

# Generic Potential

August 6, 2023

Let us work on the case for a generic potential  $V(\phi)$  for scalars  $\phi$ . For the simplicity, start with the single scalar action:

$$S = \int d^d x \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi + V(\phi) \right\} \quad (1)$$

Then, the quadratic term is:

$$S^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^d x \eta (-\square + V''(\phi)) \eta \quad (2)$$

So one may obtain:

$$\frac{\delta^2 S}{\delta \phi \delta \phi} = -\square + V''(\phi) := D \quad (3)$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{W} &= \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \ln D \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^\infty \frac{dt}{t} \text{Tr} e^{-tD} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

But, now one can use the expansion for the trace of the heat kernel:

$$\text{Tr} e^{-tD} = \sum_{k \geq 0} t^{(k-d)/2} a_k \quad (5)$$

where  $a_k$  are heat kernel coefficients which are, for instance, given in Vassilevich.

Thus, introducing a cut-off at  $t = \Lambda^{-2}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{W} &= -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Lambda^{-2}}^\infty dt \sum t^{\frac{k-d}{2}-1} a_k \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Lambda^{-2}}^\infty dt \{ t^{-d/2-1} a_0 + t^{-d/2} a_2 + t^{-d/2+1} a_4 \dots \} \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Notice that only finitely many terms involve the divergent one would need to care, i.e. only the coefficients with  $k \leq d$  are necessary. Therefore, defining  $\tau \equiv \ln \frac{\Lambda}{\Lambda_0}$ :

$$\partial_\tau V_\Lambda = -\frac{1}{2} \partial_\tau \left\{ \int_{\Lambda^{-2}}^\infty dt \sum_{k \leq d} t^{\frac{k-d}{2}-1} a_k \right\} \quad (7)$$

From this "beta functional", each beta-function corresponding to each coupling can be extracted.

For a theory with multiple scalars  $\phi^i$ , this could be generalized. In this case, the second functional derivative is in the form:

$$\frac{\delta S}{\delta \phi^i \delta \phi^j} = -\square \delta^{ij} + U(\phi) \quad (8)$$

where  $U(\phi)$  includes the additional terms in its potential which involve  $i \neq j$ .

Thus, specifying terms involving the divergence with heat kernel coefficients with same procedure, eventually one may obtain a "beta-functional" depending on scalars from which all beta-functions of all couplings are extracted. Ultimately, once the form of the potential of the theory is determined, plugging them into the heat kernel coefficients, all beta-functions can be specified.