

Quantum Field Theory for Mathematicians

Notes for a learning seminar on the BV quantization of Yang–Mills theory
following Kevin Costello.

<http://math.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/~jhuerta/qft2024/>

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Lecture 1

1.1 History

Date	People	What	Why	Techniques
1969	Faddeev and Popov	Gauge fixing (adding ghosts)	Quantize Yang-Mills	Berezinian integration
1973	't Hooft and Veltman	Quantized Yang-Mills	Quantize Yang-Mills	Feynman diagrams
1975	Becchi, Rouet, Stora, Tyutin (BRST)	Cohomological theory to quantize Yang-Mills	Understanding 't Hooft and Veltman	Derived invariants (Lie algebra cohomology)
1981	Batallin and Vilkovisky (BV)	Quantize systems with complicated gauge symmetries	Supergravity	Derived intersections (Koszul complexes)
1992	Henneaux	Quantize Yang-Mills using BV	Analyze Yang-Mills using BV	Derived intersections
2007	Costello	Combine BV with effective field theory	Make BV quantization rigorous	Derived everything, analysis, and homotopy theory

1.2 References

The main references for this seminar will be:

- Costello - Renormalization and Effective Field Theory [Cos11];
- Elliot, Williams, Yoo - Asymptotic Freedom in the BV Formalism [EWY18];
- Gwilliam - Factorization algebras and free field theories [Gwi].

1.3 Roadmap to BV Quantization

The space of fields \mathcal{E}^\bullet is a cochain complex

$$\dots \longrightarrow \mathcal{E}^{-1} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Q}} \mathcal{E}^0 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Q}} \mathcal{E}^1 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Q}} \mathcal{E}^2 \longrightarrow \dots$$

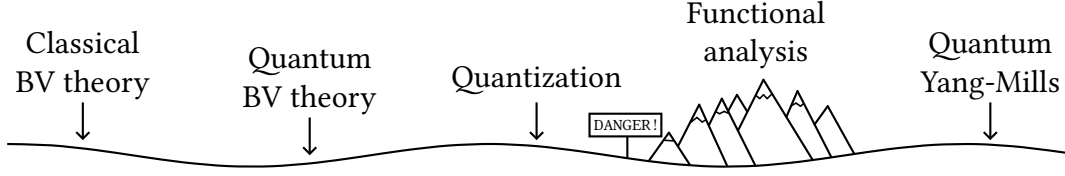


Figure 1.1: Roadmap to BV quantization.

equipped with a differential Q such that $Q^2 = 0$. Moreover, \mathcal{E} admits a -1 -shifted symplectic structure, that is, there exists a non degenerate pairing of degree -1

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle: \mathcal{E} \otimes \mathcal{E} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}[-1]$$

such that $\langle x, y \rangle = -(-1)^{(|x|+1)(|y|+1)} \langle y, x \rangle$. This structure defines a $+1$ -shifted Poisson bracket

$$\{ \cdot, \cdot \}: \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E}) \otimes \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E})$$

where $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E}) \cong \text{Sym}^\bullet(\mathcal{E}^\vee)$ is the (graded) commutative algebra of polynomial functions on the dual complex \mathcal{E}^\vee . Pick $S \in \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E})$ obeying the **classical master equation** (CME)

$$\{S, S\} = 0.$$

The data $(\mathcal{E}, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, S)$ defines a **classical BV theory**. The CME says $\{S, \cdot\}$ is a differential which makes $(\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E}), \{S, \cdot\})$ into a cochain complex such that

$$H^0 \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E}) \cong \mathcal{O}(\text{Crit}(S)),$$

where $\text{Crit}(S)$ denotes the critical locus of S . We will restrict to S of the form

$$S(e) = \underbrace{\langle e, Qe \rangle}_{\substack{\text{free part} \\ \text{(kinetic +} \\ \text{mass terms)}}} + \underbrace{I(e)}_{\substack{\text{interaction} \\ \text{part (cubic} \\ \text{or higher)}}}.$$

Example 1. Why are the cubic and higher order terms called interaction terms? For electromagnetism on a manifold M we have a space of fields $\mathcal{F} = \Omega^1(M) \oplus \Omega^0(M, S)$ in degree 0. Let $F = dA$ and define

$$S(A, \psi) = \int_M \underbrace{F \wedge \star F + \langle \psi, d\psi \rangle}_{\text{quadratic terms}} d\text{vol} + \underbrace{\langle \psi, A\psi \rangle}_{\text{interaction terms}} d\text{vol}.$$

Computing the Euler-Lagrange equations we obtain the system of differential equations

$$\begin{aligned} \star d\star F &= \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \psi dx_\mu \\ d_A \psi &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

which is coupled because of the interaction term.

1.4 Quantization in the BV formalism

The slogan of quantization in the BV formalism is to *deform the differential*. In the perturbative context we work in formal power series in \hbar , for example, over the ring $\mathbb{R}[[\hbar]]$. Quantization results in a cochain complex $(\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E})[[\hbar]], \{S^q, \cdot\} + \hbar\Delta)$, where Δ is called the BV Laplacian, and $S^q \in \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E})[[\hbar]]$ satisfies the **quantum master equation** (QME)

$$(\{S^q, \cdot\} + \hbar\Delta)^2 = 0$$

Example 2. In finite dimensions, i.e. $\mathcal{F} \cong \mathbb{R}^n$, the BV fields are

$$\mathcal{E} = \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

therefore

$$\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E}) \cong \mathbb{R}[x^1, \dots, x^n, \xi^1, \dots, \xi^n]$$

and the BV Laplacian takes the form

$$\Delta = \sum_{\mu=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi^\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu}.$$

In this form, it becomes clear that Δ is a differential operator of degree 1 such that $\Delta^2 = 0$.

The quantum action is a function of the form

$$S^q(e) = \langle e, Qe \rangle + I^q(e)$$

where $I^q \in \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E})[[\hbar]]$ is cubic mod \hbar and satisfies the QME

$$QI^q + \frac{1}{2}\{I^q, I^q\} + \hbar\Delta I^q = 0$$

which resembles the **Maurer-Cartan (MC) equation**. In infinite dimensions, some problems arise:

- i) there may be no solution to this equation. In this case we say that quantization is obstructed (there is an anomaly);
- ii) the QME in infinite dimensions is ill-defined. Some functional analysis is needed to make sense of this problem.

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Lecture 2

In this lecture we consider a naive example that aims to exemplify how the Euler-Lagrange equations lead us to classical BV theories.

Example 3. Let \mathcal{F} be a finite-dimensional vector space encoding the naive space of fields and consider an action

$$S: \mathcal{F} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

We say that S is a **naive action** because it might be necessary to add additional terms to S to guarantee that it satisfies the CME. The solutions to the Euler-Lagrange equation are fields $f \in \mathcal{F}$ such that $dS_f = 0$. Restricting to the case $\mathcal{F} = M$ for some finite-dimensional manifold M , we say that critical points of the action form the **critical locus** of S

$$\text{Crit}(S) = \{p \in M \mid dS_p = 0\}.$$

Alternatively, we can characterize the critical locus of S as an intersection in T^*M

$$\text{Crit}(S) = \text{Graph}(dS) \cap \text{Graph}(M)$$

where we identify M with the zero section. It follows that

$$\mathcal{O}(\text{Crit}(S)) = \mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(dS)) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(T^*M)} \mathcal{O}(M).$$

We are going to consider a derived version of this construction, where the tensor product \otimes is replaced by a derived tensor product $\otimes^{\mathbb{L}}$. This raises the obvious questions:

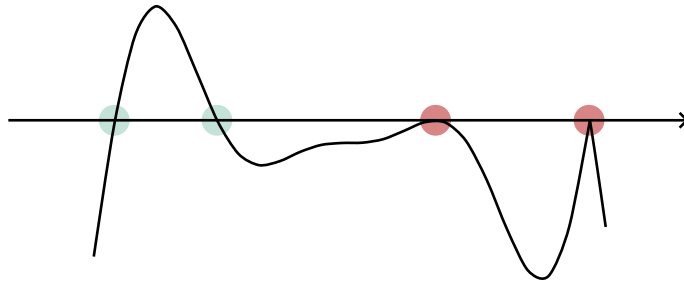


Figure 2.1: Well-behaved (in green) and badly-behaved (in red) points of an intersection.

- **Why?** This intersection might not be well-behaved, in the sense that dS and the zero section might not intersect transversally, or even smoothly, at every point, as illustrated in figure 2.1. The derived approach allows us to study these badly-behaved points using Serre's intersection formula.
- **How?** We replace $\mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(dS)) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(T^*M)} \mathcal{O}(M)$ with a dg commutative algebra A such that

$$H^0 A = \mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(dS)) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(T^*M)} \mathcal{O}(M).$$

To compute the derived tensor product $\otimes^{\mathbb{L}}$ we need to resolve either $\mathcal{O}(M)$ or $\mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(dS))$ in $\mathcal{O}(T^*M)$ -modules. Let us make use of Darboux coordinates to resolve

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(dS)) &= \mathcal{O}(T^*M) \Big/ (f|_{\text{Graph}(dS)} = 0) \\ &= \mathcal{O}(T^*M) \Big/ (p_\mu - \partial_\mu S). \end{aligned}$$

Consider the resolution

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \dots \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}(T^*M)(\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n) & \xrightarrow{\xi_\mu \mapsto p_\mu - \partial_\mu S} & \mathcal{O}(T^*M) \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & \mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(dS)) \end{array}$$

which we extend to the left as a Koszul complex $K^{-p} = \bigwedge_{\mathcal{O}(T^*M)}^p (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n)$ with differential

$$d = \sum_{\mu} (p_\mu - \partial_\mu S) \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi_\mu}.$$

This complex freely resolves $\mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(dS))$. Alternatively, (K^\bullet, d) admits a coordinate free description where

$$K^{-p} = \mathcal{O}(T^*M) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(M)} \mathfrak{X}^p(M).$$

A model for $\mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(dS)) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(T^*M)}^{\mathbb{L}} \mathcal{O}(M)$ is given by

$$\mathcal{O}(\text{Crit}^h(S)) = K^{-\bullet} \otimes_{T^*M} \mathcal{O}(M)$$

which we call the **derived critical locus**. But notice that

$$\mathcal{O}(T^*M) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(M)} \text{PV}^\bullet(M) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(T^*M)} \mathcal{O}(M) \cong \text{PV}^\bullet(M)$$

where $\text{PV}^\bullet(M)$ denotes the complex of polyvector fields on M . The differential is given by contracting with dS , so we write

$$\mathcal{O}(\text{Crit}^h(S)) = (\text{PV}^\bullet(M), -\iota_{dS}).$$

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Lecture 3

We want to sketch how to go from the Yang-Mills action

$$S^{\text{naive}}(A) = \int_{M^n} \text{tr}(F_A \wedge \star F_A)$$

to the Yang-Mills classical BV theory

$$\underbrace{\Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g})}_{\text{ghosts}} \xrightarrow{\text{d}} \underbrace{\Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g})}_{\text{fields}} \xrightarrow{\text{d}\star\text{d}} \underbrace{\Omega^{n-1}(M, \mathfrak{g})}_{\text{antifields}} \xrightarrow{\text{d}} \underbrace{\Omega^n(M, \mathfrak{g})}_{\text{antighosts}}$$

with BV action

$$S^{\text{BV}}(e) = \langle e, Qe \rangle + I(e)$$

where

$$\langle e, f \rangle = \int_{M^n} \text{tr}(e \wedge f)$$

is the -1 -shifted symplectic structure. There are some points to motivate:

- i) **fields** \rightsquigarrow **fields and antifields**: coming from the derived critical locus $\text{dCrit}(S)$;
- ii) **ghosts**: coming from taking the derived coinvariants of $\mathfrak{g} \curvearrowright V$.

For Yang-Mills spacetime is a manifold M^n and $\Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g})$ is the space of fields. However, in what follows, let M be the space of fields. Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Crit}(S) &= \{p \in M \mid \text{d}S_p = 0\} \\ &= \text{Graph}(\text{d}S) \cap M \end{aligned}$$

in T^*M . Dually

$$\mathcal{O}(\text{Crit}(S)) = \mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(\text{d}S)) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(T^*M)} \mathcal{O}(M).$$

By homological yoga, taking the derived intersection means that we replace the tensor product \otimes with the derived tensor product $\otimes^{\mathbb{L}}$. To find $\text{Crit}^{\text{h}}(S)$ we resolve either $\mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(\text{d}S))$ or $\mathcal{O}(M)$ as $\mathcal{O}(T^*M)$ -modules. Last time, we wrote the Koszul complex

$$K^{-p} = \text{PV}^p(M) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(M)} \mathcal{O}(T^*M)$$

where $\text{PV}^p = \bigwedge^p \mathfrak{X}(M)$ and differential

$$Q : v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge v_k \otimes 1 \longmapsto \sum_{i=1}^k (-1)^{i+1} v_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge \hat{v}_i \wedge \cdots \wedge v_k \otimes (p(v_i) - \text{d}S(v_i))$$

Exercise 1. Check that $H^0(K^\bullet, Q) \cong \mathcal{O}(\text{Graph}(\text{dS}))$, so

$$\text{Crit}^h(S) \cong K^\bullet \otimes_{\mathcal{O}(T^*M)} \mathcal{O}(M) \cong \text{PV}^\bullet(M)$$

and thus $\mathcal{O}(\text{Crit}^h(S)) \simeq (\text{PV}^\bullet, -\iota_{\text{dS}})$.

Exercise 2. Show that $H^0 \mathcal{O}(\text{Crit}^h) \cong \mathcal{O}(\text{Crit})$.

We can enhance $\mathcal{O}(\text{Crit}^h(S))$ to a sheaf on M . Following Grothendieck

$$\text{Crit}^h(S) = (M, \text{PV}_M^\bullet, -\iota_{\text{dS}})$$

is an example of a **dg manifold**.

Definition 1. A dg manifold is a smooth manifold M with a sheaf \mathcal{O}_M of **dg commutative algebras** (DGCAs) locally isomorphic to $\mathcal{O}_M(U) \cong \bigwedge \mathcal{E}(U)$, where \mathcal{E} are the smooth sections of $E \rightarrow M$.

Ignoring the differential, we get a sheaf (M, PV_M^\bullet) on M such that

$$\text{PV}_M = \bigwedge \mathfrak{X}_M \cong \text{Sym } \mathfrak{X}[1].$$

The underlying graded manifold of $\text{Crit}^h(S)$ is

$$T^*[-1]M = (M, \text{Sym } \mathfrak{X}[1])$$

displaying the following properties:

- i) the graded manifold $T^*[-1]M$ is a -1 -shifted symplectic graded manifold just as T^*M is a 0 -shifted symplectic manifold;
- ii) Induced from the -1 -shifted symplectic structure we get a 1 -shifted Poisson bracket on $\mathcal{O}(T^*[-1]M) = \text{PV}(M)$ known as the **Schouten bracket**

$$\begin{aligned} \{f, g\} &= 0, \\ \{v, f\} &= vf, \\ \{v, w\} &= [v, w], \\ \{u, v \wedge w\} &= \{u, v\} \wedge w + v \wedge \{u, w\} \end{aligned}$$

for $f, g \in \mathcal{O}(M)$ and $u, v, w \in \text{PV}^{-1}(M)$.

Exercise 3. Show that $-\iota_{\text{dS}} = \{S, \cdot\}$.

Definition 2. A \mathbb{P}_0 algebra $(A, d, \{\cdot, \cdot\})$ is a DGCA (A, d) equipped with a -1 -shifted Poisson bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\} : A \otimes A \rightarrow A$ obeying:

i) **graded skew-symmetry:**

$$\{x, y\} = -(-1)^{(|x|+1)(|y|+1)} \{y, x\};$$

ii) **graded Poisson identity:**

$$\{x, yz\} = \{x, y\}z + (-1)^{(|x|+1)|y|} y\{x, z\}$$

so $\{x, \cdot\}$ is a degree $|x| + 1$ derivation;

iii) **graded Jacobi identity:**

$$\{x, \{y, z\}\} = \{\{x, y\}, z\} + (-1)^{(|x|+1)(|y|+1)} \{y, \{x, z\}\};$$

iv) **compatibility with differential:**

$$d\{x, y\} = \{dx, y\} + (-1)^{|x|+1} \{x, dy\}.$$

Exercise 4. Check that the Schouten bracket defines a \mathbb{P}_0 -algebra on $\mathcal{O}(T^*[-1]M)$.

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Lecture 4

Last time we constructed the derived critical locus of $S: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

$$\mathrm{Crit}^h(S) = (T^*[-1]M, -\iota_{dS})$$

where we understand $T^*[-1]M = (M, \mathrm{PV}^\bullet)$ as the underlying manifold M equipped with the sheaf defined by the assignment

$$\mathrm{PV}^\bullet: U \longrightarrow \mathrm{Sym}_{\mathcal{O}(U)}^\bullet(\mathcal{T}_M(U)[1]).$$

Proposition 1. If V is a locally-finite -1 -shifted symplectic dg vector space then

$$\mathcal{O}(V) = \mathrm{Sym}(V^\vee)$$

is a \mathbb{P} -algebra.

Proof. The pairing $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ induces an isomorphism $V \cong V^\vee[-1]$ which we use to define a bracket

$$\{\cdot, \cdot\}: \mathrm{Sym}^2(V^\vee) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

which we extend as a derivation to $\mathcal{O}(V)$. ■

4.1 Work Perturbatively

Fix a solution to the equations of motion $p \in M$, and consider $V = T_p M$ instead of M . Then we can expand S as a polynomial (or formal power series).

For us, the space of fields \mathcal{F} will always be a sheaf of vector spaces on spacetime. In our example, spacetime is a point pt and $\mathcal{F} = V$ for some finite-dimensional vector space. Going forward we rewrite $T^*[-1]M \rightsquigarrow T^*[-1]V$.

Remark. By analogy to ungraded geometry $T^*V \cong V \oplus V^\vee$ we have that

$$T^*[-1]V \cong V \oplus V^\vee[-1].$$

In infinite dimensions we consider the sheaves

$$T^*[-1]\mathcal{F} = \underbrace{\mathcal{F} \oplus \mathcal{F}^\vee[-1]}_{\substack{\text{sheaf of BV fields} \\ \text{without gauge symmetry}}}.$$

Because we are expanding around a critical point the action has takes the form

$$S(e) = \underbrace{\langle e, Qe \rangle}_{\text{Hessian of } S} + I(e), \quad Q: \mathcal{F} \longrightarrow \mathcal{F}^\vee[-1].$$

Now let M be a finite-dimensional manifold called spacetime, \mathcal{F} the space of naive fields, as a sheaf of vector spaces on M , and \mathcal{E} the sheaf of BV fields. Our ultimate goal is to make sense of expressions of the form

$$\int_{\phi \in \mathcal{F}(M)} \exp\left(-\frac{S_{\text{naive}}}{\hbar}\right) \mathrm{D}\phi.$$

If $\mathcal{F} = V$ and S is quadratic then

$$\begin{aligned} \int_V \exp\left(-\frac{S(\phi)}{\hbar}\right) \mathrm{d}\phi &= \int_V \exp\left(-\frac{\langle \phi, Q\phi \rangle}{\hbar}\right) \mathrm{d}\phi \\ &= \left(\frac{\pi}{\hbar}\right)^{\frac{n}{2}} \det(Q)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{aligned}$$

and if $S(\phi) = \langle \phi, Q\phi \rangle + I(\phi)$ we incorporate the interaction terms by working perturbatively.

Even at finite dimensions, the case $\det(Q) = 0$ poses a bad problem when trying to apply the previous formula. However, degenerate critical points are an unavoidable feature with gauge symmetry ¹

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{F}}_{\text{nonlinear action}}$$

Example 4. Consider Yang-Mills with gauge group G and trivial gauge bundle $M \times G \rightarrow M$. The space of fields is

$$\mathcal{F}(M) = \Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g}), \quad \mathfrak{g} = \mathrm{Lie}(G)$$

and the group of gauge transformations

$$\mathcal{G} = \mathrm{Aut}(M \times G \longrightarrow M) \cong \mathrm{Map}(M, G)$$

where

$$\mathrm{Lie} \mathcal{G} \cong \mathrm{Map}(M, \mathfrak{g}) = \Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g}).$$

Instead of $\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{F}(M)$, we focus on the action of the Lie algebra of gauge transformations

$$\mathrm{Lie}(\mathcal{G}) \subset \mathcal{F}(M).$$

Adopting the standard notation, we write that $c \in \Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g})$ acts on $A \in \Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g})$ by

$$c \cdot A = \mathrm{d}c + [c, A].$$

Exercise 5. Check that

$$S_{\text{naive}}^{\mathrm{YM}} = \int \langle F_A, F_A \rangle \mathrm{dvol}$$

is invariant under infinitesimal gauge transformations.

¹Gauge transformations preserve the action S^{naive} and the equations of motion.

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Lecture 5

(John Huerta)

5.1 Ultimate Goal

Define and use the Feynman “path” integral

$$\int_{\phi \in \mathcal{F}} e^{-\frac{S(\phi)}{\hbar}} D\phi.$$

(Euclidean field theory)

In the constructive track: see Gonçalo on how to do this. In the BV track: we will produce a formal power series in \hbar .

5.2 Recall

- From now on: We work *perturbatively*, i.e., *formally* (in Algebraic Geometry speak), i.e., in *formal power series*, i.e., *infinitesimally*.
- Now M is going to be a finite dimensional manifold, denoting space-time. E.g.,

$$M = \mathbb{R}^d, \text{ or } M = \text{pt.}$$

- \mathcal{F} always denotes the naive fields, a sheaf of vector spaces on M ; specifically, sections of some vector bundle $F \rightarrow M$.

Example: Yang-Mills fields for a trivial G -bundle $M \times G \rightarrow M$, then $\mathcal{F}(M) = \Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g})$, where $\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G)$.

- \mathcal{E} (“extended”), the space of BV-fields, a sheaf of *graded* vector spaces over M , sections of a graded vector bundle $E \rightarrow M$. $\mathcal{E}^0(M) = \mathcal{F}(M)$.

In the Yang-Mills example, where $d = \dim M$

$$\mathcal{E}(M) = \underbrace{\Omega^{-1}(M, \mathfrak{g})}_{\text{“ghosts”}} \oplus \underbrace{\Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g})}_{\text{“fields”}} \oplus \underbrace{\Omega^{d-1}(M, \mathfrak{g})}_{\text{“anti-fields”}} \oplus \underbrace{\Omega^d(M, \mathfrak{g})}_{\text{“anti-ghosts”}}$$

5.3 BV Formulation of Gauge Theory

Input: Naive gauge theory

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{L}}_{\substack{\text{Lie algebra of} \\ \text{infinitesimal gauge} \\ \text{transformations}}} \rightsquigarrow \underbrace{\mathcal{F}}_{\text{space of naive fields}} .$$

The action may be non-linear. In the Young-Mills example it is an affine action

$$\Omega^0(M\mathfrak{g}) \rightsquigarrow \Omega^1(M\mathfrak{g}) .$$

There is a two-step process to writing down the gauge theory:

1. Take the “stacky quotient”

$$\mathcal{F} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{F} / \mathcal{L} \quad (\text{this lecture})$$

2. Take the derived critical locus of S_{gauge} :

$$T^*[-1](\mathcal{F} / \mathcal{L}) . \quad (\text{already done})$$

5.4 Lightning Fast Introduction to Derived Invariants

\mathfrak{g} a finite dimensional Lie algebra, R a finite dimensional representation of \mathfrak{g}

$$\mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{gl}(R)$$

over some field $\mathbf{k} \in \{\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}\}$. Observe that

$$\begin{aligned} R^{\mathfrak{g}} &= \{v \in R \mid Xv = 0 \text{ for all } X \in \mathfrak{g}\} \\ &= \text{Hom}_{\mathfrak{g}}(\mathbf{k}, R) \end{aligned}$$

Derived version $\text{Hom} \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{R}\text{Hom}$.

Try $R^{\text{hg}} = \mathbb{R}\text{Hom}_{U\mathfrak{g}}(\mathbf{k}, R)$, where U is the enveloping algebra. I.e.,

$$U\mathfrak{g} = \frac{T\mathfrak{g}}{x \otimes y - y \otimes x - [x, y]}$$

where $T\mathfrak{g}$ is the tensor algebra.

Fact 1. $\text{Rep}_{\mathfrak{g}} \simeq U\mathfrak{g}\text{-mod}$.

To compute $\mathbb{R}\text{Hom}_{U\mathfrak{g}}(\mathbf{k}, R)$ we need to resolve \mathbf{k} or R as $U\mathfrak{g}$ modules.

Similar to the Koszul complex

$$\cdots \longrightarrow \Lambda^k \mathfrak{g} \otimes U\mathfrak{g} \xrightarrow{-k} \cdots \xrightarrow{-1} \mathfrak{g} \otimes U\mathfrak{g} \xrightarrow{0} U\mathfrak{g}$$

with differential

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda^{k+1}\mathfrak{g} \otimes &\longrightarrow \Lambda^k \otimes U\mathfrak{g} \\ x_0 \wedge \cdots \wedge x_k \otimes y &\longmapsto \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i x_0 \wedge \cdots \widehat{x_i} \cdots \wedge x_k \otimes x_i y \\ &+ \sum_{i < j} (-1)^{i+j} [x_i, x_j] \wedge x_0 \wedge \cdots \widehat{x_i} \cdots \widehat{x_j} \cdots \wedge x_k \otimes y. \end{aligned}$$

With this differential

$$\begin{aligned} H^0(\Lambda^\bullet \mathfrak{g} \otimes U\mathfrak{g}) &\simeq \mathbf{k} \\ H^k(\Lambda^\bullet \mathfrak{g} \otimes U\mathfrak{g}) &= 0 \quad \text{for } k < 0 \end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$\begin{aligned} R^{\text{hg}} &= \mathbb{R}\text{Hom}_{U\mathfrak{g}}(\mathbf{k}, R) \\ &= \text{Hom}_{U\mathfrak{g}}(\Lambda^\bullet \mathfrak{g} \otimes U\mathfrak{g}, R) \\ &\simeq \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{k}}(\Lambda^\bullet \mathfrak{g}, R) \end{aligned}$$

because $\Lambda^\bullet \mathfrak{g} \otimes U\mathfrak{g}$ is free.

Definition 3. For \mathfrak{g} a Lie algebra, R a representation of \mathfrak{g} , the *Chevalley-Eilenberg complex* $C^\bullet(\mathfrak{g}, R)$ is defined as

$$C^k(\mathfrak{g}, R) = \text{Hom}(\Lambda^k \mathfrak{g}, R)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} d\omega(x_0, \dots, x_k) &= \sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^i x_i \cdot \omega(x_0, \dots, \widehat{x_i}, \dots, x_k) \\ &+ \sum_{i < j} (-1)^{i+j} \omega([x_i, x_j], x_0, \dots, \widehat{x_i}, \dots, \widehat{x_j}, \dots, x_k) \end{aligned}$$

Conclusion. Back to $R = \mathcal{O}(V)$, then

$$\begin{aligned} R^{\text{hg}} &= \mathcal{O}(V)^{\text{hg}} \\ &= \text{Hom}_{\mathbf{k}}(\Lambda^\bullet \mathfrak{g}, \mathcal{O}(V)) \\ &\simeq \Lambda^\bullet \mathfrak{g}^* \otimes \mathcal{O}(V) \\ &\simeq \text{Sym}(\mathfrak{g}^*[-1]) \otimes \text{Sym}(V^*) \\ &\simeq \text{Sym}^0(V^* \oplus \mathfrak{g}^*[-1]) \\ &\simeq \mathcal{O}(\mathfrak{g}[1] \oplus V) \\ &=: \mathcal{O}(V/\mathfrak{g}). \end{aligned}$$

Hence

Definition 4. $V/\mathfrak{g} := \mathfrak{g}[1] \oplus V$

Puzzle: what happened to the differential d . It becomes a vector field on $\mathfrak{g} \oplus V$!

5.5 Back to Yang-Mills

$$V \rightsquigarrow \Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g})$$

$$\mathfrak{g} \rightsquigarrow \Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g})$$

Step 1: $\Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g}) / \Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g}) := \Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g})[1] \oplus \Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g})$

Step 2: \mathcal{E} for Yang-Mills

$$\begin{aligned} T^*[-1](\Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g})[1] \oplus \Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g})) &\simeq \Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g})[1] \oplus \Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g}) \\ &\quad \oplus (\Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g})[1] \oplus \Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g}))^*[-1] \\ &\simeq \Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g})[1] \oplus \Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g}) \\ &\quad \oplus \Omega^{d-1}(M, \mathfrak{g})[-1] \oplus \Omega^d(M, \mathfrak{g})[-2] \end{aligned}$$

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Lecture 6

Last time we discussed **perturbative classical BV gauge theory**. We had

$$\mathcal{L} \subset \mathcal{F}$$

with $S_{\text{naive}} \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{loc}}(\mathcal{F})$. The recipe is:

i) take the **stacky quotient**

$$\mathcal{F} //_{\mathcal{L}} = \mathcal{L}[1] \oplus \mathcal{F}$$

with a vector field Q_{CE} . The condition that S_{naive} is gauge-invariant is equivalent to

$$Q_{\text{CE}} S_{\text{naive}} = 0;$$

ii) take the **derived critical locus**

$$T^*[-1]\left(\mathcal{F} //_{\mathcal{L}}\right)$$

with differential $\{S_{\text{naive}}, \cdot\}$. The underlying space is

$$\mathcal{L}[1] \oplus \mathcal{F} \oplus (\mathcal{L}[1] \oplus \mathcal{F})^{\vee}[-1] = \mathcal{L}[1] \oplus \mathcal{F} \oplus \mathcal{F}^{\vee}[-1] \oplus \mathcal{L}^{\vee}[-2].$$

iii) obtain the **BV action** S satisfying the CME

$$\{S, S\} = 0$$

and incorporate (somehow) S_{naive} and Q_{CE} . This means that

$$S_{\text{naive}} = S|_{\mathcal{F}}, \quad \text{and} \quad Q_{\text{CE}} = \{S, \cdot\}|_{\mathcal{L}[1] \oplus \mathcal{F}}.$$

Fact 2. The vector field Q_{CE} is Hamiltonian, i.e.

$$Q_{\text{CE}} = \{S_{\text{CE}}, \cdot\}$$

with respect to the -1 -shifted symplectic structure, for some S_{CE} . As such, we can define

$$S = S_{\text{naive}} + S_{\text{CE}}.$$

For Yang-Mills on an oriented Riemannian n -manifold, with trivial bundle $M \times G \rightarrow M$ and $\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G)$, \mathcal{E} looks like

$$\Omega^0(M, \mathfrak{g}) \longrightarrow \Omega^1(M, \mathfrak{g}) \longrightarrow \Omega^{n-1}(M, \mathfrak{g}) \longrightarrow \Omega^n(M, \mathfrak{g})$$

and then we write the action

$$S_{\text{naive}}(A) = \int_M \frac{1}{4} \langle F_A, F_A \rangle.$$

We compute that

$$S_{\text{CE}}(c, A, A^*, c^*) = \int_M \langle d_A c, A^* \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle [c, c], c^* \rangle.$$

Choose bases $\{T_a\}$ for \mathfrak{g} and $\{e_i\}$ for V . An element of $\mathfrak{g} \oplus V$ can be written

$$X^a T_a + v^i e_i, \quad X^a, v^i \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Let ξ^a be the linear coordinate corresponding to T_a and x^i corresponding to e_i . Note that ξ^a has degree +1.

Proposition 2 (Berezin, Leites). Consider

$$\text{Der}\left(\mathcal{O}(\mathbb{R}^n) \otimes \bigwedge W^\vee\right)$$

where $\{\theta_a\}$ is a basis of W , and θ^a denotes the respective dual basis elements. Then

$$\text{Der}\left(\mathcal{O}(\mathbb{R}^n) \otimes \bigwedge W^\vee\right) = \left(\mathcal{O}(\mathbb{R}^n) \otimes \bigwedge W^\vee\right) \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}, \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^i} \right\}$$

where $\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^i}$ is the degree -1 derivation such that

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^i} \theta^1 \dots \theta^n = (-1)^{i+1} \theta^1 \dots \hat{\theta}^i \dots \theta^n \delta_{i,k}.$$

The idea of the computation is to determine the coefficients of the derivation Q_{CE} by computing $Q_{\text{CE}} x^i$ and $Q_{\text{CE}} \xi^a$. We obtain

$$Q_{\text{CE}} = \xi^a \rho_a^i \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \left(\underbrace{-\frac{1}{2} f_{bc}^a \xi^b \xi^c}_{\frac{1}{2} [c, c]} \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi^a} \right)$$

where $\rho : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}(V)$ and $[T_a, T_b] = f_{a,b}^c T_c$.

Definition 5. A **perturbative classical BV theory** consists of the data:

- i) a graded vector bundle $E \rightarrow M$;
- ii) a -1-shifted symplectic structure

$$E \boxtimes E \longrightarrow \text{Dens } M;$$

- iii) a local action functional $S \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{loc}}(\mathcal{E})$ that is at least quadratic and satisfies the CME.

Let \mathcal{E} be the topological vector space (TVS) of global smooth sections, and \mathcal{E}_c the TVS of compactly supported sections. Then $\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E})$ is the completion of the symmetric algebra on \mathcal{E}_c^\vee . We define

$$\mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E})_{\text{loc}}(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq \mathcal{O}(\mathcal{E})$$

where $F \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{loc}}(\mathcal{E})$ is a sum of terms of the form

$$e \in \mathcal{E}_c \mapsto \int_M D_1 e \dots D_n e \Omega$$

for $D_i: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow C^\infty(M)$ and Ω a density on M .

Proposition 3. For a classical BF theory \mathcal{E} we can write

$$S = \int_M \langle e, Qe \rangle + I(e)$$

where $Q: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ is a differential operator of degree +1, squares to zero, and $I \in \mathcal{O}_{\text{loc}}(\mathcal{E})$ is at least cubic and satisfies the QME

$$QI + \frac{1}{2}\{I, I\} = 0.$$

— 7 —

Lecture 7

7.1 Quantum BV in Finite Dimensions

In this section we start our journey towards the quantization of BV theories. Recall that our goal is to provide a **homological approach** to compute integrals of the form

$$\int_{\phi \in \mathcal{F}} e^{-\frac{S}{\hbar}} D\phi.$$

We will introduce the quantum BV complex as a generalized **divergence complex**. In finite dimensions this is an obscured version of the de Rham complex, where we have the usual homological approach to integration.

For this chapter we return to the finite-dimensional case, which corresponds to the case where spacetime is a point $M = \text{pt}$. Consider:

- i) a n -dimensional **graded** vector space $V = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} V_n$ of **fields**;
- ii) a **-1-shifted symplectic pairing** $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : V \otimes V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$;
- iii) an **action** $S \in \mathcal{O}(V)$ such that

$$\{S, S\} = 0, \quad \text{classical master equation (CME)}$$

where $\{\cdot, \cdot\} : \mathcal{O}(V) \otimes \mathcal{O}(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(V)$ is the **+1-shifted Poisson bracket** induced by the symplectic pairing.

Such a setup makes $(\mathcal{O}(V), \{\cdot, \cdot\})$ into a cochain complex such that

$$H^0 \mathcal{O}(V) \cong \mathcal{O}(\text{Crit}(S)).$$

Passing to the derived critical locus, we have seen that functions on $\text{Crit}^h(S)$ form a commutative dg algebra

$$\mathcal{O}(\text{Crit}^h(S)) = (PV^\bullet(V), -\iota_{dS})$$

which we call the **classical BV complex**. Passing to the quantum version amounts to deforming this complex by changing the differential.

7.2 Integration in Finite Dimensions

Fixing a nonvanishing top form $\mu \in \Omega^n(V)$ defines a map

$$\begin{aligned} \int_V : \mathcal{O}(V) &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ f &\longmapsto \int_V f \mu \end{aligned}$$

where we make the necessary assumptions on \mathcal{O} such that f is integrable with respect to μ . This map depends only on **cohomological data**. Explicitly, we have that

$$\int_M f \mu = \frac{[f\mu]}{[\mu]}$$

where $[\cdot]$ denotes the cohomology class in $H_{\text{dR}}(V)$. Note that the denominator is just a normalizing factor. If we pick $\mu \in \Omega^n(V)$ such that $\int_V \mu = 1$, computing the integral of f with respect to μ boils down to computing a class in cohomology

$$\int_V f \mu = [f\mu].$$

The pairing by integration with μ is nondegenerate so it defines an isomorphism $\mathcal{O}(V) \rightarrow \Omega^n(V)$ which we can extend to an isomorphism of complexes

$$\begin{aligned} m_\mu: PV^{-k}(V) &\longrightarrow \Omega^{n-k}(V) \\ X &\longmapsto \iota_X \mu. \end{aligned}$$

Example 5. In coordinates, let $\mu = dx^1 \wedge \cdots \wedge dx^n$ and $X = f \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j_1}} \wedge \cdots \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j_k}}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} m_\mu(X) &= f m_\mu \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j_1}} \wedge \cdots \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j_k}} \right) \\ &= \sigma f dx^1 \cdots \widehat{dx^{j_1}} \cdots \widehat{dx^{j_k}} \cdots dx^n \end{aligned}$$

where the terms $\widehat{dx^{j_i}}$ are omitted, and $\sigma = \pm 1$ is such that

$$\sigma dx^1 \cdots dx^n = dx^{j_1} \cdots dx^{j_k} \wedge dx^1 \cdots dx^n.$$

The **divergence operator** on $PV^\bullet(V)$

$$\text{div}_\mu = m_\mu^{-1} dm_\mu$$

is obtained by pulling back the de Rham differential on Ω^\bullet using μ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & PV^{-2}(V) & \xrightarrow{\text{div}_\mu} & PV^{-1}(V) & \xrightarrow{\text{div}_\mu} & \mathcal{O}(V) \\ & & \downarrow m_\mu & & \downarrow m_\mu & & \downarrow m_\mu \\ \cdots & \longrightarrow & \Omega^{n-2}(V) & \xrightarrow{d} & \Omega^{n-1}(V) & \xrightarrow{d} & \Omega^n(V) \end{array}$$

Because it admits this definition in the finite-dimensional case, we say that the divergence complex is an *obscured* version of the usual de Rham complex. At this point, one might wonder: why do we not just use the de Rham complex to begin with? The point is that, unlike the de Rham complex, the divergence complex generalizes to the infinite-dimensional case.

Recall how before we recovered the space of functions on the critical locus $\text{Crit}(S)$ from PV^\bullet by passing to cohomology in degree 0. This crucial information is encoded in the de Rham complex in degree n , where top forms live. In infinite dimensions, this data escapes as the de Rham complex ceases to be bounded above. However, it still resides in degree 0 in the divergence complex. In this sense, the natural approach in quantum field theory is to generalize the divergence operator to the infinite-dimensional case.

Example 6. Let $V = \mathbb{R}$ and μ_{Leb} be the Lebesgue measure. A simple computation recovers the usual divergence operator

$$\begin{aligned} \text{div}_{\text{Leb}} \left(f \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) &= m_{\mu}^{-1} dm_{\mu} \left(f \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \\ &= m_{\mu}^{-1} (df) \\ &= m_{\mu}^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} \mu \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}. \end{aligned}$$

If we write the generator of the vector fields as $\xi = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ then

$$\text{div}_{\text{Leb}} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} = \Delta_{\text{BV}}$$

takes the form of the usual BV Laplacian. It is straightforward to generalize to the n -dimensional case

$$\text{div}_{\text{Leb}} = \Delta_{\text{BV}} = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi^i}.$$

Example 7. Consider again $V = \mathbb{R}$ but let μ_S be a Gaussian measure of the form

$$\mu_S = e^{-\frac{S}{\hbar}} \mu_{\text{Leb}}.$$

In this case, we see that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{div}_S &= m_{\mu_S}^{-1} dm_{\mu_S} \left(f \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \\ &= m_{\mu_S}^{-1} d \left(f e^{-\frac{S}{\hbar}} \right) \\ &= m_{\mu_S}^{-1} \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} e^{-\frac{S}{\hbar}} \mu_{\text{Leb}} - \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial S}{\partial x} f e^{-\frac{S}{\hbar}} \mu_{\text{Leb}} \right) \\ &= \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{\partial S}{\partial x} f. \end{aligned}$$

from which we conclude that

$$\text{div}_S = -\frac{1}{\hbar} \iota_{\text{dS}} + \Delta_{\text{BV}}.$$

If $\hbar \neq 0$ (and is not formal) we can multiply by \hbar to obtain a differential

$$\hbar \text{div}_S = -\iota_{\text{dS}} + \hbar \Delta_{\text{BV}}$$

on $PV^{\bullet}(V)$ that we recognize as a deformation of the classical BV differential given by contracting with dS . Alternatively, we can also write the divergence operator in terms of the Schouten bracket

$$\text{div}_S = \{S, \cdot\} + \hbar \Delta_{\text{BV}}.$$

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