

Quantum Field Theory

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Path integral formalism has close relationship to classical dynamics, e.g. the transition amplitude

$$\langle f|i\rangle = \int [dx] e^{iS/\hbar}$$

as $\hbar \rightarrow 0$, the trajectory with smallest S dominates, the action principle. Here uses the ordinary functions not the operators. Later in non-Abelian gauge theory, to remove unphysical degrees of freedom can be accommodated in the path integral formalism by imposing constraints in the integral.

Quantum Mechanics in 1-dimension

In QM, transition from $|q, t\rangle$ to $\langle q', t'|$, can be written as,

$$\langle q' t' | q t \rangle = \langle q' | e^{-iH(t-t')} | q \rangle$$

where $|q\rangle$'s are eigenstates of position operator Q in the Schrodinger picture,

$$Q|q\rangle = q|q\rangle$$

and $|q, t\rangle$ denotes corresponding state in Heisenberg picture,

$$|q, t\rangle = e^{iHt}|q\rangle$$

In path integral formalism, this can be written as

$$\langle q' t' | q t \rangle = N \int [dq] \exp\left\{i \int_t^{t'} d\tau L(q, \dot{q})\right\}$$

To get this formula, divide the interval (t', t) into n intervals ,

$$\delta t = \frac{t' - t}{n}$$

and write ,

$$\langle q' | e^{-iH(t'-t)} | q \rangle = \int dq_1 \dots dq_{n-1} \langle q' | e^{-iH\delta t} | q_{n-1} \rangle \langle q_{n-1} | e^{-iH\delta t} | q_{n-2} \rangle \dots \langle q_1 | e^{-iH\delta t} | q \rangle$$

For δt small enough,

$$\langle q' | e^{-iH\delta t} | q \rangle = \langle q' | (1 - iH(P, Q)\delta t) | q \rangle + O((\delta t)^2) + \dots$$

Suppose,

$$H(P, Q) = \frac{p^2}{2m} + V(Q)$$

then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle q' | H | q \rangle &= \langle q' | \frac{p^2}{2m} | q \rangle + V\left(\frac{q+q'}{2}\right) \delta(q - q') \\ &= \int \langle q' | \frac{p^2}{2m} | p \rangle \langle p | q \rangle \left(\frac{dp}{2\pi}\right) + V\left(\frac{q+q'}{2}\right) \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} e^{ip(q'-q)} \\ &= \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} e^{ip(q'-q)} \left[\frac{p^2}{2m} + V\left(\frac{q+q'}{2}\right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\langle p | q \rangle = e^{-ipq}$$

is the momentum eigenfunction. Exponentiation of this infinitesimal result

$$\begin{aligned}\langle q'|e^{-iH\delta t}|q\rangle &\simeq \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} e^{ip(q'-q)} \left\{ 1 - i\delta t \left[\frac{p^2}{2m} + V\left(\frac{q+q'}{2}\right) \right] \right\} \\ &\simeq \int \frac{dp}{2\pi} \exp[ip(q'-q)] \exp \left[-i\delta t \left[\frac{p^2}{2m} + V\left(\frac{q+q'}{2}\right) \right] \right]\end{aligned}$$

The whole transition matrix element can then be written as

$$\langle q'|e^{-iH(t'-t)}|q\rangle \cong \int \left(\frac{dp_1}{2\pi}\right) \dots \left(\frac{dp_n}{2\pi}\right) \int dq_1 \dots dq_{n-1} \exp \left\{ i \left[\sum_{i=1}^n p_i (q_i - q_{i-1}) - (\delta t) H(p_i, \frac{q_i + q_{i+1}}{2}) \right] \right\}$$

This can be written formally as

$$\begin{aligned}\langle q'|e^{-iH(t'-t)}|q\rangle &= \int \left[\frac{dp dq}{2\pi} \right] \exp \left\{ i \int_t^{t'} dt [p\dot{q} - H(p, q)] \right\} \\ &\equiv \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int \left(\frac{dp_1}{2\pi}\right) \dots \left(\frac{dp_n}{2\pi}\right) \int dq_1 \dots dq_{n-1} \exp \left\{ i \sum_{i=1}^n \delta t \left[p_i \left(\frac{q_i - q_{i-1}}{\delta t} \right) - H(p_i, \frac{q_i + q_{i+1}}{2}) \right] \right\}\end{aligned}$$

If Hamiltonian depends quadratically on p , use the formula

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dx}{2\pi} e^{-ax^2+bx} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi a}} e^{\frac{b^2}{4a}}$$

to get

$$\int \frac{dp_i}{2\pi} \exp \left[\frac{-i\delta t}{2m} p_i^2 + ip_i (q_i - q_{i-1}) \right] = \left(\frac{m}{2\pi i \delta t} \right)^{1/2} \exp \left[\frac{im(q_i - q_{i-1})^2}{2\delta t} \right]$$

Then

$$\langle q' | e^{-iH(t'-t)} | q \rangle = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{m}{2\pi i \delta t} \right)^{n/2} \int \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} dq_i \exp \left\{ i \sum_{i=1}^n \delta t \left[\frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{q_i - q_{i-1}}{\delta t} \right)^2 - V \right] \right\}$$

or

$$\langle q' t' | q t \rangle = \langle q' | e^{-iH(t'-t)} | q \rangle = N \int [dq] \exp \left\{ i \int_t^{t'} d\tau \left[\frac{m}{2} \dot{q}^2 - V(q) \right] \right\}$$

This is the path integral representation for amplitude from initial state $|q, t\rangle$ to final state $\langle q', t'|$. Or

$$\langle q' t' | q t \rangle = N \int [dq] \exp iS$$

Green's functions

To generalize this to field theory where the basic entity is the vacuum expectation value of field operators, we consider

$$G(t_1, t_2) = \langle 0 | T(Q^H(t_1)Q^H(t_2)) | 0 \rangle$$

Inserting complete sets of states, we get

$$G(t_1, t_2) = \int dq dq' \langle 0 | q', t' \rangle \langle q', t' | T(Q^H(t_1)Q^H(t_2)) | q, t \rangle \langle q, t | 0 \rangle$$

The matrix element

$$\langle 0 | q, t \rangle = \phi_0(q) e^{-iE_0 t} = \phi_0(q, t)$$

is the wavefunction for ground state. Consider the case

$$t' > t_1 > t_2 > t,$$

we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \langle q', t' | T(Q^H(t_1)Q^H(t_2)) | q, t \rangle &= \langle q' | e^{-iH(t'-t_1)} Q^s e^{-iH(t_1-t_2)} Q^s e^{-iH(t_2-t)} | q \rangle \\ &= \int \langle q' | e^{-iH(t'-t_1)} | q_1 \rangle q_1 \langle q_1 | e^{-iH(t_1-t_2)} | q_2 \rangle q_2 \langle q_2 | e^{-iH(t_2-t)} | q \rangle dq_1 dq_2 \\ &= \int \left[\frac{dp dq}{2\pi} \right] q_1(t_1) q_2(t_2) \exp \left\{ i \int_t^{t'} d\tau [p \dot{q} - H(p, q)] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

For the other time sequence

$$t' > t_2 > t_1 > t,$$

we get same formula, because path integral orders the time sequence automatically through the division of time interval into small pieces. The Green's function is then

$$G(t_1, t_2) = \int dq dq' \phi_0(q', t') \phi_0^*(q, t) \int \left[\frac{dp dq}{2\pi} \right] q_1(t_1) q_2(t_2) \exp\left\{ i \int_t^{t'} d\tau [p\dot{q} - H(p, q)] \right\} \quad (1)$$

We remove wavefunction $\phi_0(q, t)$ by the following procedure. Write

$$\langle q', t' | \theta(t_1, t_2) | q, t \rangle = \int dQ dQ' \langle q', t' | Q', T' \rangle \langle Q', T' | \theta(t_1, t_2) | Q, T \rangle \langle Q, T | q, t \rangle$$

where

$$\theta(t_1, t_2) = T(Q^H(t_1) Q^H(t_2))$$

Let $|n\rangle$ be eigenstate with energy E_n and wave function ϕ_n , i.e.,

$$H|n\rangle = E_n|n\rangle, \quad \langle q|n\rangle = \phi_n^*(q)$$

Then

$$\langle q', t' | Q', T' \rangle = \langle q' | e^{-iH(t'-T')} | Q' \rangle = \sum_n \langle q' | n \rangle e^{-iE_n(t'-T')} \langle n | Q' \rangle = \sum_n \phi_n^*(q') \phi_n(Q') e^{-iE_n(t'-T')}$$

To isolate the ground state wavefunction, we take an "unusual limit",

$$\lim_{t' \rightarrow -i\infty} \langle q', t' | Q', T' \rangle = \phi_0^*(q') \phi_0(Q') e^{-E_0|t'|} e^{iE_0 T'}$$

Similarity,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow i\infty} \langle Q, T|q, t \rangle = \phi_0(q) \phi_0^*(Q) e^{-E_0|t|} e^{-iE_0 T}$$

With these we write

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{\substack{t' \rightarrow -i\infty \\ t \rightarrow i\infty}} \langle q', t' | \theta(t_1, t_2) | q, t \rangle &= \int dQ dQ' \phi_0^*(q') \phi_0(Q') \langle Q', T' | \theta(t_1, t_2) | Q, T \rangle \phi_0^*(Q) \phi_0(q) e^{-E_0|t'|} e^{iE_0 T'} e^{-iE_0 T} e^{-E_0|t|} \\ &= \phi_0^*(q') \phi_0(q) e^{-E_0|t'|} e^{-E_0|t|} G(t_1, t_2) \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that

$$\lim_{\substack{t' \rightarrow -i\infty \\ t \rightarrow i\infty}} \langle q', t' | q, t \rangle = \phi_0^*(q') \phi_0(q) e^{-E_0|t'|} e^{-E_0|t|}$$

Finally, the Green function can be written as,

$$\begin{aligned} G(t_1, t_2) &= \lim_{\substack{t' \rightarrow -i\infty \\ t \rightarrow i\infty}} \left[\frac{\langle q', t' | T(Q^H(t_1) Q^H(t_2)) | q, t \rangle}{\langle q', t' | q, t \rangle} \right] \\ &= \lim_{\substack{t' \rightarrow -i\infty \\ t \rightarrow i\infty}} \frac{1}{\langle q', t' | q, t \rangle} \int \left[\frac{dp dq}{2\pi} \right] q(t_1) q(t_2) \exp \left\{ i \int_t^{t'} d\tau [p \dot{q} - H(p, q)] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

This can be generalized to n-point Green's function with the result,

$$G(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) = \langle 0 | T(q(t_1) q(t_2) \dots q(t_n)) | 0 \rangle$$

$$= \lim_{\substack{t' \rightarrow -i\infty \\ t \rightarrow i\infty}} \frac{1}{\langle q', t' | q, t \rangle} \int \left[\frac{dp dq}{2\pi} \right] q(t_1) q(t_2) \dots q(t_n) \exp \left\{ i \int_t^{t'} d\tau [p \dot{q} - H(p, q)] \right\}$$

It is very useful to introduce generating functional for these n-point functions

$$W[J] = \lim_{\substack{t' \rightarrow -i\infty \\ t \rightarrow i\infty}} \frac{1}{\langle q', t' | q, t \rangle} \int \left[\frac{dp dq}{2\pi} \right] \exp \left\{ i \int_t^{t'} d\tau [p \dot{q} - H(p, q) + J(\tau) q(\tau)] \right\}$$

Then

$$G(t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n) = (-i)^n \frac{\delta^n}{\delta J(t_1) \dots \delta J(t_n)} \Big|_{J=0}$$

The unphysical limit, $t' \rightarrow -i\infty, t \rightarrow i\infty$, should be interpreted in term of Eudidean Green's functions defined by

$$S^{(n)}(\tau_1, \tau_2, \dots, \tau_n) = i^n G^{(n)}(-i\tau_1, -i\tau_2, \dots, -i\tau_n)$$

Generating functional for $S^{(n)}$ is then

$$W_E[J] = \lim_{\substack{\tau' \rightarrow \infty \\ \tau \rightarrow -\infty}} \int [dq] \frac{1}{\langle q', t' | q, t \rangle} \exp \left\{ \int_\tau^{\tau'} d\tau'' \left[-\frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{dq}{d\tau''} \right)^2 - V(q) + J(\tau'') q(\tau'') \right] \right\}$$

Since we can adjust the zero point of $V(q)$ such that

$$\frac{m}{2} \left(\frac{dq}{d\tau} \right)^2 + V(q) > 0$$

which provides the damping to give a converging Gaussian integral. In this form, we can see that any constant in the path integral which is independent of q will be canceled out in the generation functional.

Field Theory

From quantum mechanics to field theory of a scalar field $\phi(x)$ replace,

$$\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} [dq_i dp_i] \longrightarrow [d\phi(x) d\pi(x)]$$

$$L(q, \dot{q}) \longrightarrow \int \mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial_\mu \phi) d^3x \quad H(p, q) \longrightarrow \int \mathcal{H}(\phi, \pi) d^3x$$

Generating functional is

$$W[J] \sim \int [d\phi] \exp\{i \int d^4x [\mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial_\mu \phi) + J(x)\phi(x)]\}$$

functional derivative is defined by

$$\frac{\delta F[\phi(x)]}{\delta \phi(y)} = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{F[\phi(x) + \varepsilon \delta(x-y)] - F[\phi(x)]}{\varepsilon}$$

Then

$$\frac{\delta W[J]}{\delta J(y)} = i \int [d\phi] \phi(y) \exp\{i \int d^4x [\mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial_\mu \phi) + J(x)\phi(x)]\} \quad (2)$$

and

$$\frac{\delta^2 W[J]}{\delta J(y_1) \delta J(y_2)} = (i)^2 \int [d\phi] \phi(y_1) \phi(y_2) \exp\{i \int d^4x [\mathcal{L}(\phi, \partial_\mu \phi) + J(x)\phi(x)]\}$$

Consider $\lambda\phi^4$ theory

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi) = \mathcal{L}_0(\phi) + \mathcal{L}_1(\phi)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_0(\phi) = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\lambda \phi)^2 - \frac{\mu^2}{2}\phi^2, \quad \mathcal{L}_1(\phi) = -\frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4$$

Use Euclidean time the generating functional

$$W[J] = \int [d\phi] \exp\left\{-\int d^4x \left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial\tau}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\vec{\nabla}\phi)^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{2}\phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4 - J\phi\right]\right\}$$

can be written as

$$W[J] = \left[\exp \int d^4x \mathcal{L}_I \left(\frac{\delta}{\delta J(x)} \right) \right] W_0[J]$$

We have used Eq(2) to write the interaction term in terms of function derivative with respect to the source $J(x)$. Here $W_0[J]$ is the free field generating function

$$W_0[J] = \int [d\phi] \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x d^4y \phi(x) K(x, y) \phi(y) + \int d^4z J(z) \phi(z)\right]$$

and

$$K(x, y) = \delta^4(x - y) \left(-\frac{\partial^2}{\partial\tau^2} - \vec{\nabla}^2 + \mu^2 \right)$$

. The Gaussian integral for many variables is

$$\int d\phi_1 d\phi_2 \dots d\phi_n \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \phi_i K_{ij} \phi_j + \sum_k J_k \phi_k \right] \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\det K}} \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} J_i (K^{-1})_{ij} J_j \right]$$

Apply this to the case of scalar fields,

$$W_0[J] = \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x d^4y J(x) \Delta(x, y) J(y) \right]$$

where

$$\int d^4y K(x, y) \Delta(y, z) = \delta^4(x - z)$$

$\Delta(x, y)$ can be calculated by Fourier transform to give,

$$\Delta(x, y) = \int \frac{d^4k_E}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{e^{ik_E(x-y)}}{k_E^2 + \mu^2}$$

where $k_E = (ik_0, \vec{k})$, the Euclidean momentum
 Perturbative expansion in power of λ gives

$$W[J] = W_0[J] \{1 + \lambda w_1[J] + \lambda^2 w_2[J] + \dots\}$$

where

$$w_1 = -\frac{1}{4!} W_0^{-1}[J] \left\{ \int d^4x \left[\frac{\delta}{\delta J(x)} \right]^4 \right\} W_0[J]$$

$$w_2 = -\frac{1}{2(4!)^2} W_0^{-1}[J] \left\{ \int d^4x \left[\frac{\delta}{\delta J(x)} \right]^4 \right\}^2 W_0[J]$$

Use explicit form for $W_0[J]$,

$$W_0[J] = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x d^4y J(x) \Delta(x, y) J(y) + \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^2 \frac{1}{2!} \int d^4y_1 d^4y_2 d^4y_3 d^4y_4 [J(y_1) \Delta(y_1, y_2) J(y_2) J(y_3) \Delta(y_3, y_4) J(y_4)] + \dots$$

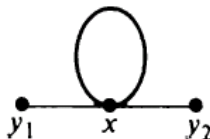
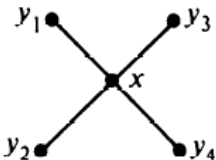
We get for w_1 ,

$$w_1 = -\frac{1}{4!} \left[\int \Delta(x, y_1) \Delta(x, y_2) \Delta(x, y_3) \Delta(x, y_4) J(y_1) J(y_2) J(y_3) J(y_4) + 3! \Delta(x, y_1) \Delta(x, y_2) J(y_1) J(y_2) \Delta(x, y_3) \Delta(x, y_4) J(y_3) J(y_4) + \dots \right]$$

we dropped all J independent terms, and all (x_i, y_i) are integrated over. In this computation we have used the identity,

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta J(x)} \int d^4y_1 J(y_1) f(y_1) = \int d^4(x - y_1) d^4y_1 f(y_1) = f(x)$$

Graphical representation for w_1



The connected Green's function is

$$G^{(n)}(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \frac{\delta^n \ln W[J]}{\delta J(x_1) \delta J(x_2) \dots \delta J(x_n)} \Big|_{J=0}$$

Thus replacing y_i by external x_i , we get contributions for 4-point, 2-point functions.

Grassmann algebra

For fermion fields in path integral, we need to use anti-commuting c-number functions. This can be realized as elements of Grassmann algebra.

In an n -dimensional Grassmann algebra, the n generators $\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots, \theta_n$ satisfy the anti-commutation relations,

$$\{\theta_i, \theta_j\} = 0 \quad i, j = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

and every element can be expanded in a finite series,

$$P(\theta) = P_0 + P_{i_1}^{(1)} \theta_{i_1} + P_{i_1 i_2}^{(2)} \theta_{i_1} \theta_{i_2} + \dots + P_{i_1 \dots i_n} \theta_{i_1} \dots \theta_{i_n}$$

Simplest case: $n=1$

$$\{\theta, \theta\} = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \theta^2 = 0 \quad P(\theta) = P_0 + \theta P_1$$

We can define the "differentiation" and "integration" as follows,

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} \theta = \theta \frac{\overleftarrow{d}}{d\theta} = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d}{d\theta} P(\theta) = P_1$$

Integration is defined in such a way that it is invariant under translation,

$$\int d\theta P(\theta) = \int d\theta P(\theta + \alpha)$$

α is another Grassmann variable. This implies

$$\int d\theta = 0$$

We can normalize the integral such that

$$\int d\theta \theta = 1$$

Then

$$\int d\theta P(\theta) = P_1 = \frac{d}{d\theta} P(\theta)$$

Consider a change of variable

$$\theta \rightarrow \tilde{\theta} = a + b\theta$$

Since

$$\int d\tilde{\theta} P(\tilde{\theta}) = \frac{d}{d\tilde{\theta}} P(\tilde{\theta}) = P_1$$

$$\int d\theta P(\tilde{\theta}) = \int d\theta [P_0 + \tilde{\theta} P_1] = \int d\theta [P_0 + (a + b\theta) P_1] = b P_1$$

we get

$$\int d\tilde{\theta} P(\tilde{\theta}) = \int d\theta \left(\frac{d\tilde{\theta}}{d\theta} \right)^{-1} P(\tilde{\theta}(\theta))$$

The "Jacobian" is the inverse of that for c-number integration.

Generalize to n-dimensional Grassmann algebra,

$$\frac{d}{d\theta_i} (\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3, \dots, \theta_n) = \delta_{i1} \theta_2 \dots \theta_n - \delta_{i2} \theta_1 \theta_3 \dots \theta_n + \dots + (-1)^{n-1} \delta_{in} \theta_1 \theta_2 \dots \theta_{n-1}$$

$$\{d\theta_i, d\theta_j\} = 0$$

$$\int d\theta_i = 0 \quad \int d\theta_i \theta_j = \delta_{ij}$$

For a change of variables of the form

$$\tilde{\theta}_i = b_{ij} \theta_j$$

we have

$$\int d\tilde{\theta}_n d\tilde{\theta}_{n-1} \dots d\tilde{\theta}_1 P(\tilde{\theta}) = \int d\theta_n \dots d\theta_1 \left[\det \frac{d\tilde{\theta}}{d\theta} \right]^{-1} P(\tilde{\theta}(\theta))$$

Proof:

$$\tilde{\theta}_1 \tilde{\theta}_2 \dots \tilde{\theta}_n = b_{1i_1} b_{2i_2} \dots b_{ni_n} \theta_{i_1} \dots \theta_{i_n}$$

RHS is non-zero only if i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n are all different and we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\theta}_1 \tilde{\theta}_2 \dots \tilde{\theta}_n &= b_{1i_1} b_{2i_2} \dots b_{ni_n} \epsilon_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n} \theta_{i_1} \dots \theta_{i_n} \\ &= (\det b) \theta_1 \theta_2 \theta_3 \dots \theta_n \end{aligned}$$

From the normalization condition,

$$1 = \int d\tilde{\theta}_n d\tilde{\theta}_{n-1} \dots d\tilde{\theta}_1 (\tilde{\theta}_1 \tilde{\theta}_2 \dots \tilde{\theta}_n) = (\det b) \int d\theta_n d\theta_{n-1} \dots d\theta_1 (\theta_1 \theta_2 \theta_3 \dots \theta_n)$$

we see that

$$d\tilde{\theta}_n d\widetilde{\theta_{n-1}} \dots d\tilde{\theta}_1 = (\det b)^{-1} d\theta_1 \dots d\theta_n$$

In field theory, we need Gaussian integral of the form,

$$G(A) \equiv \int d\theta_n \dots d\theta_1 \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(\theta, A\theta)\right) \quad \text{where } (\theta, A\theta) = \theta_i A_{ij} \theta_j$$

First consider $n=2$

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & A_{12} \\ -A_{12} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then

$$G(A) = \int d\theta_2 d\theta_1 \exp(\theta_1 \theta_2 A_{12}) \simeq \int d\theta_2 d\theta_1 (1 + \theta_1 \theta_2 A_{12}) = A_{12} = \sqrt{\det A}$$

generalization to arbitrary n

$$G(A) = \int d\theta_n \dots d\theta_1 \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(\theta, A\theta)\right) = \sqrt{\det A} \quad n \text{ even}$$

and for "complex" Grassmann variables

$$\int d\theta_n d\bar{\theta}_n d\theta_{n-1} d\bar{\theta}_{n-1} \dots d\theta_1 d\bar{\theta}_1 \exp(\bar{\theta}, A\theta) = \det A$$

For the Fermion fields, the generating functional is of the form,

$$W[\eta, \bar{\eta}] = \int [d\psi(x)] [d\bar{\psi}(x)] \exp\left\{i \int d^4x [\mathcal{L}(\psi, \bar{\psi}) + \bar{\psi}\eta + \bar{\eta}\psi]\right\}$$

If \mathcal{L} depends on $\psi, \bar{\psi}$ quadratically

$$\mathcal{L} = (\bar{\psi}, A\psi)$$

then we have

$$W = \int [d\psi(x)] [d\bar{\psi}(x)] \exp\left\{\int d^4x \bar{\psi} A \psi\right\} = \det A$$