

A toy model for string field theory:

Let us consider a relativistic point particle with action

$$I[q^\mu, e] = \frac{1}{2} \int \left(\frac{\dot{q}^\mu \dot{q}_\mu}{e} - m^2 e \right) d\tau$$

where τ is some parameter to parametrise the curve and $e(\tau)$ is the "Einbein" which transforms under reparametrisation $\tau' = \tau'(\tau)$ s.t.

$$e(\tau) d\tau = e'(\tau') d\tau'$$

Finally $\dot{q}^\mu(\tau) = \frac{d}{d\tau} q^\mu(\tau)$. The action $I[q^\mu, e]$ is invariant under the infinitesimal transformation $\tau' = \tau + \frac{\epsilon(\tau)}{e(\tau)}$

$$\delta q^\mu(\tau) = \frac{\dot{q}^\mu}{e} \epsilon(\tau) ; \quad \delta e = \dot{\epsilon}(\tau) \quad (*)$$

We can eliminate the Einbein e by its equation of motion giving

$$-\frac{1}{e^2} \dot{q}^\mu \dot{q}_\mu - m^2 = 0$$

and after substituting back into I we get the familiar action:

$$I[q^\mu] = m \int \sqrt{-\dot{q}^\mu \dot{q}_\mu} d\tau$$

In order to quantise $I(q^\mu, e)$ we consider the Evolution Kernel

$$K(q_f, q_i; T_f, T_i) = \int [Dq^\mu e] e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} I(q^\mu, e)}$$

$$q(T_f) = q_f$$

$$q(T_i) = q_i$$

which, due to the redundancy (*) needs to be gauge fixed. Applying the by now familiar BRST - Faddeev - Popov procedure we will end up with

$$K(\dots) = \int [Dq, c, \pi, b, \bar{c}] e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} I^{\text{tot}}}$$

where

$$I^{\text{tot}}[\dots] = \int \frac{1}{2e} \dot{q}^\mu \dot{q}_\mu - \frac{m^2 e}{2} + i b \dot{c} + \bar{\pi} (e - \hat{e})$$

where we have renamed: $H^a \rightsquigarrow c$

$$H^a \rightsquigarrow i b$$

$$b^a \rightsquigarrow \bar{\pi}$$

and $F(e) = (e - \hat{e})$ is the gauge fixing condition. The BRST invariance of I^{tot} is given by:

$$\delta e = -i \dot{c}, \quad \delta q^\mu = -i q^\mu \frac{c}{e}$$

$$\delta b = \bar{\pi}; \quad \delta c = \delta \bar{\pi} = 0$$

We can also obtain an "effective action" \tilde{I} by integrating over e and π . This gives

$$\tilde{I}[q^\mu, b, c] = \int \left(\frac{1}{2} \dot{q}^\mu \dot{q}_\mu - \frac{1}{2} \omega^2 + i b c \right) d\tau$$

which enjoys a $U(1)$ symmetry (with

$$\bar{\pi} = \frac{1}{2} (\dot{q}^\mu \dot{q}_\mu + \omega^2) \text{ by its es.c. and } c = \dot{c} = 1)$$

$$\delta q^\mu = -c \dot{q}^\mu c ; \quad \delta b = \frac{1}{2} (\dot{q}^\mu \dot{q}_\mu + \omega^2) \quad (**)$$

In order to identify the Noether charge we need to first describe the canonical structure of $\tilde{I}[q_\mu, b, c]$. We first identify the canonical momenta

$$p_\mu = \frac{\delta \tilde{I}}{\delta \dot{q}^\mu} ; \quad \pi_c = \frac{\delta \tilde{I}}{\delta \dot{c}} = i b$$

with canonical commutation relations:

$$[q_\mu^{(1)}, p_\nu^{(1)}] = i \delta_\mu^\nu \quad (h = 1)$$

$$[b^{(1)}, c^{(1)}] = 1$$

Then the conserved Noether charge

$$Q = c H ; \quad H = (p^\mu p_\mu + \omega^2)$$

generates the BRST transformation (**) upon using the es.c. $\dot{q}^\mu = p^\mu$,