

[based on arXiv:2003.05021 & related other works in progress]

Path-integral and quantum A_∞ structure of QFT

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Today's messages

Roughly speaking..

[Math aspects]

- Each quantum field theory that has the path-integral description

correlation fnc. $\langle \dots \rangle = \int \mu_\phi(\dots)$ e.g. $\mu_\phi = \mathcal{D}\phi e^{S[\phi]}$

always has own (quantum) A_∞ structure ν .

(For ordinary QFTs, this (quantum) A_∞ reduces to (quantum) L_∞ automatically.)

- Path-integral P always gives a morphism of such A_∞ str.

$$P \nu = \nu' P \quad (P : \text{original } A_\infty \rightarrow \text{effective quantum } A_\infty)$$

Today's messages

Roughly speaking..

[Phys aspects]

- So, **as long as your original QFT is consistent**, all objects obtained by the path-integral also have **own A_∞/L_∞** automatically!
(e.g. effective theories, amplitudes, current recursion relations, or symmetries under RG flows)
- **String field theory** is a consistent UV finite theory:
It gives typical examples to which you can apply these ideas “easily”.

In this talk, I will explain these meanings more strictly.

Plan of talk

1. Why every path-integrable QFT have A_∞ / L_∞

2. Why the path-integral preserves such A_∞ / L_∞

(In particular, the perturbative path-integral gives A_∞/L_∞ morphisms very explicitly.)

I would like to emphasize that these 1 & 2 are mostly patch-work of ***known results***.

3. Application to perturbative SFT

1. Why every path-integrable QFT have A_∞ / L_∞

I told you that..

- Each quantum field theory that has the path-integral description

correlation fnc. $\langle \dots \rangle = \int \mu_\phi(\dots)$ e.g. $\mu_\phi = \mathcal{D}\phi e^{S[\phi]}$

always has own (quantum) A_∞ structure ν .

- Let us explain the meanings of “**consistent QFT, path-integrable QFT, or QFT that has the path-integral description**” in this talk.

That is “**QFT solving the Batalin-Vilkovisky master equation**”.

1. Why every path-integrable QFT have A_∞ / L_∞

What was BV ?

- BV is a powerful and general formalism that enables us **to perform the path-integral, even for gauge theory**. It is the geometry of the BV odd Laplacian Δ with $(\Delta)^2=0$.

To define $\int \mathcal{D}\phi (\dots)$, Δ -exact vanish $\int \mathcal{D}\phi (\Delta \text{ exact}) = 0$ and **the integrand** must be

$$\Delta\text{-closed : } \Delta (\text{integrand}) = 0 .$$

- Then, for each QFT, this consistency condition gives **“the BV master equation”**.

$$\Delta e^{S[\phi]} = 0 \iff \hbar \Delta S + \frac{1}{2}(S, S) = 0$$

(The BV bracket is defined by $(-)^A(A, B) \equiv \Delta(AB) - (\Delta A)B - (-)^A A(\Delta B)$).

1. Why every path-integrable QFT have A_∞ / L_∞

So, we consider QFT solving BV eq.

- The solution $S[\phi]$ of the BV master equation has the following form:

$$S[\phi] = \underbrace{S_{cl}[\phi_{cl}]}_{\text{classical action}} + \underbrace{\phi^* (S[\phi], c)}_{\text{for gauge degrees}} + \underbrace{c^* (S[\phi], \text{ghosts for ghosts})}_{\text{for redundancy of gauge degrees}} + \dots$$

- This BV action $S[\phi]$ gives a set of “vertices” $\mu = \{\mu_n\}_{n>1}$ as follows

$$S[\phi] = \frac{1}{2} \langle \phi, \mu_1 \phi \rangle + \frac{1}{3} \langle \phi, \mu_2(\phi, \phi) \rangle + \frac{1}{4} \langle \phi, \mu_3(\phi, \phi) \rangle + \dots$$

For a given QFT, this BV master action $S[\phi]$ is unique in some sense.

Actually, these multi-linear maps $\{\mu_1, \mu_n\}_{n>1}$ satisfy the (quantum) A_∞/L_∞ relations.

1. Why every path-integrable QFT have A_∞ / L_∞

Equivalent rep. of solving BV eq.

- We consider the operator $\hbar \Delta_S \equiv \hbar \Delta + (S, \)$ with $\Delta \equiv (-)^\phi \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi \partial \phi^*}$, which gives

$$\hbar \Delta_S \phi = - \frac{\partial S[\phi]}{\partial \phi} = \mu_1 \phi + \mu_2(\phi, \phi) + \mu_3(\phi, \phi, \phi) + \dots$$

- Note that *“solving BV eq.”* equals to *“requiring $(\hbar \Delta_S)^2 = 0$ ”* because of

$$(\hbar \Delta_S)^2 = (S, \hbar \Delta S + \frac{1}{2}(S, S)) .$$

- Actually, as we see, $(\hbar \Delta_S)^2 = 0$ is nothing but **the quantum A_∞/L_∞** .

1. Why every path-integrable QFT have A_∞ / L_∞

Solving BV eq. = requiring quantum A_∞/L_∞

- We can expand $(\hbar \Delta_S)^2 = 0$ acting on $\phi = \sum \phi_g + \sum \phi_g^*$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned} (\hbar \Delta_S)^2 \phi &= \hbar \Delta_S \left[\mu_1 \phi + \mu_2(\phi, \phi) + \mu_3(\phi, \phi, \phi) + \dots \right] \\ &= \sum_n \left[\hbar \sum_g (-)^g \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi_g \partial \phi_g^*} \mu_{n+2}(\phi, \dots, \phi) + \sum_{l+k=n} (-)^{\text{sign}} \mu_{l+1}(\dots, \phi, \mu_k(\phi, \dots, \phi), \phi, \dots) \right] \end{aligned}$$

- These are nothing but **the A_∞/L_∞ relations**, which may become more explicit if we use the symbols mimicking “complete basis of the inner product”, $e_{-g} \equiv \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \phi_g}$, $e_{1+g} \equiv \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \phi_g^*}$, and expand each μ_n with respect to \hbar , such as $\mu_n = \mu_{n,[0]} + \hbar \mu_{n,[1]} + \hbar^2 \mu_{n,[2]} + \hbar^3 \mu_{n,[3]} + \dots$.

1. Why every path-integrable QFT have A_∞ / L_∞

In summary..

- To have the path-integral, QFT must solve the BV master equation.
- “Solving BV eq. $\Delta e^{S[\phi]} = 0$ ” is the same as imposing **the quantum A_∞** on **vertices $\mu = \{\mu_1, \mu_n\}_{n>1}$** of your BV master action,

$$S[\phi] = \frac{1}{2}\langle\phi, \mu_1\phi\rangle + \frac{1}{3}\langle\phi, \mu_2(\phi, \phi)\rangle + \frac{1}{4}\langle\phi, \mu_3(\phi, \phi)\rangle + \dots$$

- ***So, each QFT has own intrinsic quantum A_∞/L_∞ arising from BV eq. .***
- This A_∞/L_∞ structure is **unique**, as is the proper BV master action.

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Next topic..

- We have noticed that **every QFT have quantum A_∞ / L_∞** .
- But, why does the path-integral preserve it ??
 - That is also because of BV.
- It might be **trivial**, as long as you can split $\phi = \phi' + \phi''$ and $\Delta = \Delta' + \Delta''$.

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

As is well known..

- Any effective action $A[\phi']$ for “a given QFT $S[\phi' + \phi'']$ solving BV eq.”

$$P : S[\phi' + \phi''] \longmapsto A[\phi'] \equiv \ln \int \mathcal{D}\phi'' e^{S[\phi' + \phi'']}$$

also solves the BV master equation : you quickly find $\int \mathcal{D}\phi'' \Delta''(\dots) = 0$ and

$$\Delta' e^{A[\phi']} = \int \mathcal{D}\phi'' (\Delta' + \Delta'') e^{S[\phi' + \phi'']} = 0 .$$

- Hence, your BV effective QFT also has **own (quantum) A_∞/L_∞** , $\mu' = \{\mu'_n\}_n$.

The path-integral P preserves it in this sense : $P \mu = \mu' P$.

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Actually, these properties have been well used by experts.

- Flows of exact renormalization group with BV. [K.Costello 2007, R.Zucchini 2018]
- Realization of symmetry in ERG with BV. [Y.Igarashi, K.Itoh, H.Sonoda 2009]
- Combing BV and ERG. [T.Morris 2018, Y.Igarashi, K.Itoh, T.Morris 2019, P.Lavrov 2019]
 - And there are other many earlier works..

Also, there are some works based on the A_∞/L_∞ side of BV

- BJ recursion relations of gluon, scattering amplitudes by using A_∞/L_∞ .
[M.Doubek et al 2017, B.Jurco, et al 2018, LT.Macrelli, et al 2019, A.S.Arvanitakis 2019, B.Jurco et al 2019]

Last year, the speaker studied **the classical (tree graphs) part** of the above result. He proposed how to reduce a given “covariant SFT” to corresponding “light-cone SFT”. [HM. JHEP04(2019)143]

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Now, you may notice that effective quantum A_∞/L_∞ is trivial.

- We have learned that the path-integral preserves BV, and thus A_∞/L_∞ .
- So, as long as your original QFT is path-integrable, quantum A_∞/L_∞ structure of your effective QFT is automatic.
- But, is there any “explicit” construction of such a morphism ?
 - We have it.

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

“Explicit” construction of such P

- **The perturbative path-integral** gives such a morphism very **explicitly**.

In other words, **the Feynman graph expansion** preserves quantum A_∞/L_∞ !!

- We noticed that the (non-perturbative) path-integral gives **a morphism of BV**,

$$P : S[\phi' + \phi''] \longmapsto A[\phi'] = \ln \int \mathcal{D}\phi'' e^{S[\phi' + \phi'']} ,$$

which is often called **a ERG transformation**, and thus **A_∞/L_∞ is automatic**.

The Feynman graph expansion of this **P** also gives a morphism.

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Can we obtain P directly in terms of A_∞ / L_∞ ?

- We obtained some results in terms of the BV master action $S[\phi] = S_{\text{free}}[\phi] + S_{\text{int}}[\phi]$. We can also obtain corresponding results in terms of A_∞ / L_∞ more directly.
- It is given by “the homological perturbation $\mu_1 \mapsto \mu_1 + \mu_{\text{int}} + \hbar \Delta$ ”. By using coalgebra description, we get the effective quantum A_∞ / L_∞ and morphism $P \mu = \mu' P$ directly.

$$\text{effective } A_\infty / L_\infty \quad \mu' = \mu'_1 + i \mu_{\text{int}} P \quad \& \quad \text{morphism } P = \frac{1}{1 + \mu_1^{-1}(\mu_{\text{int}} + \hbar \Delta)} P$$

It is the same as the Feynman graph expansion, or applying Wick’s theorem, for

$$\text{the ERG transformation } P : S[\phi' + \phi''] \mapsto A[\phi'] = \ln \int \mathcal{D}\phi'' e^{S[\phi' + \phi'']} .$$

(Sorry, we skip “what the homological perturbation was” now, which is in appendix.)

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Comments on path-integral by homological perturbation

- The perturbative path-integral, or the Feynman graph expansion, can be obtained as a result of **the homological perturbation of $\hbar \Delta_{S_{\text{int}}}$** , and thus it preserves BV eq. and A_∞/L_∞ .

Following perturbations give **the Wick's theorem** and **the perturbative path-integral** :

$$\begin{array}{c}
 (S_{\text{free}}, \quad) \longmapsto \underbrace{\overbrace{\hbar \Delta}^{\text{perturbation}} + (S_{\text{free}}, \quad)}_{\text{Wick's theorem}} \longmapsto \hbar \Delta_S \equiv \underbrace{\overbrace{\hbar \Delta + (S_{\text{int}}, \quad)}^{\text{full perturbation}} + (S_{\text{free}}, \quad)}_{\text{Perturbative path integral}}
 \end{array}$$

- It is **the same as the Feynman graph** but can give **explicit** constructions of some quantities.
 (We may review these facts later, if we have enough time before *our cut-off*.)

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Some comments

- We considered algebraic aspects only, but now it will be **trivial** to you. Please note that all physically important informations are in your **concrete construction of “regular” propagators**. (You might learn it from D-instanton.)

- In general, it may be a challenging problem to solve the BV master equation for **QFT with finite cut-off**, if QFT is not UV finite.

Solving BV for QFT without cut-off is not difficult, but “regular propagators” will require cut-off dependence. As I know, even for Yang-Mills, we know a 1-loop level BV master action only. [Y.Igarashi, K.Itoh, T.Morris 2019]

- In general, **your BV Laplacian will have cut-off dependence** and then **ERG flows** are given by BV canonical transformations, or morphisms of quantum A_∞ / L_∞ . ERG flows shift the cut-off dependence of your BV Laplacian.
- So, application to SFT is easier than other UV divergent QFTs and it is exact.

3. Application to perturbative SFT

We now consider SFT

- As is known, **SFT is a consistent UV finite QFT**, which satisfies $\Delta e^{S[\phi]} = 0$.

For a given master action $S[\phi] = \frac{1}{2}\langle\phi, \mu_1\phi\rangle + \frac{1}{3}\langle\phi, \mu_2(\phi, \phi)\rangle + \frac{1}{4}\langle\phi, \mu_3(\phi, \phi, \phi)\rangle + \dots$,

we can consider $\phi = \phi' + \phi''$ and *the perturbative path-integral of ϕ''* as follows

$$P : S[\phi' + \phi''] \longmapsto A[\phi'] = \ln \int \mathcal{D}\phi'' e^{S[\phi' + \phi'']}$$

- Then, **thanks to BV**, the quantum A_∞/L_∞ of your effective action is **automatic**

$$A[\phi'] = \frac{1}{2}\langle\phi', \mu'_1\phi'\rangle + \frac{1}{3}\langle\phi', \mu'_2(\phi', \phi')\rangle + \frac{1}{4}\langle\phi', \mu'_3(\phi', \phi', \phi')\rangle + \dots$$

3. Application to perturbative SFT

App.1) Typical Examples of $\phi = \phi' + \phi''$

- Your effective theory $A[\phi']$ has A_∞/L_∞ corresponding to **the splitting** $\phi = \phi' + \phi''$ because it changes **the propagators** $(\mu_1'')^{-1}$ given by $\mu_1 = \mu_1' + \mu_1''$,

$$A[\phi'] \equiv \ln \int \mathcal{D}\phi'' e^{S[\phi'+\phi'']} = \frac{1}{2} \langle \phi', \mu_1' \phi' \rangle + \frac{1}{3} \langle \phi', \mu_2'(\phi', \phi') \rangle + \frac{1}{4} \langle \phi', \mu_3'(\phi', \phi', \phi') \rangle + \dots$$

- Typical examples : (1) As usual, $\phi = \phi'_{\text{IR}} + \phi''_{\text{UV}}$ gives Wilsonian with A_∞/L_∞ .
- (2) $\phi = \phi'_{\text{on shell}} + \phi''_{\text{off shell}}$ gives the S-matrix $A[\phi']$ as a minimal model of A_∞/L_∞ .
- (3) $\phi = \phi'_{\text{massless}} + \phi''_{\text{massive}}$ gives A_∞/L_∞ effective QFT $A[\phi']$ with finite α' .
- (4) $\phi = \phi'_{\text{phys}} + \phi''_{\text{gauge+unphys}}$ gives “gauge-removed” SFT with A_∞/L_∞ .

3. Application to perturbative SFT

App.2) Light-cone reduction : a special choice of $\phi = \phi'_{\text{phys}} + \phi''_{\text{gauge+unphys}}$

- For a given covariant SFT, there exists the corresponding light-cone SFT.
- The BRST operator of (super) strings has the similarity transformation, for example,

$$Q = e^{-R} \left(\overbrace{c_0 L_0}^{\mu_1} - p^+ \overbrace{\sum_{n \neq 0} c_{-n} a_n^+}^{\mu_1''} \right) e^R \quad (\text{open strings}) .$$

[Aisaka, Kazama 2004] for bosonic
[Kazama, Yokoi 2011] for super

It induces $\phi_{\text{covariant}} = \phi'_{\text{light cone}} + \phi''_{a^\pm, b, c}$ and the A_∞/L_∞ light-cone SFT :

$$A[\phi'] = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \langle \phi', c_0 L_0^{\text{lc}} \phi' \rangle + \sum_n \frac{1}{n+1} \langle \phi', \mu_n(\phi', \dots, \phi') \rangle}_{\text{same form as the covariant SFT}} + \underbrace{\sum_{g,n} \frac{\hbar^g}{n+1} \langle \phi, \mu'_{n,[g]}(\phi', \dots, \phi') \rangle}_{\text{effective vertices}}$$

“When effective vertices vanish and it reduces to Kaku-Kikkawa’s theory” will be reported by [corroboration with Ted Erler] .

3. Application to perturbative SFT

App.3) Realization of symmetry as A_∞/L_∞

- Recall that *composite operators of symmetry* $\delta_{\text{sym}}\phi = \mathcal{O}_{\text{sym}}[\phi]$ survive along **ERG flows**

$$\int \mathcal{D}\phi \mathcal{O}_{\text{sym}}[\phi] e^{S[\phi]} = \int \mathcal{D}\phi' \mathcal{O}'_{\text{sym}}[\phi'] e^{A[\phi']} \quad [\text{Review: Y.Igarashi et al 2009}]$$

and there is *no loss of symmetry*, although their forms drastically change along flows.

$$\delta_{\text{sym}}\phi = \mathcal{O}_{\text{sym}}[\phi] \longmapsto \delta_{\text{sym}}\phi' = \mathcal{O}'_{\text{sym}}[\phi']$$

- This is also true for our case. The relation between $\mathcal{O}_{\text{sym}}[\phi]$ and $\mathcal{O}'_{\text{sym}}[\phi']$ is explicit. It is given by a morphism of A_∞/L_∞ :

$$\mathcal{O}'_{\text{sym}}[\phi'] = P \left(\mathcal{O}_{\text{sym}}[\phi] \right) \quad [\text{work in progress}]$$

So, symmetry of the original QFT also exists in your effective QFT **in terms of A_∞/L_∞** , though it may take some highly-nonlinear form. (e.g. Lorentz generators in light-cone SFT.)

Summary

As we saw, in QFT, quantum A_∞/L_∞ is always there..

- **QFT has own quantum A_∞/L_∞** , which is equivalent to solving BV.
- The path-integral preserves it, and thus your effective A_∞/L_∞ is **automatic**.
- Symmetry in effective QFT is also encoded into A_∞/L_∞ .

Comments

- We learned that QFT and A_∞/L_∞ are in one-to-one, thanks to BV.
It may imply that
 - “**deformation of QFT**” and “**deformation of A_∞/L_∞** ” are in one-to-one.
 - That is given by quantum open-closed homotopy algebra or IBL_∞ .

Thank you for your attention !!

5-slides Review :

Path-integral by Homological perturbation

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Review : path-integral = homological perturbation

- The perturbative path-integral, or the Feynman graph expansion, can be obtained as a result of **the homological perturbation of $\hbar \Delta_{S_{\text{int}}}$** , and thus it preserves BV eq. and A_∞/L_∞ .

— Let us review this fact in more detail.

- The free BV theory $S_{\text{free}}[\phi] = \frac{1}{2} \langle \phi, \mu_1 \phi \rangle$ solves $(S_{\text{free}}, S_{\text{free}}) = 0$, $\Delta S_{\text{free}} = 0$.

Its equations of motion is, classically, given by $\mu_1 \phi = (S_{\text{free}}, \phi) = 0$.

- This (S_{free}, \quad) is a nilpotent operator, whose cohomology is the classical on-shell.

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Review : path-integral = homological perturbation

- The relation of “classical” off-shell and on-shell is described by **the deformation retract**, homotopy equivalent pairs of **(vector space , differential)** , as follows

$$\left(\text{state space, } \underbrace{(S_{\text{free}}, \quad)}_{\text{differential } \hat{\mu}_1} \right) \xrightleftharpoons[i]{p} \underbrace{(\text{on shell, } 0)}_{\text{cohomology of } \hat{\mu}_1}$$

- The BV propagator $\hat{\mu}_1^{-1}$ gives a Hodge decomposition : $\hat{\mu}_1 \hat{\mu}_1^{-1} + \hat{\mu}_1^{-1} \hat{\mu}_1 = 1 - ip$.
- Now, because of $\Delta S_{\text{free}} = 0$, we can consider the homological perturbation of

$$(S_{\text{free}}, \quad) \longmapsto \hbar \Delta_{S_{\text{free}}} \equiv \underbrace{\hbar \Delta}_{\text{perturbation}} + (S_{\text{free}}, \quad)$$

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Review : path-integral = homological perturbation

- As a result, we get a new deformation retract

$$\left(\text{state space, } \underbrace{\hbar \Delta + (S_{\text{free}}, \quad)}_{\text{new differential}} \right) \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{P} \\ \xrightarrow{I} \end{array} \underbrace{(\text{on shell, } 0)}_{\text{cohomology of } \hbar \Delta_{S_{\text{free}}}}$$

- The homological perturbation lemma tells us that the morphism P is given by solving the recursive relation $P = p + \hbar \hat{\mu}_1^{-1} \Delta P$, which gives P explicitly.

Actually, this $P = \frac{1}{1 + \hbar \hat{\mu}_1^{-1} \Delta} p$ is nothing but the Feynman graph expansion.

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Review : path-integral = homological perturbation

- The commutator of $\hat{\mu}_1^{-1} \equiv (S_{\text{free}}, \quad)^{-1}$ and $\hbar \Delta$ is proportional to $\mu_1^{-1} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi_g \partial \phi_{-g}}$

- You can expand $P = \frac{1}{1 + \hbar \hat{\mu}_1^{-1} \Delta} p$ acting on $e^{S_{\text{int}}[\phi]}$ as follows

$$P e^{S_{\text{int}}[\phi]} = \sum_n (\hbar \hat{\mu}_1^{-1} \Delta)^n p e^{S_{\text{int}}[\phi]} = \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} \sum_g \mu_1^{-1} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi_{-g} \partial \phi_g} \right] e^{S_{\text{int}}[\phi]}$$

- It is the same as **the Wick's theorem** given by Gaussian $\int \mathcal{D}\phi e^{\frac{1}{2} \phi \mu_1 \phi} = 1$.

2. Why the path-integral preserves A_∞ / L_∞

Review : path-integral = homological perturbation

- So, **the Feynman graph expansion** is given by the homological perturbation :

$$(S_{\text{free}}, \quad) \longmapsto \hbar \Delta_{S_{\text{free}}} \equiv \underbrace{\hbar \Delta}_{\text{perturbation}} + (S_{\text{free}}, \quad)$$

- By the way, what kind of P_{int} does **the full perturbation** gives ?

$$(S_{\text{free}}, \quad) \longmapsto \hbar \Delta_{S_{\text{free}}} \longmapsto \hbar \Delta_S \equiv \underbrace{\hbar \Delta + (S_{\text{int}}, \quad)}_{\text{full perturbation}} + (S_{\text{free}}, \quad)$$

- That is **the “normalized” perturbative path-integral** $P_{\text{int}}(\dots) = Z^{-1} \int \mathcal{D}\phi (\dots) e^{S_{\text{free}}[\phi] + S_{\text{int}}[\phi]}$.