial \phi_{r}}{\partial x^{\nu}} - \delta^{\mu}{}_{\nu}\mathcal{L}\left(x\right)\right) \alpha_{\nu}.$$
(16)

我们据此定义能量-动量张量:

$$\Theta^{\mu}{}_{\nu} := \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \left(\partial_{\mu} \phi_{r}\right)} \frac{\partial \phi_{r}}{\partial x^{\nu}} - \delta^{\mu}{}_{\nu} \mathcal{L}\left(x\right), \tag{17}$$

能量量张量可以直接给出守恒量,时间方向的平移不变性给出守恒量:

$$E = \int d^3x \Theta^0_0 = \int d^3x \left[\pi_r(x) \dot{\phi}_r(x) - \mathcal{L}(x) \right]. \tag{18}$$

这正是哈密顿量密度在空间积分,也即能量守恒。而空间方向平移不变性给出另外3个守恒量:

$$P_{\nu} = \int d^3x \Theta^0_{\ \nu} = \int d^3x \pi_r(x) \,\partial_{\nu} \phi_r(x). \tag{19}$$

这是场的动量密度积分, 即动量守恒。

2.2 电磁场中的能动张量

电磁场 (无源) 的拉氏量密度定义为:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}. \tag{20}$$

其中电磁场张量

$$F^{\mu\nu} = \partial^{\mu}A^{\nu} - \partial^{\nu}A^{\mu}. \tag{21}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -E^{1} & -E^{2} & -E^{3} \\ E^{1} & 0 & -B^{3} & B^{2} \\ E^{2} & B^{3} & 0 & -B^{1} \\ E^{3} & -B^{2} & B^{1} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(22)$$

以 A^{μ} 为正则坐标, 经过同样的计算可以得到电磁场的能动张量:

$$\Theta^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma} F^{\rho\sigma} - F^{\mu\sigma} \partial^{\nu} A_{\sigma}. \tag{23}$$

该能动张量给出了电磁场的能量和动量:

$$E = \int d^3x \Theta^{00} = \int d^3x \frac{E^2 + B^2}{2}, \qquad (24)$$

$$P^{i} = \int d^{3}x \Theta^{0i} = \int d^{3}x \left(\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B} \right)^{i}. \tag{25}$$

3 守恒荷

3.1 内秉对称性

第二个例子是场本身的内秉对称性。考虑场本身的无穷小变换:

$$\phi(x) \to \phi'(x') = \phi(x) + i\epsilon \lambda_{rs} \phi_s(x). \tag{26}$$

该变换对应的守恒流为:

$$f^{\mu} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu} \phi_r)} \delta \phi_r = i\epsilon \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu} \phi_r)} \lambda_{rs} \phi_s (x).$$
 (27)

相应的守恒量为:

$$Q = \int d^3x \pi_r(x) \,\lambda_{rs} \phi_s(x). \tag{28}$$

3.2 U(1) 守恒荷

其中一个重要的情况就是一些复场中的 U(1) 对称性:

$$\phi' = e^{-i\epsilon}\phi, \tag{29}$$

$$\phi'^* = e^{i\epsilon}\phi^*. \tag{30}$$

这种变换对应的守恒量称为场携带的守恒荷:

$$Q = (-i) \int d^3x \left[\pi(x) \phi(x) - \pi^*(x) \phi^*(x) \right].$$
 (31)

4 角动量

4.1 洛伦兹对称性

一个洛伦兹协变的理论要求作用量积分在洛伦兹变换下不变。洛伦兹变换对应的无穷小变换为:

$$x^{\prime \mu} = x^{\mu} + \delta \omega^{\mu \nu} x_{\nu}. \tag{32}$$

$$\phi_r'(x') = \left(1 - \frac{i}{2}\delta\omega_{\mu\nu} \left(J^{\mu\nu}\right)_{rs}\right)\phi_s(x), \qquad (33)$$

注意其中既有坐标的变换,又有场的变换。对坐标的洛伦兹变换保持内积不变,因此:

$$x'^{\mu}x'_{\mu} = (x^{\mu} + \delta\omega^{\mu\nu}x_{\nu})(x_{\mu} + \delta\omega_{\mu}^{\sigma}x_{\sigma})$$

= $x^{\mu}x_{\mu} + (\delta\omega_{\mu\nu} + \delta\omega_{\nu\mu})x_{\mu}x_{\nu} + O(\delta^{2}),$ (34)

这说明 $\delta\omega_{\mu\nu}$ 是反对称的。相应的,场变换的生成元 $\mathcal{J}^{\mu\nu}$ 也是反对称的。因此洛伦兹群只包含 6 个生成元,对应 3 个空间转动和三个方向的 boost. 代入诺特流表达式中:

$$f^{\mu} = -\frac{i}{2} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu} \phi_{r})} \delta \omega_{\nu \lambda} \left(J^{\nu \lambda} \right)_{rs} \phi_{s} \left(x \right) - \Theta^{\mu \nu} \delta \omega_{\nu \lambda} x^{\lambda}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \delta \omega_{\nu \lambda} \left[-i \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu} \phi_{r})} \left(J^{\nu \lambda} \right)_{rs} \phi_{s} \left(x \right) - \Theta^{\mu \nu} x^{\lambda} + \Theta^{\mu \nu} x^{\lambda} \right]$$

$$:= \frac{1}{2} \delta \omega_{\nu \lambda} M^{\mu \nu \lambda}, \tag{35}$$

我们得到了一个守恒流:

$$M^{\mu\nu\lambda} := -i\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial (\partial_{\mu}\phi_{r})} \left(J^{\nu\lambda}\right)_{rs} \phi_{s}\left(x\right) - \Theta^{\mu\nu}x^{\lambda} + \Theta^{\mu\nu}x^{\lambda}. \tag{36}$$

相应的守恒量为:

$$M^{\nu\lambda} = \int d^3x M^{0\nu\lambda}$$

$$= \int d^3x \left[-i\pi_r \left(J^{\nu\lambda} \right)_{rs} \phi_s - \Theta^{0\nu} x^{\lambda} + \Theta^{0\nu} x^{\lambda} \right]$$

$$= \int d^3x \left[-i\pi_r \left(J^{\nu\lambda} \right)_{rs} \phi_s - \left(\pi_r x^{\lambda} \partial^{\nu} \phi_r - x^{\lambda} g^{0\nu} \mathcal{L} \right) + \left(\pi_r x^{\nu} \partial^{\lambda} \phi_r - x^{\nu} g^{0\lambda} \mathcal{L} \right) \right]$$

$$= \int d^3x \left[-i\pi_r \left(J^{\nu\lambda} \right)_{rs} \phi_s + \pi_r \left(x^{\nu} \partial^{\lambda} - x^{\lambda} \partial^{\nu} \right) \phi_r + \left(x^{\lambda} g^{0\nu} - x^{\lambda} g^{0\mu} \right) \mathcal{L} \right]. \tag{37}$$

考虑空间分量,此守恒量对应场的角动量,其中我们还可以将角动量拆成坐标部分和内秉部分,分别对应轨道 角动量和自旋角动量:

$$L^{ij} := \int d^3x \left[\pi_r(x) \left(x^i \partial^j - x^j \partial^i \right) \phi_r(x) \right], \tag{38}$$

$$S^{ij} := (-i) \int d^3x \left[\pi_r(x) \left(J^{ij} \right)_{rs} \phi_s(x) \right]. \tag{39}$$

4.2 电磁场的自旋角动量

电磁场拉氏量密度代入角动量表达式后得到:

$$M^{ij} = \Theta^{0i} x^j - \Theta^{0j} x^i + (F^{0j} A^i - F^{0i} A^j). \tag{40}$$

其中内秉自旋部分角动量为:

$$S^{ij} = \int d^3x \left(E^i A^j - E^j A^i \right), \tag{41}$$

$$S = \int d^3 \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A}. \tag{42}$$