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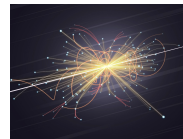
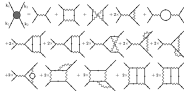
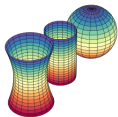
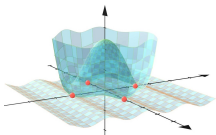
Università
di Genova

BV theory for Spectral Triples

Roberta A. Iseppi

Workshop on Noncommutative and Generalised Geometry
and their Physical Applications

Corfù, 16 September 2026



Standard Model of Elementary Particles

First generation of matter (quarks and leptons)		Second generation of matter (quarks and leptons)		Third generation of matter (quarks and leptons)		Intermediate force carriers (bosons)		Gauge bosons	
Quarks	Leptons	Quarks	Leptons	Quarks	Leptons	Quarks	Leptons	Quarks	Leptons
up	electron	charm	muon	top	tau	gluon	photon	W ⁺	Z ⁰
down	electron neutrino	strange	muon neutrino	bottom	tau neutrino	gluon	photon	W ⁻	Z ⁰
up	electron	charm	muon	top	tau	gluon	photon	W ⁺	Z ⁰
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Spectral Triples and Gauge Theories

Def: A **spectral triple** $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$ consists of:

- ▶ an involutive unital algebra $\mathcal{A}$, faithfully represented as operators on a Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$, $\mathcal{A} \subseteq \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$;
- ▶ a separable Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$;
- ▶ a self-adjoint operator $D : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$, with dense domain, such that the resolvent $(i - D)^{-1}$ is a compact operator and the commutators $[D, a]$ are bounded for each $a \in \mathcal{A}$

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Additional structure can be added, such as $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -grading $\gamma : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ or a **real structure**, that is, an antilinear isometry $J : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ such that:

$$[a, Jb^*J^{-1}] = 0 \quad \forall a, b \in \mathcal{A} \quad \text{and} \quad [[D, a], Jb^*J^{-1}] = 0, \quad \forall a, b \in \mathcal{A}$$

commutation relation
first-order condition

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commutation relation **first-order condition**

➡ Having the spacetime, we need to add the dynamics.

Spectral action: $S[\varphi] := \text{Tr}(f(\frac{D+\varphi}{\Lambda}))$

- ▶ $\varphi \in \{\varphi = \sum_j a_j [D, b_j] : \varphi^* = \varphi, a_i, b_i \in \mathcal{A}\}$ **inner fluctuations** of the operator D
- ▶ Λ fixes the energy scale
- ▶ f is a test function, plays a role only via its momenta $f_0 := f(0), \quad f_k := \int_0^{+\infty} f(\nu) \nu^{k-1} d\nu$

Spectral Triples and Gauge Theories [2]

Spectral Triple $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$



Gauge Theory $(X_0, S_0, \mathcal{G})$

- ▶ $\mathcal{A}$ = unital $*$ -alg., $\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H})$
- ▶ $\mathcal{H}$ = Hilbert space
- ▶ $D : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ = self-adj. operator

- ▶ $X_0 = \{\varphi = \sum_j a_j [D, b_j] : \varphi^* = \varphi\} \rightsquigarrow$ configuration space
- ▶ $S_0[D + \varphi] = \text{Tr}(f((D + \varphi)/\Lambda)) \rightsquigarrow$ action functional
- ▶ $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A}) \rightsquigarrow$ gauge group

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Chamseddine, Connes, Marcolli [2007]



M = compact Riem. spin manifold
with **canonical spectral triple**

$$(\mathcal{C}^\infty(M), L^2(M, S), D_M, J_M, \gamma_M)$$

 $M \times$ F

F = finite noncomm. space
with **finite real spectral triple**

$$(\mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{H} \oplus M_3(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C}^{96}, D_F, J_F, \gamma_F)$$

Gauge group:

$$U(1) \times SU(2) \times SU(3)$$

96 particles

Standard Model of Elementary Particles

Fermions				Bosons			
Left-handed		Right-handed		Left-handed		Right-handed	
Quarks	Leptons	Quarks	Leptons	Photon	W/Z bosons	Gluons	Higgs boson
u, d, s, c, b, t	e, μ , τ , ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ	u, d, s, c, b, t	e, μ , τ , ν_e, ν_μ, ν_τ	1	3	8	1

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The **full Lagrangian** of the Standard Model can be obtained as heat kernel expansion of the spectral and the fermionic actions

$$S_0(A, \psi) = \underbrace{\text{Tr}(f(D_{SM}/\Lambda))}_{\text{spectral action}} + \underbrace{\langle J_{SM}(\psi), D_{SM}\psi \rangle}_{\text{fermionic action}}$$

Towards the quantization of the spectral action



How can we quantize our theory?

Towards the quantization of the spectral action

🤔 How can we quantize our theory?

$$Z = \int_{X_0} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S_0} [d\mu]$$

$S_0 := \text{Tr}(f(D/\Lambda))$
 $X_0 = \Omega_D^1(\mathcal{A})_{s.a.}$



Path integral

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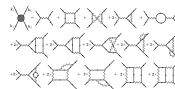


Path integral

Perturbative QFT: define the integral by implementing the stationary phase approximation

$$\underset{\hbar \rightarrow 0}{\sim} \sum_{x_0 \in \{\text{crit. pts } S_0\}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S_0(x_0)} |\det S_0''(x_0)|^{-\frac{1}{2}} e^{\frac{\pi i}{4} \text{sign}(S_0''(x_0))} (2\pi\hbar)^{\frac{\dim X_0}{2}} \sum_{\Gamma} \frac{\hbar^{-\chi(\Gamma)}}{|Aut(\Gamma)|} \Phi_{\Gamma}$$

where Γ is a **Feynman diagram**, with Euler characteristic $\chi(\Gamma)$, and weight Φ_{Γ} .



Feynman diagrams

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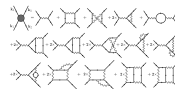


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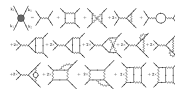


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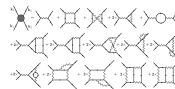


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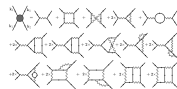


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- take the quotient w.r.t. the action of the group
- add extra auxiliary variables $\rightsquigarrow$ **ghost fields**



The BV construction: the key idea

Def. A **ghost field** φ is characterized by:

$$\text{ghost degree: } \deg(\varphi) \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \& \quad \text{parity: } \epsilon(\varphi) \in \{0, 1\}, \quad \deg(\varphi) \equiv \epsilon(\varphi) \pmod{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}$$

For a ghost φ , its **antighost** φ^* has

$$\deg(\varphi^*) = -\deg(\varphi) - 1 \quad \& \quad \epsilon(\varphi^*) \equiv \epsilon(\varphi) + 1 \pmod{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}$$

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$$(*) \quad \int_{X_0} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S_0} [d\mu] \underset{BV}{\cong} \int_{[\mathcal{L}] \subset X_t} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S_q} d\mu_{BV}$$

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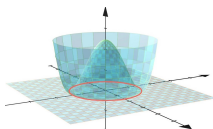
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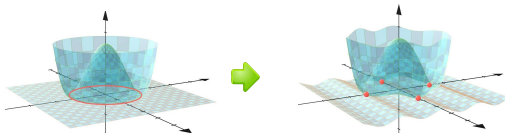
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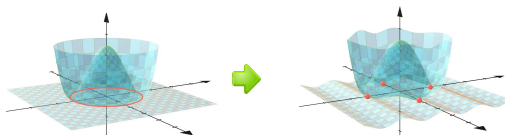
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The goal: To find

- ▶ $\mathcal{L}$ Lagrangian $\subset X_t$ ghost sector &
- ▶ $S_q \in \mathcal{C}^\infty(X_t)[[\hbar]]$, sol. quant. master eq. s.t. $S_q|_{\mathcal{L}}$ has *isolated* and *regular* critical points.

The classical/quantum BV construction

$$(X_0, S_0) \xrightarrow{\text{BV extension}} (\tilde{X}, \tilde{S})$$

- $\tilde{X} = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} [\tilde{X}]^i$, $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded super-vect. sp., $\tilde{X} = \mathcal{F} \oplus \mathcal{F}^*[1]$, $[\tilde{X}]^0 = X_0$

Symmetry between the ghost sector $\mathcal{F}$ and the anti-field content $\mathcal{F}^*[1]$

$\mathcal{F}$ = graded locally free $\mathcal{O}_{X_0}$ -mod.
with hom. comp. of finite rank

- $\tilde{S} \in [\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}]^0$, s.t. $\tilde{S}|_{X_0} = S_0$ & $\{\tilde{S}, \tilde{S}\} = 0$

1-degree Poisson strut. on $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}$

$$\{ , \} : \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}^n \times \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}^{n+m+1}$$

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$$H_{BV}^0(\tilde{X}, d_{\tilde{S}}) = \{\text{classical observables}\}$$

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The classical/quantum BV construction

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathcal{C}_{BV}^\bullet(\tilde{X}, d_{\tilde{S}/S_q}) & \cong & \mathcal{C}_{BV}^\bullet(X_t, d_{S_t/S_{q,t}}) & \mathcal{C}_{BRST}^\bullet(X_t, d_{S_t/S_{q,t}})|_{\mathcal{L}} \\
 \text{BV complex} & & \text{total complex} & \text{BRST complex} \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow & \uparrow \\
 (X_0, S_0) \xrightarrow{+ \text{ gh./anti-gh.}} (\tilde{X}, \tilde{S}/S_q) \xrightarrow{+ \text{ aux. flds.}} (X_t, S_t/S_{q,t}) \xrightarrow{\text{gauge-fixing}} (X_t, S_t/S_{q,t})|_{\mathcal{L}} \\
 \text{initial} & \text{BV-extended th.} & \text{total th.} & \text{gauge-fixed th.} \\
 \text{gauge theory} & & &
 \end{array}$$

The classical/quantum BV construction

$$(X_0, S_0) \xrightarrow{\text{BV extension}} (\tilde{X}, \tilde{S})$$

- $\tilde{X} = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} [\tilde{X}]^i$, $\mathbb{Z}$ -graded super-vect. sp., $\tilde{X} = \mathcal{F} \oplus \mathcal{F}^*[1]$, $[\tilde{X}]^0 = X_0$
Symmetry between the ghost sector $\mathcal{F}$ and the anti-field content $\mathcal{F}^*[1]$

$\mathcal{F}$ = graded locally free $\mathcal{O}_{X_0}$ -mod.
with hom. comp. of finite rank

- $\tilde{S} \in [\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}]^0$, s.t. $\tilde{S}|_{X_0} = S_0$ & $\{\tilde{S}, \tilde{S}\} = 0$

1-degree Poisson strut. on $\mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}$

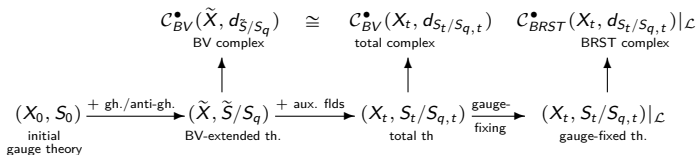
$$\{, \} : \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}^n \times \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}^m \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}^{n+m+1}$$

$$\{\varphi_i^*, \varphi_j\} = \delta_{ij}$$

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The classical/quantum BV construction



functional analysis
[Fredenhagen, Rejzner]

homotopy theory
[Costello, Gwilliam, Haugseng]

BV formalism

differential geometry
[Cattaneo, Mnev,
Reshetikhin, Wernli]

algebraic geometry
[Felder, Kazhdan, Schlank]

Can we describe the BV construction in terms of spectral triples?

Let's first focus on the **finite case**: we want to study the BV construction for gauge theories induced by

$$(M_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C}^n, D, f)$$

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- ▶ Can the BRST cohomology be related to other (better understood) cohomological theories?

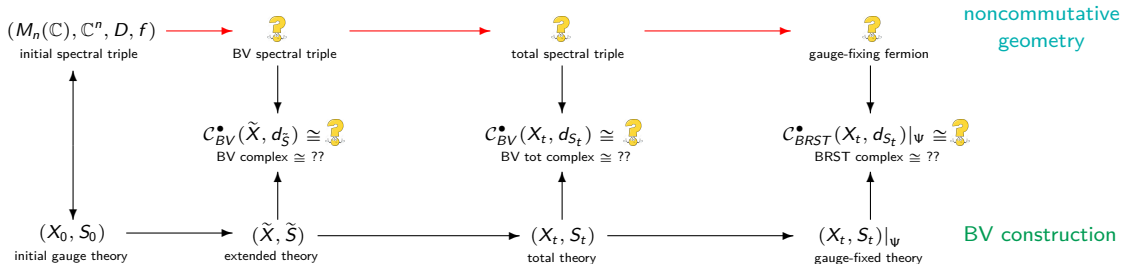
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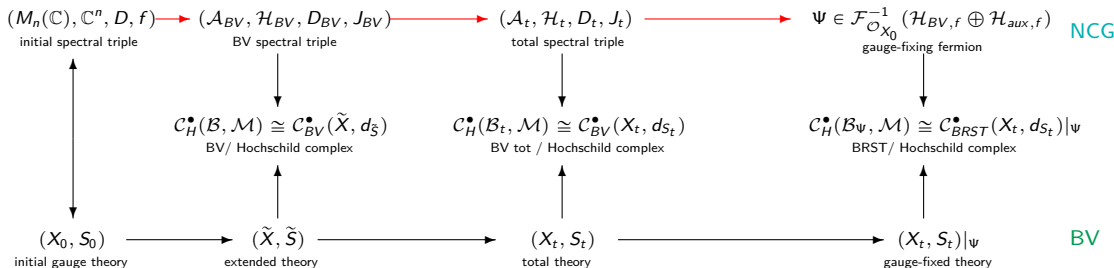
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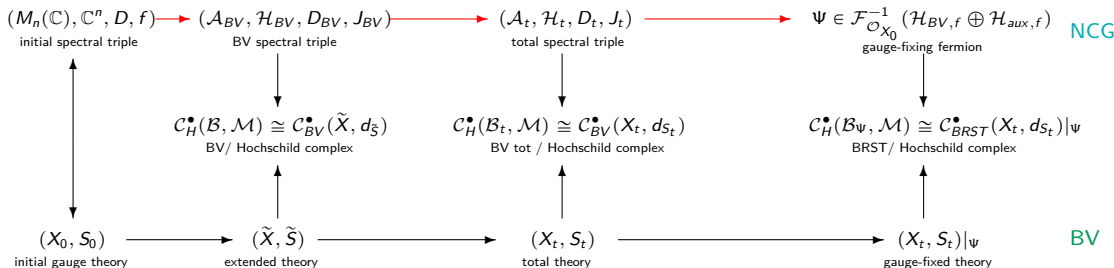
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? What if we consider spectral triples over $\oplus_{i=1}^r M_{n_i}(\mathbb{C})$?

The general finite case, almost...

Let $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$ be a **finite** spectral triple, with

$$\mathcal{A} \simeq \bigoplus_{i=1}^r M_{n_i}(\mathbb{C})$$

$$\pi : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow B(\mathcal{H})$$

$$\mathcal{H} \simeq \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \mathbb{C}^{n_i} \otimes V_{n_i}, \longrightarrow$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_{n_i} &= \text{multiplicity space} \\ \dim(V_{n_i}) &= \text{mult. of dim } n_i \text{ repr.} \end{aligned}$$

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Spectral Triple $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$



Gauge Theory $(X_0, S_0, \mathcal{G})$

- ▶ $\mathcal{A}$ = unital $*$ -alg., $\mathcal{A} \subset B(\mathcal{H})$
- ▶ $\mathcal{H}$ = Hilbert space
- ▶ $D : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ = self-adj. operator

- ▶ $X_0 = \{\varphi = \sum_j a_j [D, b_j] : \varphi^* = \varphi\} \rightsquigarrow$ configuration space
- ▶ $S_0[D + \varphi] = \text{Tr}(f((D + \varphi)/\Lambda)) \rightsquigarrow$ action functional
- ▶ $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A}) \rightsquigarrow$ gauge group

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Prop: Let $(\bigoplus_{i=1}^r M_{n_i}(\mathbb{C}), \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \mathbb{C}^{n_i}, (D_{ij})_{i,j})$ be **multiplicity-1** with $n_i \neq n_j$ for $i \neq j$. Then the induced gauge th. is: [R.I.]

- ➊ $X_0 = [\bigoplus_{i,j} \Omega_D^1(\mathcal{A})_{ij}]_{\text{s.a.}}$ where $\Omega_D^1(\mathcal{A})_{ij} = \text{Hom}(\mathbb{C}^{n_j}, \mathbb{C}^{n_i})$ for every pair (i, j) such that $D_{ij} \neq 0$
- ➋ $S_0(\varphi) = \text{Tr}(f(D + \varphi))$ for any polynomial function $f \in \mathbb{R}[x]$.
- ➌ the effective gauge group is $\mathcal{G}_{\text{eff}} := \mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A})/Z(\mathcal{U}(\mathcal{A}))$, with $\text{Lie}(\mathcal{G}_{\text{eff}}) \simeq \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \mathfrak{su}(n_i)$.

➡ $U(n_i)$ -sectors coupled by the nonzero off-diagonal blocks of the Dirac operator. IF $r = 1$ ✓

BV irreducibility for finite spectral triples

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Step 1: to rewrite the condition of being BV-irreducible within the language of spectral triples

Prop: Given $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$ with induced gauge theory $(X_0, S_0, \mathcal{G})$ and effective Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g} = (\mathcal{G}_{\text{eff}})$.
[R.I.] Then:

The theory is **BV-irreducible** $\Leftrightarrow$ The infinitesimal gauge action $\rho : \mathfrak{g} \longrightarrow \text{End}(X_0)$ is **faithful** $\Leftrightarrow$ $\text{Comm}_{\mathfrak{g}}^D(X_0) := \{\xi \in \mathfrak{g} : [\xi, D + \varphi] = 0, \forall \varphi \in X_0\} = \{0\}$.

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The $U(n)$ -model: let's consider $(M_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C}^n, D)$. The induced gauge theory is: $X_0(D) = [M_n(\mathbb{C})]_{\text{s.a.}}$. $\mathfrak{g} = \mathfrak{su}(n)$
To test if the theory is BV-irreducible, let $\xi \in \mathfrak{su}(n)$.

$\xi \in \text{Comm}_{\mathfrak{g}}^D(X_0) \Rightarrow \xi$ commutes with every self-adj. matrix $\Rightarrow \xi \in Z(M_n(\mathbb{C})) = \lambda \cdot Id$

But $\text{Tr}(\xi) = 0 \Rightarrow \xi = 0$.

All non-trivial $U(n)$ -gauge theories are BV-irreducible

BV irreducibility for finite spectral triples [2]

➡ Let's study the BV-irreducibility of **multiplicity 1** finite spectral triple.

$$\mathcal{A} \simeq \bigoplus_{i=1}^r M_{n_i}(\mathbb{C}), \text{ with } n_i \neq n_j \qquad \mathcal{H} \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \mathbb{C}^{n_i},$$

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Theorem: Let $D \in \mathcal{D}$ and define $X_0(D) := [\Omega_D^1(\mathcal{A})]_{\text{s.a.}}$ to be the corresponding space of self-adjoint [R.I.] inner fluctuations. Then the subset of Dirac operators inducing an irreducible gauge theory, that is,

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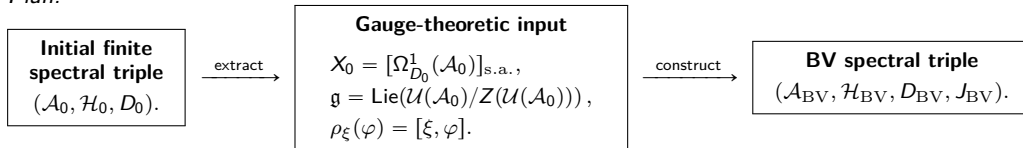
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❓ How to extract from the original spectral triple all the relevant information about the gauge theory and its symmetries?

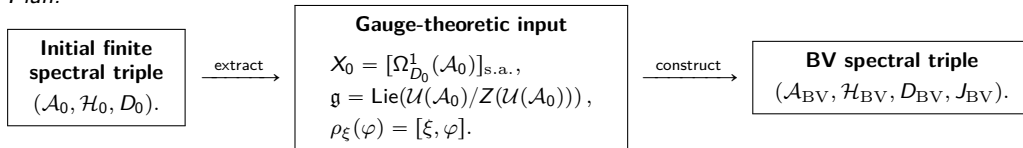
The notion of BV spectral triple

The Plan:



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We introduce the notion of BV-spectral triple.

Def. Let $(\mathcal{A}_0, \mathcal{H}_0, D_0)$ be a finite spectral triple whose induced gauge theory is $(X_0, S_0, \mathcal{G})$. A real finite spectral triple $(\mathcal{A}_{BV}, \mathcal{H}_{BV}, D_{BV}(\chi), J_{BV})_{\chi \in \mathcal{H}_{BV,f}}$, over a graded parameter space $\mathcal{H}_{BV,f} \subseteq \mathcal{H}_{BV}$ is a **BV spectral triple** associated to $(\mathcal{A}_0, \mathcal{H}_0, D_0)$ if there exists a $\mathbb{Z}_{>0}$ -graded real vector space $\mathcal{Q}_f$ s.t.

$$\mathcal{H}_{BV,f} \simeq (\mathcal{Q}_f^*[1] \oplus X_0^*[1]) \oplus (X_0 \oplus \mathcal{Q}_f),$$

and $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{S})$ defines a BV extension of the gauge theory $(X_0, S_0, \mathcal{G})$, where

$$\tilde{X} \simeq \mathcal{H}_{BV,f} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{S} := S_0 + \frac{1}{2} S_{\text{ferm}}, \quad S_{\text{ferm}}(\chi) := \frac{1}{2} \langle J(\chi), D_{BV}(\chi) \chi \rangle, \quad \chi \in \mathcal{H}_{BV,f},$$

where $D_{BV}(\chi)$ denotes the field-dependent Dirac operator.

How to construct a BV-spectral triple?

For a multiplicity-1 finite spectral triple:

$\mathcal{A}_{BV} = \mathcal{A}_0 = \bigoplus_{i=1}^r M_{n_i}(\mathbb{C})$  one can prove, a posteriori, that this algebra is the maximal $*$ -algebra completing $(\mathcal{H}_{BV}, D_{BV}(\chi), J_{BV})_{\chi \in \mathcal{H}_{BV,f}}$ to a spectral triple

The algebra: stays unchanged as it describes the physical field-content of the theory.

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$$\mathcal{H}_0 \cong \bigoplus_{i=1}^r \mathbb{C}^{n_i} \xrightarrow{+ \text{ ghost/anti-ghost fields}} \mathcal{H}_{BV} = \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}^*[-2] \oplus X_{0,\mathbb{C}}^*[-1] \oplus X_{0,\mathbb{C}} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}[1] \subseteq \left[\bigoplus_{i=1}^r M_{n_i}(\mathbb{C}) \right]^{\oplus 4}$$

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where

$$\mathcal{H}_{BV,f} = \underbrace{\mathfrak{g}^*[-2]}_{\text{ghost antifields}} \oplus \underbrace{X_0^*[-1]}_{\text{field antifields}} \oplus \underbrace{X_0}_{\text{fields}} \oplus \underbrace{\mathfrak{g}[1]}_{\text{ghosts}} .$$

$\rightarrow$ fully determined by

$$X_0 = [\Omega_{D_0}^1(\mathcal{A}_0)]_{\text{s.a.}}$$

$$\mathfrak{g} := \mathfrak{u}(\mathcal{A}_0) / \mathcal{Z}(\mathfrak{u}(\mathcal{A}_0))$$

$\mathcal{H}_{BV,f} := (\mathcal{H}_{BV})^{J_{BV}}$ $\rightarrow$ It selects the real graded subspace on which the fermionic functional is evaluated

The Hilbert space: describes the ghost sector of the BV-extended theory.

How to construct a BV-spectral triple? [2]

$$D_{BV}(\chi) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & T(C) \\ 0 & 0 & R(C) & 0 \\ 0 & R(C)^\dagger & 0 & 0 \\ T(C)^\dagger & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Duality fields/antifields

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- ▶ The **infinitesimal action** $\rho : \mathfrak{g} \curvearrowright X_0$ determines the part of the BV functional coupling the fields in X_0 with the ghosts in $\mathfrak{g}$
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The operator D_{BV} determines the BV-action $S_{BV} := \tilde{S} - S_0$ as induced fermionic action.

How to construct a BV-spectral triple? [2]

$$D_{BV}(\chi) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & T(C) \\ 0 & 0 & R(C) & 0 \\ 0 & R(C)^\dagger & 0 & 0 \\ T(C)^\dagger & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$R(C) := \kappa_{X_0} \circ \tilde{\rho}_C : X_{0,\mathbb{C}} \longrightarrow X_{0,\mathbb{C}}^*[-1]$$

$$\kappa_{X_0} : X_{0,\mathbb{C}} \xrightarrow{\sim} X_{0,\mathbb{C}}^*[-1]$$

$$\rho : \mathfrak{g} \longrightarrow \text{End}(X_0),$$

Duality fields/antifields

$$\rho_\xi(\varphi) := [\xi, \varphi],$$

$$T(C) := \kappa_{\mathfrak{g}} \circ \tilde{\sigma}_C : \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}[1] \longrightarrow \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}^*[-2].$$

$$\kappa_{\mathfrak{g}} : \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}[2] \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}^*[-2].$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_C : \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}[1] \rightarrow \mathfrak{g}_{\mathbb{C}}[2]$$

Duality ghost fields/
ghost antifields

$$\tilde{\sigma}_C(C') := \frac{1}{2} \sum_{a,b,c} c^a c'^b f_{ab}{}^c \tau_c.$$

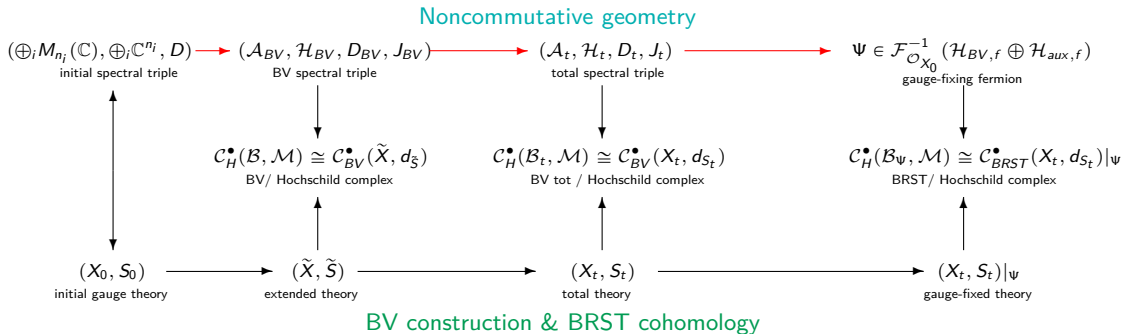
➡ D_{BV} is completely determined by the two gauge-theoretic data extracted from the initial spectral triple:

- ▶ The **infinitesimal action** $\rho : \mathfrak{g} \curvearrowright X_0$ determines the part of the BV functional coupling the fields in X_0 with the ghosts in $\mathfrak{g}$
- ▶ The **Lie bracket** $[-, -]_{\mathfrak{g}}$ of $\mathfrak{g}$ describes the self-interaction of the ghost sector.

The operator D_{BV} determines the BV-action $S_{BV} := \tilde{S} - S_0$ as induced fermionic action.

The real structure: $J_{BV} : \mathcal{H}_{BV} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{BV}$ with $J_{BV}(\varphi) = \varphi^\dagger$

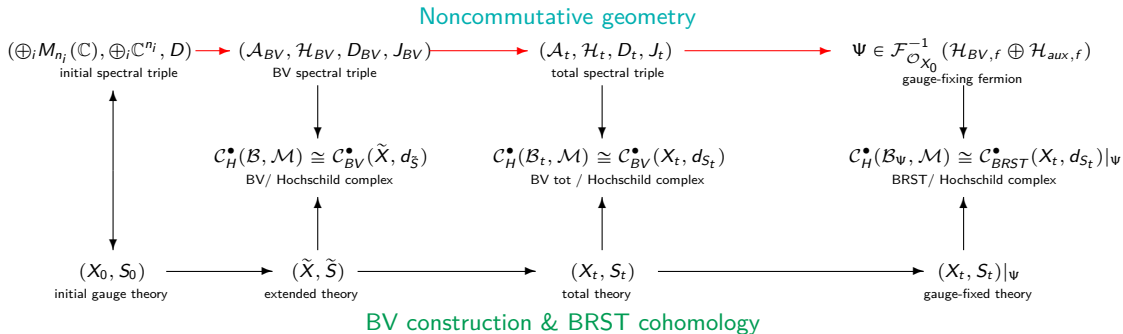
Where we are and where we are going



Reached goals:

- ▶ Given a noncommutative geometric interpretation of the notion of BV-irreducibility
- ▶ Established the (noncom.) geometrical BV construction for finite spectral triple
- ▶ Discovered the relation existing between BV/BRST cohomology and Hochschild cohomology

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What is next:

Study BV-reducible theories and going beyond the finite case