

# Fermionic quantum mechanics

Consider the classical mechanics with

a pair of anticommuting variables  $\psi(t), \bar{\psi}(t)$  and

$$\text{Lagrangian } L = i\bar{\psi}\dot{\psi} - \omega\bar{\psi}\psi$$

where  $\omega \in \mathbb{R}$ .

## Symmetries

① time translation  $\psi(t) \rightarrow \psi(t+\delta t), \bar{\psi}(t) \rightarrow \bar{\psi}(t+\delta t)$

$$\leadsto \delta\psi = \epsilon\dot{\psi}, \delta\bar{\psi} = \epsilon\dot{\bar{\psi}}$$

The Noether charge is  $E = \omega\bar{\psi}\psi$  (energy)

② phase rotation  $\psi(t) \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha}\psi(t), \bar{\psi}(t) \rightarrow e^{i\alpha}\bar{\psi}(t)$ .

$$\leadsto \delta\psi = -i\epsilon\psi, \delta\bar{\psi} = i\epsilon\bar{\psi}$$

The Noether charge is  $Q = \bar{\psi}\psi$  (fermion number)

Exercise: Show that the Noether charges are as given above.

•  $L$  is real (modulo total derivative) under

$$\psi^* = \bar{\psi}, \quad \bar{\psi}^* = \psi :$$

$$L^* = -i\dot{\psi}^* \bar{\psi}^* - \omega \psi^* \bar{\psi}^* = -i\dot{\bar{\psi}} \psi - \omega \bar{\psi} \psi$$

$$= \underbrace{i\bar{\psi}\dot{\psi} - \omega \bar{\psi}\psi}_L + \frac{d}{dt}(-i\bar{\psi}\psi)$$

Let us quantize the system  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Path-integral ?} \\ \text{Operator ?} \end{array} \right.$

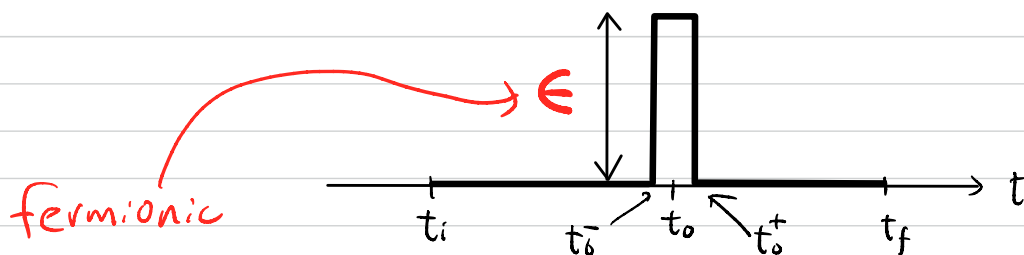
We shall take the "mixed" way: Use the path-integral

to find the commutation relation of  $\hat{\psi}$  &  $\hat{\bar{\psi}}$

and then find the representation of the algebra.

Consider the variation

$$\delta\psi(t) = \epsilon(t), \quad \delta\bar{\psi}(t) = 0$$



$$\begin{aligned}
\delta S[\psi, \bar{\psi}] &= \delta \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i \bar{\psi} \dot{\psi} - \omega \bar{\psi} \psi) \\
&= \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i \bar{\psi}(t) \dot{\epsilon}(t) - \omega \bar{\psi}(t) \epsilon(t)) \\
&\quad \epsilon \delta(t-t_0^-) - \epsilon \delta(t-t_0^+) \\
&= i \bar{\psi}(t_0^-) \epsilon - i \bar{\psi}(t_0^+) \epsilon - \int_{t_0^-}^{t_0^+} dt \omega \bar{\psi} \epsilon
\end{aligned}$$

Ward identity :

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= \int \delta(\delta \bar{\psi} \delta \psi) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S[\psi, \bar{\psi}]} \psi(t_0) \\
&= \int \delta \bar{\psi} \delta \psi \left( \frac{i}{\hbar} \delta S[\psi, \bar{\psi}] \psi(t_0) + \epsilon \right) \\
&= \int \delta \bar{\psi} \delta \psi \left( -\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\psi}(t_0^-) \epsilon \cdot \psi(t_0) + \frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\psi}(t_0^+) \epsilon \cdot \psi(t_0) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_0^-}^{t_0^+} dt \omega \bar{\psi}(t) \epsilon \cdot \psi(t_0) + \epsilon \right)
\end{aligned}$$

This implies an identity among the operators

$\hat{\psi}, \hat{\bar{\psi}}$  corresponding to  $\psi, \bar{\psi}$ .

Take the limit  $t_0^+ \rightarrow t_0$ ,  $t_0^- \rightarrow t_0$ :

Recalling the time ordered product and noting

$\int_{t_0^-}^{t_0^+} dt \omega \bar{\Psi} \epsilon \cdot \Psi(t_0) \rightarrow 0$  in the limit, we find

$$0 = -\frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\Psi} \circ \hat{\bar{\Psi}} \epsilon + \frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\bar{\Psi}} \epsilon \circ \hat{\Psi} + \epsilon$$

$\epsilon, \hat{\Psi}, \hat{\bar{\Psi}}$  fermionic

$$= \left[ -\frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\Psi} \circ \hat{\bar{\Psi}} - \frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\bar{\Psi}} \circ \hat{\Psi} + 1 \right] \epsilon.$$

$$\therefore \hat{\Psi} \circ \hat{\bar{\Psi}} + \hat{\bar{\Psi}} \circ \hat{\Psi} = \hbar.$$

If we use the notation

$$\{A, B\} := AB + BA \quad (\text{anticommutator})$$

this can be written as

$$\{\hat{\Psi}, \hat{\bar{\Psi}}\} = \hbar.$$

Similarly,

$$\bullet \quad 0 = \int \delta(\delta\bar{\Psi} \delta\Psi e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S[\Psi, \bar{\Psi}]} \bar{\Psi}(t_0)) \quad \text{for the same } \delta$$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\bar{\Psi}} \circ \hat{\Psi} = 0$$

$$\bullet \quad 0 = \int \delta(\delta\bar{\Psi} \delta\Psi e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S[\Psi, \bar{\Psi}]} \Psi(t_0))$$

for  $\delta\Psi(t) = 0$  and  $\delta\bar{\Psi}(t) = \text{the same } \epsilon(t)$

$$\Rightarrow \hat{\Psi} \circ \hat{\bar{\Psi}} = 0$$

The canonical commutation relation of  $\hat{\Psi}$  and  $\hat{\bar{\Psi}}$  is

$$\{\hat{\Psi}, \hat{\bar{\Psi}}\} = \hbar,$$

$$\hat{\Psi}^2 = \hat{\bar{\Psi}}^2 = 0.$$

... "Clifford algebra".

## Representation of the algebra.

Reality of the variables  $\psi^* = \bar{\psi}$ ,  $\bar{\psi}^* = \psi$

$\leadsto$  hermiticity of the operators  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger = \hat{\bar{\psi}}$ ,  $\hat{\bar{\psi}}^\dagger = \hat{\psi}$ .

The commutation relation reads

$$\{\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}^\dagger\} = \hbar$$

$$\{\hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}\} = \{\hat{\psi}^\dagger, \hat{\psi}^\dagger\} = 0.$$

This is like the algebra of annihilation/creation operators in harmonic oscillators. As in that case, we may prepare a state  $|0\rangle$  annihilated by  $\hat{\psi}$ ,

$$\hat{\psi}|0\rangle = 0$$

and build other states by multiplying powers of  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$ ,

$$\hat{\psi}^\dagger|0\rangle, \hat{\psi}^{\dagger 2}|0\rangle, \hat{\psi}^{\dagger 3}|0\rangle, \dots$$

But, by the relation  $\hat{\psi}^{\dagger 2} = 0$ ,  $\hat{\psi}^{\dagger 2}|0\rangle = \hat{\psi}^{\dagger 3}|0\rangle = \dots = 0$ .

Only  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger|0\rangle$  among them can be non-zero.

Also,

$$\hat{\Psi}(\hat{\Psi}^+|0\rangle) = \underbrace{(\hat{\Psi}\hat{\Psi}^+ + \hat{\Psi}^+\hat{\Psi})}_{\hbar}|0\rangle - \underbrace{\hat{\Psi}^+\hat{\Psi}}_0|0\rangle = \hbar|0\rangle.$$

Thus  $\hat{\Psi}^+|0\rangle$  is indeed non-zero. We have a

2-dimensional representation  $\mathcal{H}$ , with basis  $|0\rangle, \hat{\Psi}^+|0\rangle$ .

With respect to this basis,  $\hat{\Psi}$  and  $\hat{\Psi}^+$  are represented by matrices

$$\hat{\Psi} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \hbar \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{\Psi}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

[f  $|0\rangle$  is normalized as  $\| |0\rangle \|^2 = \langle 0|0\rangle = 1,$

$$\| \hat{\Psi}^+|0\rangle \|^2 = \langle 0|\hat{\Psi}\hat{\Psi}^+|0\rangle = \langle 0|\hbar|0\rangle = \hbar.$$

positive  
definite!

Energy spectrum?

Recall  $E = \omega \bar{\Psi} \Psi$ .

$$\leadsto \hat{H} = \omega \hat{\Psi}^+ \hat{\Psi} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{on } |0\rangle \\ \hbar\omega & \text{on } \hat{\Psi}^+|0\rangle \end{cases}$$

\* There is an operator ordering ambiguity.

Classically,  $\bar{\Psi}\Psi = (1-s)\bar{\Psi}\Psi - s\Psi\bar{\Psi}$  for any  $s$ , but they correspond to different operators in the quantum theory:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{H} &= (1-s)\omega \hat{\Psi}^\dagger \hat{\Psi} - s\omega \hat{\Psi} \hat{\Psi}^\dagger = \omega \hat{\Psi}^\dagger \hat{\Psi} - s\hbar\omega. \\ &= \begin{cases} -s\hbar\omega & \text{on } |0\rangle \\ (1-s)\hbar\omega & \text{on } \hat{\Psi}^\dagger |0\rangle. \end{cases}\end{aligned}$$

e.g. the "symmetric" ordering  $s = \frac{1}{2}$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{H} &= \frac{1}{2}\omega \hat{\Psi}^\dagger \hat{\Psi} - \frac{1}{2}\omega \hat{\Psi} \hat{\Psi}^\dagger = \frac{\omega}{2} [\hat{\Psi}^\dagger, \hat{\Psi}] \\ &= \begin{cases} -\frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega & \text{on } |0\rangle \\ \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega & \text{on } \hat{\Psi}^\dagger |0\rangle. \end{cases}\end{aligned}$$

Also  $Q = \bar{\Psi}\Psi \rightsquigarrow \hat{Q} = \hat{\Psi}^\dagger \hat{\Psi}$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{or } \hat{Q} &= (1-s)\hat{\Psi}^\dagger \hat{\Psi} - s\hat{\Psi} \hat{\Psi}^\dagger = \hat{\Psi}^\dagger \hat{\Psi} - s\hbar \\ &= \begin{cases} -s\hbar & \text{on } |0\rangle \\ (1-s)\hbar & \text{on } \hat{\Psi}^\dagger |0\rangle. \end{cases}\end{aligned}$$



## $\hat{\Psi}$ & $\hat{\Psi}^\dagger$ eigenstates

As a passage to (go back to) the path-integral,

we find eigenstates of  $\hat{\Psi}$  and  $\hat{\Psi}^\dagger$

(just like eigenstates  $|q\rangle$  &  $|p\rangle$  for  $\hat{q}$  &  $\hat{p}$ ).

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Suppose } |\psi\rangle &= a|0\rangle + b\hat{\Psi}^\dagger|0\rangle & \text{satisfy } \hat{\Psi}|\psi\rangle &= \psi|\psi\rangle \\ |\bar{\psi}\rangle &= c|0\rangle + d\hat{\Psi}^\dagger|0\rangle & \hat{\Psi}^\dagger|\bar{\psi}\rangle &= \bar{\psi}|\bar{\psi}\rangle. \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{As } \hat{\Psi}|\psi\rangle = (-1)^{|a|} a \hat{\Psi}|0\rangle + (-1)^{|b|} b \hat{\Psi}\hat{\Psi}^\dagger|0\rangle$$

$\hat{\Psi}|0\rangle$

$$\psi|\psi\rangle = \psi a|0\rangle + \psi b\hat{\Psi}^\dagger|0\rangle$$

$$\hat{\Psi}^\dagger|\bar{\psi}\rangle = (-1)^{|c|} c \hat{\Psi}^\dagger|0\rangle + (-1)^{|d|} d \hat{\Psi}^\dagger\hat{\Psi}^\dagger|0\rangle$$

$$\bar{\psi}|\bar{\psi}\rangle = \bar{\psi} c|0\rangle + \bar{\psi} d\hat{\Psi}^\dagger|0\rangle$$

$$\text{we find } \psi a = (-1)^{|b|} b \bar{\psi}, \quad \psi b = 0$$

$$\bar{\psi} c = 0, \quad \bar{\psi} d = (-1)^{|c|} c$$

$$\text{A solution } (a, b) = (1, -\psi/\bar{\psi})$$

$$(c, d) = (\bar{\psi}, -1)$$

$$|\psi\rangle = \left(1 - \frac{\hat{\psi}}{\hbar} \hat{\psi}^\dagger\right) |0\rangle = \left(1 + \frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\psi}^\dagger \psi\right) |0\rangle,$$

$$|\bar{\psi}\rangle = (\bar{\psi} - \hat{\psi}^\dagger) |0\rangle.$$

} (★)

We have chosen a random normalization, but this turns out to be a useful one.

A more symmetric normalization would be

$$|\psi\rangle = \hbar^{\frac{1}{4}} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\psi}^\dagger \psi\right) |0\rangle, \quad |\bar{\psi}\rangle = \hbar^{-\frac{1}{4}} (\bar{\psi} - \hat{\psi}^\dagger) |0\rangle.$$

This is also good, but we shall use (★)

We also prepare "bra" eigenstates for  $\hat{\psi}$  &  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger$ :

$$\langle\psi| \hat{\psi} = \langle\psi|\psi, \quad \langle\bar{\psi}| \hat{\psi}^\dagger = \langle\bar{\psi}|\bar{\psi}.$$

For these we may take

$$\langle\psi| = |\bar{\psi}\rangle^\dagger = \langle 0| (\bar{\psi} - \hat{\psi}^\dagger)$$

$$\langle\bar{\psi}| = |\psi\rangle^\dagger = \langle 0| \left(1 + \frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\psi} \hat{\psi}\right).$$

[ (⊖) Take the Hermitian conjugate of  $\hat{\psi}^\dagger |\bar{\psi}\rangle = \bar{\psi} |\bar{\psi}\rangle$  and  $\hat{\psi} |\psi\rangle = \psi |\psi\rangle. \quad \square$  ]

Just like  $\int dq |q\rangle\langle q| = \int dp |p\rangle\langle p| = id_{\mathcal{H}}$ , we have

$$\int d\psi |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| = \int d\bar{\psi} |\bar{\psi}\rangle\langle\bar{\psi}| = id_{\mathcal{H}}.$$

proof  $\int d\psi |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|_0 = \int d\psi \left(1 + \frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\psi}^+ \psi\right) |0\rangle\langle 0| (\psi - \hat{\psi}) |0\rangle$   
*0* *0* *0*  
 $= \int d\psi \left(1 + \frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\psi}^+ \psi\right) \psi |0\rangle\langle 0|_0 = |0\rangle.$   
*0* *0* *0*  
 *$|0\rangle\langle 0|$  is even*

$$\int d\psi |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| \hat{\psi}^+ |0\rangle = \int d\psi \left(1 + \frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\psi}^+ \psi\right) |0\rangle\langle 0| (\psi - \hat{\psi}) \hat{\psi}^+ |0\rangle$$

$$= \int d\psi \left(1 - \psi \frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\psi}^+\right) |0\rangle\langle 0| (-\hbar) |0\rangle = \hat{\psi}^+ |0\rangle.$$

$$\int d\bar{\psi} |\bar{\psi}\rangle\langle\bar{\psi}|_0 = \int d\bar{\psi} (\bar{\psi} - \hat{\bar{\psi}}^+) |0\rangle\langle 0| \left(1 + \frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\psi} \hat{\bar{\psi}}\right) |0\rangle$$

$$= \int d\bar{\psi} (\bar{\psi} - \hat{\bar{\psi}}^+) |0\rangle\langle 0|_0 = |0\rangle.$$

$$\int d\bar{\psi} |\bar{\psi}\rangle\langle\bar{\psi}| \hat{\bar{\psi}}^+ |0\rangle = \int d\bar{\psi} (\bar{\psi} - \hat{\bar{\psi}}^+) |0\rangle\langle 0| \left(1 + \frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\psi} \hat{\bar{\psi}}\right) \hat{\bar{\psi}}^+ |0\rangle$$

$$= \int d\bar{\psi} (\bar{\psi} - \hat{\bar{\psi}}^+) |0\rangle\langle 0| \bar{\psi} |0\rangle$$

$$= \int d\bar{\psi} (\bar{\psi} - \hat{\bar{\psi}}^+) \bar{\psi} |0\rangle\langle 0|_0 = \hat{\bar{\psi}}^+ |0\rangle.$$

Q.E.D.



For  $A \in \text{End}_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{H}$

$$\text{Tr}_{\text{de}} A = \int d\bar{\psi} d\psi \langle -\bar{\psi} | A | \psi \rangle \langle \psi | \bar{\psi} \rangle$$

⊙ It is enough to show this for  $A = \text{id}, \hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}^+, \hat{\psi}^+ \hat{\psi}$  as they span  $\text{End}_{\mathbb{C}} \mathcal{H}$ .

$$A = \text{id} : \int d\bar{\psi} d\psi \underbrace{\langle -\bar{\psi} | \psi \rangle}_{e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\psi} \psi}} \underbrace{\langle \psi | \bar{\psi} \rangle}_{\hbar e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \psi \bar{\psi}}} = \int \hbar d\bar{\psi} d\psi e^{-\frac{2}{\hbar} \bar{\psi} \psi} = 2 = \text{tr id} \quad \checkmark$$

$$A = \hat{\psi} : \int d\bar{\psi} d\psi \underbrace{\langle -\bar{\psi} | \hat{\psi} | \psi \rangle}_{\psi | \psi} \langle \psi | \bar{\psi} \rangle = \int \hbar d\bar{\psi} d\psi (\pm \psi) e^{-\frac{2}{\hbar} \bar{\psi} \psi} = 0 = \text{tr } \hat{\psi} \quad \checkmark$$

$$A = \hat{\psi}^+ : \int d\bar{\psi} d\psi \underbrace{\langle -\bar{\psi} | \hat{\psi}^+ | \psi \rangle}_{\langle -\bar{\psi} | (-\bar{\psi})} \langle \psi | \bar{\psi} \rangle = \int \hbar d\bar{\psi} d\psi (-\bar{\psi}) e^{-\frac{2}{\hbar} \bar{\psi} \psi} = 0 = \text{tr } \hat{\psi}^+ \quad \checkmark$$

$$A = \hat{\psi}^+ \hat{\psi} : \int d\bar{\psi} d\psi \underbrace{\langle -\bar{\psi} | \hat{\psi}^+ \hat{\psi} | \psi \rangle}_{-\bar{\psi} \psi} \langle \psi | \bar{\psi} \rangle = \int \hbar d\bar{\psi} d\psi (-\bar{\psi} \psi) e^{-\frac{2}{\hbar} \bar{\psi} \psi} = \hbar = \text{tr}(\hat{\psi}^+ \hat{\psi}) \quad \checkmark$$

□

We also have

$$\text{tr}_{\text{de}} A = \int d\bar{\Psi} d\Psi \langle \Psi | A | \bar{\Psi} \rangle \langle \bar{\Psi} | -\Psi \rangle$$

$$= (-1)^{|\psi_0\rangle} \int d\Psi \langle \Psi | A | -\Psi \rangle$$

$$= (-1)^{|\psi_0\rangle} \int d\bar{\Psi} \langle -\bar{\Psi} | A | \bar{\Psi} \rangle$$

bar  $\Psi$   
was missing  
in the note  
used in lecture

If we define  $(-1)^F$  by  $(-1)^F = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{on } |\psi\rangle \\ -1 & \text{on } \hat{\Psi}^+ |\psi\rangle, \end{cases}$

then  $(-1)^F |\Psi\rangle = |-\Psi\rangle$

$$|\Psi\rangle = \left(1 + \frac{1}{\hbar} \hat{\Psi}^+ \Psi\right) |\psi\rangle,$$

$$\hookrightarrow \langle \bar{\Psi} | (-1)^F = \langle -\bar{\Psi} |.$$

$$\therefore \text{tr}_{\text{de}} (-1)^F A = \int d\bar{\Psi} d\Psi \langle \bar{\Psi} | A | \Psi \rangle \langle \Psi | \bar{\Psi} \rangle$$

## States as wave functions

We can represent states as functions of  $\bar{\Psi}$  :

$$|\Psi\rangle \leftrightarrow \bar{\Psi}(\bar{\Psi}) = \langle \bar{\Psi} | \Psi \rangle.$$

Note:  $\bar{\Psi}(\bar{\Psi})^* = \langle \bar{\Psi} | \Psi \rangle^* = \langle \Psi | \bar{\Psi} \rangle.$

• The inner product of states is represented as

$$\langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_2 \rangle = \langle \Psi_1 | \underbrace{\int d\psi |\psi\rangle}_{\text{even}} \langle \psi | \int d\bar{\Psi} | \bar{\Psi} \rangle \langle \bar{\Psi} | \Psi_2 \rangle$$

$$= \langle \Psi_1 | \underbrace{\int d\bar{\Psi} d\psi}_{\text{even}} |\psi\rangle \langle \psi | \bar{\Psi} \rangle \langle \bar{\Psi} | \Psi_2 \rangle$$

$$= \int d\bar{\Psi} d\psi \underbrace{\langle \Psi_1 | \psi \rangle}_{\bar{\Psi}_1(\bar{\Psi})^*} \underbrace{\langle \psi | \bar{\Psi} \rangle}_{\frac{1}{\hbar} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \psi \bar{\Psi}}} \underbrace{\langle \bar{\Psi} | \Psi_2 \rangle}_{\bar{\Psi}_2(\bar{\Psi})}$$

$$= \int \frac{1}{\hbar} d\bar{\Psi} d\psi \bar{\Psi}_1(\bar{\Psi})^* e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \psi \bar{\Psi}} \bar{\Psi}_2(\bar{\Psi})$$

• Time evolution of states:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (e^{-i\frac{t_f-t_i}{\hbar}\hat{H}}\Psi)(\bar{\Psi}) &= \langle \bar{\Psi} | e^{-i\frac{t_f-t_i}{\hbar}\hat{H}} | \Psi \rangle \\
 &= \langle \bar{\Psi} | e^{-i\frac{t_f-t_i}{\hbar}\hat{H}} \int d\psi' |\psi'\rangle \langle \psi' | \int d\psi |\psi\rangle \langle \bar{\Psi} | \Psi \rangle \\
 &= \int d\bar{\Psi}' d\psi' \langle \bar{\Psi} | e^{-i\frac{t_f-t_i}{\hbar}\hat{H}} | \psi' \rangle \underbrace{\langle \psi' | \bar{\Psi}' \rangle}_{\hbar e^{\frac{1}{\hbar}\psi'\bar{\Psi}'}} \underbrace{\langle \bar{\Psi}' | \Psi \rangle}_{\Psi(\bar{\Psi})}
 \end{aligned}$$

As in the bosonic case, let us define the transition amplitude by

$$Z(t_f, \bar{\Psi}_f; t_i, \Psi_i) := \langle \bar{\Psi}_f | e^{-i\frac{(t_f-t_i)}{\hbar}\hat{H}} | \Psi_i \rangle.$$

Then the time evolution of states is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 (e^{-i\frac{t_f-t_i}{\hbar}\hat{H}}\Psi)(\bar{\Psi}_f) \\
 = \int \hbar d\bar{\Psi}_i d\Psi_i Z(t_f, \bar{\Psi}_f; t_i, \Psi_i) e^{\frac{1}{\hbar}\Psi_i\bar{\Psi}_i} \Psi(\bar{\Psi}_i).
 \end{aligned}$$



## Path-integral expression for $Z(t_f, \bar{\Psi}_f; t_i, \Psi_i)$

Let us divide  $t_f - t_i$  into  $N$  pieces,  $t_f - t_i = N\epsilon$ ,

$$e^{-i \frac{t_f - t_i}{\hbar} \hat{H}} = \underbrace{e^{-i \frac{\epsilon}{\hbar} \hat{H}} \cdots e^{-i \frac{\epsilon}{\hbar} \hat{H}}}_N$$

and insert

$$\begin{aligned} \text{id} &= \int d\psi_{j+1} |\psi_{j+1}\rangle \langle \psi_{j+1}| \int d\bar{\psi}_j |\bar{\psi}_j\rangle \langle \bar{\psi}_j| \\ &= \int d\bar{\psi}_j d\psi_{j+1} |\psi_{j+1}\rangle \langle \psi_{j+1} | \bar{\psi}_j \rangle \langle \bar{\psi}_j| \\ &= \int \hbar d\bar{\psi}_j d\psi_{j+1} |\psi_{j+1}\rangle e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\psi}_j \psi_{j+1}} \langle \bar{\psi}_j| \end{aligned}$$

into the  $j$ -th slot ( $j=1, 2, \dots, N-1$ ) and use

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \bar{\psi}_j | e^{-i \frac{\epsilon}{\hbar} \hat{H}} | \psi_j \rangle &= \langle \bar{\psi}_j | (1 - i \frac{\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\psi}_j, \psi_j) + O(\epsilon^2)) | \psi_j \rangle \\ &= (1 - i \frac{\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\psi}_j, \psi_j) + O(\epsilon^2)) \langle \bar{\psi}_j | \psi_j \rangle \\ &= e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\psi}_j \psi_j - i \frac{\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\psi}_j, \psi_j)} + O(\epsilon^2) \end{aligned}$$

Then,  $Z(t_f, \bar{\Psi}_f; t_i, \Psi_i)$

$$= \int \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} h d\bar{\Psi}_j d\Psi_{j+1} e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}_f \Psi_N - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\Psi}_f, \Psi_N)} \\ \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}_{N-1} \Psi_N} \cdot e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}_{N-1} \Psi_{N-1} - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\Psi}_{N-1}, \Psi_{N-1})} \\ \dots \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}_1 \Psi_2} \cdot e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}_1 \Psi_1 - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\Psi}_1, \Psi_1)} + O(N\epsilon^2)$$

$$= \int \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} h d\bar{\Psi}_j d\Psi_{j+1} e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}_N \Psi_N - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\Psi}_N, \Psi_N)} \\ \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}_j (\Psi_{j+1} - \Psi_j) - \frac{i\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\Psi}_j, \Psi_j)} + O(N\epsilon^2)$$

with  $\bar{\Psi}_N = \bar{\Psi}_f, \Psi_1 = \Psi_i$

$$e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \epsilon \left( i \bar{\Psi}_j \frac{\Psi_{j+1} - \Psi_j}{\epsilon} - H(\bar{\Psi}_j, \Psi_j) \right)}$$

$N \rightarrow \infty$

$N\epsilon = t_f - t_i$ : fixed

$$\longrightarrow \int \mathcal{D}\bar{\Psi} \mathcal{D}\Psi e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi} \Psi |_{t_f} + \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt \left( i \bar{\Psi} \dot{\Psi} - H(\bar{\Psi}, \Psi) \right)}$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(t_f) = \bar{\Psi}_f, \Psi(t_i) = \Psi_i$$

$$Z(t_f, \bar{\Psi}_f; t_i, \Psi_i)$$

$$= \int \delta\bar{\Psi} \delta\Psi e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}\Psi|_{t_f} + \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i\bar{\Psi}\dot{\Psi} - H(\bar{\Psi}, \Psi))}$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(t_f) = \bar{\Psi}_f, \Psi(t_i) = \Psi_i$$

Lagrangian

What is this?

Rank  $\bar{\Psi}(t_f), \Psi(t_i)$  fixed

$\Rightarrow$  E.O.M. comes from E.L. eqn for

$$-i\bar{\Psi}\Psi|_{t_f} + \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i\bar{\Psi}\dot{\Psi} - H(\bar{\Psi}, \Psi)).$$

$$\odot \delta \left( -i\bar{\Psi}\Psi|_{t_f} + \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i\bar{\Psi}\dot{\Psi} - H(\bar{\Psi}, \Psi)) \right)$$

$$= -i\cancel{\delta\bar{\Psi}}\Psi|_{t_f} - i\bar{\Psi}\delta\Psi|_{t_f}$$

$$+ \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i\delta\bar{\Psi}\dot{\Psi} + i\bar{\Psi}\delta\dot{\Psi} - \delta H(\bar{\Psi}, \Psi))$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\bar{\Psi}\delta\Psi) - \dot{\bar{\Psi}}\delta\Psi$$

$$= -i\cancel{\bar{\Psi}}\delta\Psi|_{t_f} + i\bar{\Psi}\delta\Psi|_{t_f} - i\cancel{\bar{\Psi}}\delta\Psi|_{t_i}$$

$$+ \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i\delta\bar{\Psi}\dot{\Psi} - i\dot{\bar{\Psi}}\delta\Psi - \delta H(\bar{\Psi}, \Psi))$$

$\Rightarrow$  E.O.M

//

For other boundary conditions, EOM is obtained by EL eqn for

$$\psi(t_f), \bar{\psi}(t_i) \text{ fixed: } \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i \bar{\psi} \dot{\psi} - H(\bar{\psi}, \psi)) + i \bar{\psi} \psi |_{t_i},$$

$$\psi(t_f), \psi(t_i) \text{ fixed: } \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i \bar{\psi} \dot{\psi} - H(\bar{\psi}, \psi)),$$

$$\bar{\psi}(t_f), \bar{\psi}(t_i) \text{ fixed: } \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (-i \dot{\bar{\psi}} \psi - H(\bar{\psi}, \psi)).$$

Correspondingly,

$$Z(t_f, \psi_f; t_i, \bar{\psi}_i) = \langle \psi_f | e^{-i \frac{t_f - t_i}{\hbar} \hat{H}} | \bar{\psi}_i \rangle$$

$$= \int_{\psi(t_f) = \psi_f, \bar{\psi}(t_i) = \bar{\psi}_i} \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} \mathcal{D}\psi e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i \bar{\psi} \dot{\psi} - H(\bar{\psi}, \psi)) - \frac{i}{\hbar} \bar{\psi} \psi |_{t_i}}$$

$$Z(t_f, \psi_f; t_i, \psi_i) = \langle \psi_f | e^{-i \frac{t_f - t_i}{\hbar} \hat{H}} | \psi_i \rangle$$

$$= \int_{\psi(t_f) = \psi_f, \psi(t_i) = \psi_i} \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} \mathcal{D}\psi e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i \bar{\psi} \dot{\psi} - H(\bar{\psi}, \psi))}$$

$$Z(t_f, \bar{\psi}_f; t_i, \bar{\psi}_i) = \langle \bar{\psi}_f | e^{-i \frac{t_f - t_i}{\hbar} \hat{H}} | \bar{\psi}_i \rangle$$

$$= \int_{\bar{\psi}(t_f) = \bar{\psi}_f, \bar{\psi}(t_i) = \bar{\psi}_i} \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} \mathcal{D}\psi e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (-i \dot{\bar{\psi}} \psi - H(\bar{\psi}, \psi))}$$

## Path-integral expression for partition functions

$$\text{Tr} e^{-\frac{T}{\hbar} \hat{H}} = \int d\bar{\Psi} d\Psi \langle -\bar{\Psi} | e^{-\frac{T}{\hbar} \hat{H}} | \Psi \rangle \langle \Psi | \bar{\Psi} \rangle$$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \bullet \langle \Psi | \bar{\Psi} \rangle = \hbar e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi} \Psi} \\ \bullet \langle -\bar{\Psi} | e^{-\frac{T}{\hbar} \hat{H}} | \Psi \rangle \\ = \int \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} \hbar d\bar{\Psi}_j d\Psi_{j+1} \cdot e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}_0 \Psi_0 - \frac{\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\Psi}_0, \Psi_0)} \\ \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \epsilon \left( \bar{\Psi}_j \frac{\Psi_{j+1} - \Psi_j}{\epsilon} + H(\bar{\Psi}_j, \Psi_j) \right)} + O(N\epsilon^2) \\ \text{with } \bar{\Psi}_0 = -\bar{\Psi}, \Psi_1 = \Psi \end{array} \right.$$

$$= \int \hbar d\bar{\Psi} d\Psi \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} \hbar d\bar{\Psi}_j d\Psi_{j+1} e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi} \Psi + \frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}_0 \Psi_0 - \frac{\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\Psi}_0, \Psi_0)} \\ \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \epsilon \left( \bar{\Psi}_j \frac{\Psi_{j+1} - \Psi_j}{\epsilon} + H(\bar{\Psi}_j, \Psi_j) \right)} + O(N\epsilon^2)$$

$$\text{with } \bar{\Psi}_0 = -\bar{\Psi}, \Psi_1 = \Psi$$

Write  $\bar{\Psi} = \bar{\Psi}_0 = -\bar{\Psi}_N, \Psi = \Psi_1 = -\Psi_{N+1}$

$$= \int \prod_{j=0}^{N-1} \hbar d\bar{\Psi}_j d\Psi_{j+1} e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^N \epsilon \left( \bar{\Psi}_j \frac{\Psi_{j+1} - \Psi_j}{\epsilon} + H(\bar{\Psi}_j, \Psi_j) \right)} + O(N\epsilon^2)$$

$$\text{with } \bar{\Psi}_0 = -\bar{\Psi}_N, \bar{\Psi}_{N+1} = -\Psi_1$$

Let us define  $\Psi(\epsilon_j), \bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_j)$  for  $j \in \mathbb{Z}$  by

$$\Psi(\epsilon_{j+1}) = \Psi_{j+1}, \quad \bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_j) = \bar{\Psi}_j \quad \text{for } j=0, 1, \dots, N-1$$

$$\& \Psi(\epsilon_{j+T}) = \Psi(\epsilon_{j+N}) = -\Psi(\epsilon_j)$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_{j+T}) = \bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_{j+N}) = -\bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_j)$$

(consistent by  $\bar{\Psi}_N = -\bar{\Psi}_0$  &  $\Psi_{N+1} = -\Psi_1$ ).

Then, the exponent is

$$-\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}} \left( \bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_j) \frac{\Psi(\epsilon_{j+1}) - \Psi(\epsilon_j)}{\epsilon} + H(\bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_j), \Psi(\epsilon_j)) \right)$$

$$\xrightarrow[N\epsilon = T]{N \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{\mathbb{R}/T\mathbb{Z}} d\tau \left( \bar{\Psi}(\tau) \frac{d\Psi(\tau)}{d\tau} + H(\bar{\Psi}(\tau), \Psi(\tau)) \right)$$

$L_{\epsilon}(\bar{\Psi}, \Psi, \frac{1}{\hbar} \frac{d\Psi}{d\tau})$

$$\therefore \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}} e^{-\frac{T}{\hbar} \hat{H}}$$

$$= \int \mathcal{D}\bar{\Psi} \mathcal{D}\Psi e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{\mathbb{R}/T\mathbb{Z}} d\tau L_{\epsilon}(\bar{\Psi}, \Psi, \frac{d\Psi}{d\tau})}$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(\tau+T) = -\bar{\Psi}(\tau), \quad \Psi(\tau+T) = -\Psi(\tau)$$

antiperiodic

$$\text{Tr} e^{(-1)^F e^{-\frac{T}{\hbar} \hat{H}}} = \int d\bar{\Psi} d\Psi \langle \bar{\Psi} | e^{-\frac{T}{\hbar} \hat{H}} | \Psi \rangle \langle \Psi | \bar{\Psi} \rangle$$

$$= \int \hbar d\bar{\Psi} d\Psi \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} \hbar d\bar{\Psi}_j d\Psi_{j+1} e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi} \Psi + \frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi}_0 \Psi_0 - \frac{\epsilon}{\hbar} H(\bar{\Psi}_0, \Psi_0)} \\ \cdot e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \epsilon \left( \bar{\Psi}_j \frac{\Psi_{j+1} - \Psi_j}{\epsilon} + H(\bar{\Psi}_j, \Psi_j) \right)} + O(N\epsilon^2)$$

with  $\bar{\Psi}_0 = \bar{\Psi}$ ,  $\Psi_1 = \Psi$

Write  $\bar{\Psi} = \bar{\Psi}_0 = \bar{\Psi}_N$ ,  $\Psi = \Psi_1 = \Psi_{N+1}$

$$= \int \prod_{j=0}^{N-1} \hbar d\bar{\Psi}_j d\Psi_{j+1} e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j=1}^N \epsilon \left( \bar{\Psi}_j \frac{\Psi_{j+1} - \Psi_j}{\epsilon} + H(\bar{\Psi}_j, \Psi_j) \right)} + O(N\epsilon^2)$$

with  $\bar{\Psi}_0 = \bar{\Psi}_0$ ,  $\bar{\Psi}_{N+1} = \Psi_1$

$$= \int \prod_{j \in \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}} \hbar d\bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_j) d\Psi(\epsilon_{j+\epsilon}) e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{j \in \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}} \epsilon \left( \bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_j) \frac{\Psi(\epsilon_{j+\epsilon}) - \Psi(\epsilon_j)}{\epsilon} + H(\bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_j), \Psi(\epsilon_j)) \right)} \\ + O(N\epsilon^2)$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_{j+\tau}) = \bar{\Psi}(\epsilon_j), \quad \Psi(\epsilon_{j+\tau}) = \Psi(\epsilon_j)$$

$$N \rightarrow \infty$$

$$N\epsilon = T$$

$$\rightarrow \int \mathcal{D}\bar{\Psi} \mathcal{D}\Psi e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{\mathbb{R}/T\mathbb{Z}} d\tau L_\epsilon(\bar{\Psi}, \Psi, \frac{d\Psi}{d\tau})}$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(\tau+T) = \bar{\Psi}(\tau), \quad \Psi(\tau+T) = \Psi(\tau)$$

periodic

To summarize,

$$Z(t_f, \bar{\Psi}_f; t_i, \Psi_i)$$

$$= \int \mathcal{D}\bar{\Psi} \mathcal{D}\Psi e^{\frac{1}{\hbar} \bar{\Psi} \Psi|_{t_f} + \frac{i}{\hbar} \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt (i \bar{\Psi} \dot{\Psi} - H(\bar{\Psi}, \Psi))},$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(t_f) = \bar{\Psi}_f, \quad \Psi(t_i) = \Psi_i$$

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}} e^{-\frac{T}{\hbar} \hat{H}} = \int \mathcal{D}\bar{\Psi} \mathcal{D}\Psi e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{\mathbb{R}/T\mathbb{Z}} d\tau L_E}$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(\tau+T) = -\bar{\Psi}(\tau), \quad \Psi(\tau+T) = -\Psi(\tau),$$

antiperiodic

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}} (-1)^F e^{-\frac{T}{\hbar} \hat{H}} = \int \mathcal{D}\bar{\Psi} \mathcal{D}\Psi e^{-\frac{1}{\hbar} \int_{\mathbb{R}/T\mathbb{Z}} d\tau L_E}$$

$$\bar{\Psi}(\tau+T) = \bar{\Psi}(\tau), \quad \Psi(\tau+T) = \Psi(\tau).$$

periodic



- Once again, it is instructive to do path-integral in explicit examples. Please do it yourself.

For your convenience, a note on it is uploaded.

## Yang-Mills theory (in $d$ spacetime dimensions)

... Specified by gauge group  $G$  : a compact Lie group

$$\text{e.g. } U(N) = \{ N \times N \text{ unitary matrix} \} \text{ unitary group}$$

$$SU(N) = \{ N \times N \text{ unitary, } \det = 1 \} \text{ special unitary group}$$

e.g.  $d=4$ ,  $G=U(1)$  : Maxwell theory

$\mathfrak{g} = \text{Lie}(G)$  the Lie algebra of  $G$

$$\text{e.g. } G=U(N) : \mathfrak{g} = \{ N \times N \text{ antihermitian matrix} \}$$

$$G = SU(N) : \mathfrak{g} = \{ N \times N \text{ antihermitian, traceless} \}$$

field variable  $A_\mu(x)$  : a vector potential with values in  $\mathfrak{g}$

(or  $A = A_\mu(x) dx^\mu$  : one form  $\text{—————}$ )

field strength  $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu + [A_\mu, A_\nu]$

$$\left( \text{or } F_A = dA + \frac{1}{2} [A, A] = dA + A^2 \right)$$

$\uparrow$  matrix Lie algebra

e.g.  $d=4$ ,  $G=U(1)$  :  $F_{0i} = \partial_0 A_i - \partial_i A_0$  electric field

$F_{ij} = \partial_i A_j - \partial_j A_i$  magnetic field

Yang-Mills action:

$$S[A] = \int -\frac{1}{4e^2} F^{\mu\nu} \cdot F_{\mu\nu} d^d x$$

Here " $\cdot$ " is a positive definite inner product on  $\mathfrak{g}$

which is invariant under the adjoint action of  $G$ :

$$gXg^{-1} \cdot gYg^{-1} = X \cdot Y$$

e.g. for  $G = U(N)$  or  $SU(N)$ ,  $X \cdot Y = -2 \text{Tr} XY$

It is invariant under a **huge** symmetry group:

$g(x)$ :  $G$ -valued function on spacetime

$$\sim A_\mu \mapsto A_\mu^g = g^{-1} A_\mu g + g^{-1} \partial_\mu g.$$

e.g.  $G = U(1)$ ,  $A_\mu = i a_\mu$ ,  $g(x) = e^{i\alpha(x)}$

$$\sim a_\mu^g = a_\mu + \partial_\mu \alpha \quad (\text{the well-known transformation}).$$

Under this, the field strength transform covariantly,

$$F_{\mu\nu} \mapsto F_{\mu\nu}^g = \partial_\mu A_\nu^g - \partial_\nu A_\mu^g + [A_\mu^g, A_\nu^g] = g^{-1} F_{\mu\nu} g.$$

e.g.  $G = U(1)$ ,  $F_{\mu\nu}^g = F_{\mu\nu}$  invariant.

In particular,

$$\begin{aligned} S[A^g] &= \int -\frac{1}{4e^2} \tilde{g}^{-1} F^{\mu\nu} g \cdot \tilde{g}^{-1} F_{\mu\nu} d^4x \\ &= \int -\frac{1}{4e^2} F^{\mu\nu} \cdot F_{\mu\nu} d^4x = S[A]. \end{aligned}$$

$\therefore S[A]$  is invariant under a huge group:

$$\mathcal{G} = \{ G\text{-valued function } g(x) \}$$

We would like to regard  $A_\mu$  and  $A_\mu^g$  for any  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  as physically equivalent. I.e. we would like to physically identify them.

Such a symmetry group is called a local symmetry group or gauge symmetry group. And a theory with such an identification of field variables is called a gauge theory.

We would like to find a way to quantize gauge theories.