

(https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fujikawa_method)

Consider the fermionic path-integral:

$$\mathcal{D}\psi_i = -\lambda_i \psi_i.$$

The eigenfunctions are taken to be orthonormal with respect to integration in d-dimensional space,

$$\delta_i^j = \int \frac{d^d x}{(2\pi)^d} \psi_i^\dagger(x) \psi_j(x).$$

The measure of the path integral is then defined to be:

$$\mathcal{D}\psi \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} = \prod_i da^i db^i$$

Under an infinitesimal chiral transformation, write

$$\begin{aligned} \psi &\rightarrow \psi' = (1 + i\alpha\gamma_{d+1})\psi = \sum_i \psi_i a^i, \\ \bar{\psi} &\rightarrow \bar{\psi}' = \bar{\psi}(1 + i\alpha\gamma_{d+1}) = \sum_i \psi_i b^i. \end{aligned}$$

The **Jacobian** of the transformation can now be calculated, using the **orthonormality** of the **eigenvectors**

$$C_j^i \equiv \left(\frac{\delta a^i}{\delta a^j} \right) = \int d^d x \psi_i^\dagger(x) [1 - i\alpha(x)\gamma_{d+1}] \psi_j(x) = \delta_j^i - i \int d^d x \alpha(x) \psi_i^\dagger(x) \gamma_{d+1} \psi_j(x).$$

The transformation of the coefficients $\{b_i\}$ are calculated in the same manner. Finally, the quantum measure changes as

$$\mathcal{D}\psi \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} = \prod_i da^i db^i = \prod_i da^i db^i \det^{-2}(C_j^i),$$

where the **Jacobian** is the reciprocal of the determinant because the integration variables are Grassmannian, and the 2 appears because the a's and b's contribute equally. We can calculate the determinant by standard techniques:

$$\begin{aligned} \det^{-2}(C_j^i) &= \exp \left[-2 \text{tr} \ln \left(\delta_j^i - i \int d^d x \alpha(x) \psi_i^\dagger(x) \gamma_{d+1} \psi_j(x) \right) \right] \\ &= \exp \left[2i \int d^d x \alpha(x) \psi_i^\dagger(x) \gamma_{d+1} \psi_i(x) \right] \end{aligned}$$

to first order in $\alpha(x)$.

Specialising to the case where α is a constant, the **Jacobian** must be regularised because the integral is ill-defined as written. Fujikawa employed **heat-kernel regularization**, such that

$$\begin{aligned} -2 \text{tr} \ln C_j^i &= 2i \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \alpha \int d^d x \psi_i^\dagger(x) \gamma_{d+1} e^{-\lambda_i^2/M^2} \psi_i(x) \\ &= 2i \lim_{M \rightarrow \infty} \alpha \int d^d x \psi_i^\dagger(x) \gamma_{d+1} e^{\mathcal{D}^2/M^2} \psi_i(x) \end{aligned}$$

The final expression then reproduces $(\Delta S')_{\text{reg}}$. To summarise, the quantum BV equation is (a generalisation of) a consistency condition for the ST identities.