

Homotopical poisson reduction of gauge theories

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Abstract

The classical Poisson reduction of a given Lagrangian system with (local) gauge symmetries has to be done before its quantization. We propose here a coordinate free and self-contained mathematical presentation of the covariant Batalin-Vilkovisky Poisson reduction of a general gauge theory. It was explained in physical terms (DeWitt indices) in Henneaux and Teitelboim's book [HT92]. It was studied in coordinates using jet spaces by Barnich-Brandt-Henneaux [BBH95], Stasheff [Sta98], Fulp-Lada-Stasheff [FLS02], among others. The main idea of our approach is to use the functor of point approach to spaces of fields to gain coordinate free geometrical insights on the spaces in play, and to focus on the notion of Noether identities, that is a simple replacement of the notion of gauge symmetry, harder to handle algebraically. Our main results are a precise formulation and understanding of the optimal finiteness hypothesis necessary for the existence of a solution of the classical master equation, and an interpretation of the Batalin-Vilkovisky construction in the setting of homotopical geometry of non-linear partial differential equations.

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Introduction

This paper gives a self contained and coordinate free presentation of the Batalin-Vilkovisky formalism for homotopical Poisson reduction of gauge theories, in the setting of algebraic non-linear analysis, expanding on (and giving full proofs for) the very short presentation given in [Pau10], Section 4. We have tried to be as self-contained as possible so there may be some repetitions. We refer to loc. cit. for further references on the various subjects treated here. We also refer to [Pau11] for a more complete and detailed account of this theory and of its applications in physics.

1 Lagrangian variational problems

For the reader's convenience, we recall shortly the formulation summed-up in [Pau10] and fully described in [Pau11] of general variational problems, and its grounding on functorial geometry. This is certainly useful, but not strictly necessary to understand our final results.

Definition 1.0.1. A *Lagrangian variational problem* is made of the following data:

1. A space M called the parameter space for trajectories,
2. A space C called the configuration space for trajectories,
3. A morphism $\pi : C \rightarrow M$ (often supposed to be surjective),
4. A subspace $H \subset \Gamma(M, C)$ of the space of sections of π

$$\Gamma(M, C) := \{x : M \rightarrow C, \pi \circ x = \text{id}\},$$

called the space of histories,

5. A functional (partial function with a domain of definition)

$$S : H \rightarrow R$$

on histories with values in a space R usually given by \mathbb{R} (or $\mathbb{R}[[\hbar]]$) called the action functional.

The main object of classical physics is the space

$$T = \{x \in H \mid d_x S = 0\}$$

of critical points of the action functional in histories.

Recall from loc. cit. that the word *space* of this definition means essentially a sheaf

$$X : \text{LEGOS}^{op} \rightarrow \text{SETS}$$

on a category LEGOS of geometrical building blocs equipped with a Grothendieck topology τ , also called a *space modeled on* (LEGOS, τ) . Spaces that are locally representable are called *manifolds* or *varieties*. To present also higher gauge theory examples, one has to work with homotopical spaces, but we will not do that here.

We refer to Deligne-Morgan's lectures [DM99] and Manin's book [Man97] for an introduction to super-varieties. The reference [Pau11] gives a complete account of this in the functorial setting. We will work without further comments with the following types of spaces:

1. Smooth spaces (also called diffeologies), modeled on the category $\text{LEGOS} = \text{OPEN}_{\mathcal{C}^\infty}$ of open subsets of \mathbb{R}^n for varying n with smooth maps between them.
2. Smoothly algebraic spaces, modeled on the category $\text{LEGOS} = \text{ALG}_{\mathcal{C}^\infty}^{\text{op}}$ opposite to the category of Lawvere's smooth algebras (see [MR91] and [Pau11]), with its Zariski topology.
3. Smooth super-spaces, modeled on the category $\text{LEGOS} = \text{OPEN}_{\mathcal{C}^\infty}^{\text{s}}$ of smooth open subsets of the super affine space $\mathbb{R}^{n|m}$.
4. Smoothly algebraic super-spaces, modeled on the category $\text{LEGOS} = \text{ALG}_{\mathcal{C}^\infty}^{\text{s}}$ of smooth super-algebras, described in [Pau11].

All these types of spaces are useful (and actually necessary) to describe differential calculus on spaces of maps between smooth super-manifolds in a proper mathematical setting. If M and C are two varieties in the above sense, the space of maps

$$\underline{\text{Hom}}(M, C) : \text{LEGOS}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{SETS}$$

is defined by

$$\underline{\text{Hom}}(M, C)(U) = \text{Hom}(M \times U, C).$$

If $\pi : C \rightarrow M$ is a morphism of varieties, the space $\underline{\Gamma}(M, C)$ is simply the corresponding subspace in $\underline{\text{Hom}}(M, C)$.

2 Algebraic analysis of partial differential equations

In this section, we present the natural coordinate free approach to partial differential equations, in the settings of \mathcal{D} -modules and \mathcal{D} -algebras. We refer to Schapira's survey [Sch10] for an efficient introduction to the general methods of linear algebraic analysis on varieties and to Beilinson and Drinfeld's book [BD04] for the non-linear setting.

This section expands on the article [Pau10], giving more details and explanations. In particular, we use systematically the functor of point approach to spaces of fields, as explained in Section 1 (see also [Pau11] for a complete treatment) without further comments. This means that spaces of superfunctions are treated essentially as usual spaces, and functionals are defined as partially defined functions between (functors of points of) usual spaces. We use Beilinson and Drinfeld's functorial approach [BD04] to non-linear partial differential equations, and we relate this approach to ours. We are also inspired by Vinogradov [Vin01] and Krasilshchik and Verbovetsky [KV98].

2.1 \mathcal{D} -modules and linear partial differential equations

We refer to Schneiders' review [Sch94] and Kashiwara's book [Kas03] for an introduction to \mathcal{D} -modules. We just recall here basic results, that are necessary for our treatment of non-linear partial differential equations in Section 2.3.

Let M be a smooth variety of dimension n and \mathcal{D} be the algebra of differential operators on M . Recall that locally on M , one can write an operator $P \in \mathcal{D}$ as a finite sum

$$P = \sum_{\alpha} a_{\alpha} \partial^{\alpha}$$

with $a_\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_M$,

$$\partial = (\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n) : \mathcal{O}_M \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_M^n$$

the universal derivation and α some multi-indices.

To write down the equation $Pf = 0$ with f in an \mathcal{O}_M -module \mathcal{S} , one needs to define the universal derivation $\partial : \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}^n$. This is equivalent to giving \mathcal{S} the structure of a \mathcal{D} -module. The solution space of the equation with values in \mathcal{S} is then given by

$$\text{Sol}_P(\mathcal{S}) := \{f \in \mathcal{S}, Pf = 0\}.$$

Remark that

$$\text{Sol}_P : \text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \text{VECT}_{\mathbb{R}_M}$$

is a functor that one can think of as representing the space of solutions of P . Denote \mathcal{M}_P the cokernel of the \mathcal{D} -linear map

$$\mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{P} \mathcal{D}$$

given by right multiplication by P . Applying the functor $\mathcal{H}om_{\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D})}(-, \mathcal{S})$ to the exact sequence

$$\mathcal{D} \xrightarrow{P} \mathcal{D} \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}_P \rightarrow 0,$$

we get the exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}om_{\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D})}(\mathcal{M}_P, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S} \xrightarrow{P} \mathcal{S},$$

which gives a natural isomorphism

$$\text{Sol}_P(\mathcal{S}) = \mathcal{H}om_{\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D})}(\mathcal{M}_P, \mathcal{S}).$$

This means that the \mathcal{D} -module \mathcal{M}_P represents the solution space of P , so that the category of \mathcal{D} -modules is a convenient setting for the functor of point approach to linear partial differential equations.

Remark that it is even better to consider the derived solution space

$$\mathbb{R}\text{Sol}_P(\mathcal{S}) := \mathbb{R}\mathcal{H}om_{\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D})}(\mathcal{M}_P, \mathcal{S})$$

because it encodes also information on the inhomogeneous equation

$$Pf = g.$$

Indeed, applying $\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(-, \mathcal{S})$ to the exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_P \rightarrow \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_P \rightarrow 0$$

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{N}_P \rightarrow \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_P \rightarrow 0$$

where \mathcal{I}_P is the image of P and \mathcal{N}_P is its kernel, one gets the exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{M}_P, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{I}_P, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}xt_{\mathcal{D}}^1(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow 0$$

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{I}_P, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{N}_P, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}xt_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{I}_P, \mathcal{S}) \rightarrow 0$$

If $Pf = g$, then $QPf = 0$ for $Q \in \mathcal{D}$ implies $Qg = 0$. The second exact sequence implies that this system, called the algebraic compatibility condition for the inhomogeneous equation $Pf = g$ is represented by the \mathcal{D} -module \mathcal{I}_P , because

$$\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{I}_P, \mathcal{S}) = \{g \in \mathcal{S}, Q.g = 0, \forall Q \in \mathcal{N}_P\}.$$

The first exact sequence shows that $\mathcal{E}xt_{\mathcal{D}}^1(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{S})$ are classes of vectors $f \in \mathcal{S}$ satisfying the algebraic compatibility conditions modulo those for which the system is truly compatible. Moreover, for $k \geq 1$, one has

$$\mathcal{E}xt_{\mathcal{D}}^1(\mathcal{I}_P, \mathcal{S}) \cong \mathcal{E}xt_{\mathcal{D}}^{k+1}(\mathcal{M}_P, \mathcal{S})$$

so that all the $\mathcal{E}xt_{\mathcal{D}}^k(\mathcal{M}_P, \mathcal{S})$ give interesting information about the differential operator P .

Recall that the sub-algebra \mathcal{D} of $\text{End}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathcal{O})$, is generated by the left multiplication by functions in \mathcal{O}_M and by the derivation induced by vector fields in Θ_M . There is a natural right action of \mathcal{D} on the \mathcal{O} -module Ω_M^n by

$$\omega.\partial = -L_{\partial}\omega$$

with L_{∂} the Lie derivative.

There is a tensor product in the category $\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D})$ given by

$$\mathcal{M} \otimes \mathcal{N} := \mathcal{M} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{N}.$$

The \mathcal{D} -module structure on the tensor product is given on vector fields $\partial \in \Theta_M$ by Leibniz's rule

$$\partial(m \otimes n) = (\partial m) \otimes n + m \otimes (\partial n).$$

There is also an internal homomorphism object $\mathcal{H}om(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N})$ given by the \mathcal{O} -module $\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{N})$ equipped with the action of derivations $\partial \in \Theta_M$ by

$$\partial(f)(m) = \partial(f(m)) - f(\partial m).$$

An important system is given by the \mathcal{D} -module of functions \mathcal{O} , that can be presented by the De Rham complex

$$\mathcal{D} \otimes \Theta_M \rightarrow \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{O} \rightarrow 0,$$

meaning that \mathcal{O} , as a \mathcal{D} -module, is the quotient of \mathcal{D} by the sub- \mathcal{D} -module generated by vector fields. The family of generators ∂_i of the kernel of $\mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$ form a regular sequence, i.e., for every $k = 1, \dots, n$, ∂_k is not a zero divisor in $\mathcal{D}/(\partial_1, \dots, \partial_{k-1})$ (where $\partial_{-1} = 0$ by convention). This implies (see Lang [Lan93], XXI §4 for more details on Koszul resolutions) the following:

Proposition 2.1.1. *The natural map*

$$\text{Sym}_{(\text{MOD}_{dg}(\mathcal{D}), \otimes)}([\mathcal{D} \otimes \Theta_M \rightarrow \mathcal{D}]) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}$$

is a quasi-isomorphism of dg- \mathcal{D} -modules. The left hand side gives a free resolution of \mathcal{O} as a \mathcal{D} -module called the universal Spencer complex.

Proposition 2.1.2. *The functor*

$$\mathcal{M} \mapsto \Omega_M^n \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{M}$$

induces an equivalence of categories between the categories $\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D})$ and $\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}^{op})$ of left and right \mathcal{D} -modules whose quasi-inverse is

$$\mathcal{N} \mapsto \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_M}(\Omega_M^n, \mathcal{N}).$$

The monoidal structure induced on $\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}^{op})$ by this equivalence is denoted $\otimes^!$.

Definition 2.1.1. Let \mathcal{S} be a right \mathcal{D} -module. The *De Rham functor* with values in \mathcal{S} is the functor

$$\text{DR}_{\mathcal{S}} : \text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \text{VECT}_{\mathbb{R}_M}$$

that sends a left \mathcal{D} -module to

$$\text{DR}_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathcal{M}) := \mathcal{S} \otimes_{\mathcal{D}}^{\mathbb{L}} \mathcal{M}.$$

The *De Rham functor* with values in $\mathcal{S} = \Omega_M^n$ is denoted DR and simply called the De Rham functor.

One also denotes $\text{DR}_{\mathcal{S}}^r(\mathcal{M}) = \mathcal{M} \otimes_{\mathcal{D}}^{\mathbb{L}} \mathcal{S}$ if \mathcal{S} is a fixed left \mathcal{D} -module and \mathcal{M} is a varying right \mathcal{D} -module, and $\text{DR}^r := \text{DR}_{\mathcal{O}}^r$.

Proposition 2.1.3. *The natural map*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \Omega_M^n \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D} & \rightarrow & \Omega_M^n \\ \omega \otimes Q & \mapsto & \omega(Q) \end{array}$$

extends to a \mathcal{D}^{op} -linear quasi-isomorphism

$$\Omega_M^* \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}[n] \xrightarrow{\sim} \Omega_M^n.$$

Proof. This follows from the fact that the above map is induced by tensoring the Spencer complex by Ω_M^n , and by the internal product isomorphism

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Sym}_{\text{MOD}_{dg}(\mathcal{D})}([\mathcal{D} \otimes_{-1} \Theta_M \rightarrow \mathcal{D} \otimes_0 \mathcal{O}]) \otimes \Omega_M^n & \longrightarrow & (\Omega_M^* \otimes \mathcal{D}[n], d) \\ X \otimes \omega & \longmapsto & i_X \omega. \end{array}$$

□

We will see that in the super setting, this proposition can be taken as a definition of the right \mathcal{D} -modules of volume forms, called Berezinians.

The \mathcal{D} -modules we will use are usually not \mathcal{O} -coherent but only \mathcal{D} -coherent. The right duality to be used in the monoidal category $(\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}), \otimes)$ to get a biduality statement for coherent \mathcal{D} -modules is thus not the internal duality $\underline{\text{Hom}}_{\mathcal{O}}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{O})$ but the derived dual \mathcal{D}^{op} -module

$$\mathbb{D}(\mathcal{M}) := \mathbb{R}\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{D}).$$

The non-derived dual works well for projective \mathcal{D} -modules, but most of the \mathcal{D} -modules used in field theory are only coherent, so that one often uses the derived duality operation. We now describe the relation (based on biduality) between the De Rham and duality functors.

Proposition 2.1.4. *Let \mathcal{S} be a coherent \mathcal{D}^{op} -module and \mathcal{M} be a coherent \mathcal{D} -module. There is a natural quasi-isomorphism*

$$\mathbb{R}\mathrm{Sol}_{\mathbb{D}(\mathcal{M})}(\mathcal{S}) := \mathbb{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}^{op}}(\mathbb{D}(\mathcal{M}), \mathcal{S}) \cong \mathrm{DR}_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathcal{M}),$$

where $\mathbb{D}(\mathcal{M}) := \mathbb{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{D})$ is the \mathcal{D}^{op} -module dual of \mathcal{M} .

The use of \mathcal{D} -duality will be problematic in the study of covariant operations (like Lie bracket on local vector fields). We will come back to this in Section 2.5.

2.2 Supervarieties and their Berezinians

We refer to Penkov's article [Pen83] for a complete study of the Berezinian in the \mathcal{D} -module setting and to Deligne-Morgan's lectures [DM99] and Manin's book [Man97] for more details on super-varieties. We also refer to [Pau11] for a treatment of smooth super-geometry making a systematic use of functors of points.

Let M be a super-variety of dimension $n|m$ and denote Ω_M^1 the \mathcal{O}_M -module of differential forms on M and Ω_M^* the super- \mathcal{O}_M -module of higher differential forms on M , defined as the exterior (i.e., odd symmetric) power

$$\Omega_M^* := \wedge^* \Omega_M^1 := \mathrm{Sym}_{\mathrm{MOD}(\mathcal{O}_M)} \Omega_M^1[1].$$

Remark that Ω_M^* is strictly speaking a $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -bigraded \mathbb{R} -module, but we can see it as a $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -graded module because its diagonal $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -grading identifies with $\mathrm{Sym}_{\mathrm{MOD}(\mathcal{O}_M)} T\Omega_M^1$, where $T : \mathrm{MOD}(\mathcal{O}_M) \rightarrow \mathrm{MOD}(\mathcal{O}_M)$ is the grading exchange. Thus from now on, we consider Ω_M^* as a mere $\mathbb{Z}/2$ -graded module.

The super version of Proposition 2.1.3 can be taken as a definition of the Berezinian, as a complex of \mathcal{D} -modules, up to quasi-isomorphism.

Definition 2.2.1. The *Berezinian* of M is defined in the derived category of \mathcal{D}_M -modules by the formula

$$\mathrm{Ber}_M := \Omega_M^* \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}[n].$$

The complex of integral forms $I_{*,M}$ is defined by

$$I_{*,M} := \mathbb{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathrm{Ber}_M, \mathrm{Ber}_M).$$

The following proposition (see [Pen83], 1.6.3) gives a description of the Berezinian as a \mathcal{D} -module.

Proposition 2.2.1. *The Berezinian complex is concentrated in degree 0, and equal there to*

$$\mathrm{Ber}_M := \mathcal{E}xt_{\mathcal{D}}^n(\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{D}).$$

It is moreover projective of rank 1 over \mathcal{O} .

Proof. This follows from the fact that

$$\wedge^* \Theta_M \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}[-n] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$$

is a projective resolution such that

$$\mathrm{Ber}_M := \Omega_M^* \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}[n] = \mathbb{R}\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}}(\wedge^* \Theta_M \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}[-n], \mathcal{D})$$

and this De Rham complex is exact (Koszul resolution of a regular module) except in degree zero where it is equal to

$$\mathcal{E}xt_{\mathcal{D}}^n(\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{D}).$$

□

Proposition 2.2.2. *Suppose M is a super-variety of dimension $m|n$. The Berezinian is a locally free \mathcal{O} -module of rank 1 on M with generator denoted $D(dx_1, \dots, dx_m, d\theta_1, \dots, d\theta_n)$. If $f : M \rightarrow M$ is an isomorphism of super-varieties (change of coordinate) with local tangent map $D_x f$ described by the even matrix*

$$D_x f = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix}$$

acting on the real vector space

$$T_x M = (T_x M)^0 \oplus (T_x M)^1,$$

the action of $D_x f$ on $D(dx_1, \dots, dx_m)$ is given by the Berezin determinant

$$\text{Ber}(D_x f) := \det(A - BD^{-1}C) \det(D)^{-1}.$$

Proof. This is a classical result (see [DM99] or [Man97]).

□

In the super-setting, the equivalence of left and right \mathcal{D} -modules is given by the functor

$$\mathcal{M} \mapsto \mathcal{M} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \text{Ber}_M$$

that twists by the Berezinian right \mathcal{D} -module, which can be computed by using the definition

$$\text{Ber}_M := \Omega_M^* \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}[n]$$

and passing to degree 0 cohomology.

A more explicit description of the complex of integral forms (up to quasi-isomorphism) is given by

$$I_{*,M} := \mathbb{R}\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{Ber}_M, \text{Ber}_M) \cong \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\Omega_M^* \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}[n], \text{Ber}_M)$$

so that we get

$$I_{*,M} \cong \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}}(\Omega_M^*[n], \text{Ber}_M) \cong \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}}(\Omega_M^*[n], \mathcal{O}) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \text{Ber}_M$$

and in particular $I_{n,M} \cong \text{Ber}_M$.

Remark that Proposition 2.1.3 shows that if M is a non-super variety, then Ber_M is quasi-isomorphic with Ω_M^n , and this implies that

$$I_{*,M} \cong \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}}(\Omega_M^*[n], \mathcal{O}) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \text{Ber}_M \cong \wedge^* \Theta_M \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \Omega_M^n[-n] \xrightarrow{i} \Omega_M^*,$$

where i is the internal product homomorphism. This implies the isomorphism

$$I_{*,M} \cong \Omega_M^*,$$

so that in the purely even case, integral forms essentially identify with ordinary differential forms.

The main use of the module of Berezinians is given by its usefulness in the definition of integration on super-varieties. We refer to Manin [Man97], Chapter 4 for the following proposition.

Proposition 2.2.3. *Let M be a super-variety, with underlying variety $|M|$ and orientation sheaf $\text{or}_{|M|}$. There is a natural integration map*

$$\int_M [dt^1 \dots dt^n d\theta^1 \dots d\theta^q] : \Gamma_c(M, \text{Ber}_M \otimes \text{or}_{|M|}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

given in a local chart (i.e., an open subset $U \subset \mathbb{R}^{n|m}$) for $g = \sum_I g_I \theta^I \in \mathcal{O}$ by

$$\int_U [dt^1 \dots dt^n d\theta^1 \dots d\theta^q] g := \int_{|U|} g_{1, \dots, 1}(t) d^n t.$$

We finish by describing the inverse and direct image functors in the supergeometric setting, following the presentation of Penkov in [Pen83].

Let $g : X \rightarrow Y$ be a morphism of supermanifolds. Recall that for \mathcal{F} a sheaf of \mathcal{O}_Y -modules on Y , we denote $g^{-1}\mathcal{F}$ the sheaf on X defined by

$$g^{-1}\mathcal{F}(U) := \lim_{g(U) \subset V} \mathcal{F}(V).$$

The $(\mathcal{D}_X, g^{-1}\mathcal{D}_Y)$ module of relative inverse differential operators is defined as

$$\mathcal{D}_{X \rightarrow Y} := \mathcal{O}_X \otimes_{g^{-1}\mathcal{O}_Y} g^{-1}\mathcal{D}_Y.$$

The $(g^{-1}\mathcal{D}_Y, \mathcal{D}_X)$ module of relative direct differential operators is defined as

$$\mathcal{D}_{X \leftarrow Y} := \text{Ber}_X \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} \mathcal{D}_{X \rightarrow Y} \otimes_{g^{-1}\mathcal{O}_Y} (\text{Ber}_Y^*).$$

The inverse image functor of \mathcal{D} -modules is defined by

$$g_{\mathcal{D}}^*(-) := \mathcal{D}_{X \rightarrow Y} \overset{\mathbb{L}}{\otimes}_{g^{-1}\mathcal{O}_Y} g^{-1}(-) : D(\mathcal{D}_Y) \rightarrow D(\mathcal{D}_X).$$

If $g : X \hookrightarrow Y$ is a locally closed embedding, the direct image functor is defined by

$$g_*^{\mathcal{D}}(-) := \mathcal{D}_{Y \leftarrow X} \overset{\mathbb{L}}{\otimes}_{\mathcal{D}_X} (-) : D(\mathcal{D}_X) \rightarrow D(\mathcal{D}_Y).$$

More generally, for any morphism $g : X \rightarrow Y$, one defines

$$g_*^{\mathcal{D}}(-) := \mathbb{R}f_*(- \overset{\mathbb{L}}{\otimes}_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{D}_{X \rightarrow Y}).$$

2.3 Differential algebras and non-linear partial differential equations

In this section, we will use systematically the language of differential calculus in symmetric monoidal categories, and the functor of points approach to spaces of fields, described in [Pau10]. We restrict our presentation to polynomial partial differential equations with functional coefficients, but our results also apply to smooth partial differential equations (for a full treatment, that would be too long for this article, see [Pau11]). We specialize the situation to the symmetric monoidal category

$$(\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}_M), \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_M})$$

of left \mathcal{D}_M -module on a given (super-)variety M . Recall that there is an equivalence

$$(\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}_M), \otimes) \rightarrow (\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}_M^{op}), \otimes^!)$$

given by tensoring with the $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}^{op})$ -modules Ber_M and $\text{Ber}_M^{-1} = \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}}(\text{Ber}_M, \mathcal{O})$. The unit objects for the two monoidal structures are \mathcal{O} and Ber_M respectively. If \mathcal{M} is a \mathcal{D} -module (resp. a \mathcal{D}^{op} -module), we denote $\mathcal{M}^r := \mathcal{M} \otimes \text{Ber}_M$ (resp. $\mathcal{M}^\ell := \mathcal{M} \otimes \text{Ber}_M^{-1}$) the corresponding \mathcal{D}^{op} -module (resp. \mathcal{D} -module).

Recall that if $P \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ is a polynomial, one can study the solution space

$$\underline{\text{Sol}}_{P=0}(A) = \{x \in A, P(x) = 0\}$$

of P with values in any commutative unital ring. Indeed, in any such ring, one has a sum, a multiplication, a zero and a unit that fulfill the necessary compatibilities to be able to write down the polynomial. One can thus think of the mathematical object given by the category of commutative unital rings as solving the mathematical problem of giving a natural setting for a coordinate free study of polynomial equations. This solution space is representable, meaning that there is a functorial isomorphism

$$\underline{\text{Sol}}_{P=0}(-) \cong \text{Hom}_{\text{RINGS}_{cu}}(\mathbb{Z}[X]/(P), -).$$

This shows that the solution space of an equation essentially determine the equation itself. Remark that the polynomial P lives in the free algebra $\mathbb{Z}[X]$ on the given variable that was used to write it.

Suppose now given the bundle $\pi_1 : C = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} = M$ of smooth varieties. We would like to study an algebraic non-linear partial differential equation

$$F(t, \partial_t^i x) = 0$$

that applies to sections $x \in \Gamma(M, C)$, that are functions $x : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. It is given by a polynomial $F(t, x_i) \in \mathbb{R}[t, \{x_i\}_{i \geq 0}]$. The solution space of such an equation can be studied with values in any \mathcal{O} -algebra \mathcal{A} equipped with an action of the differentiation ∂_t (that fulfills a Leibniz rule for multiplication), the basic example being given by the algebra $\text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C) := \mathbb{R}[t, \{x_i\}_{i \geq 0}]$ above with the action $\partial_t x_i = x_{i+1}$. The solution space of the given partial differential equation is then given by the functor

$$\underline{\text{Sol}}_{\mathcal{D}, F=0}(\mathcal{A}) := \{x \in \mathcal{A}, F(t, \partial_t^i x) = 0\}$$

defined on all \mathcal{O}_C -algebras equipped with an action of ∂_t . To be more precise, we define the category of \mathcal{D} -algebras, that solves the mathematical problem of finding a natural setting for a coordinate free study of polynomial non-linear partial differential equations with smooth super-function coefficients.

Definition 2.3.1. Let M be a variety. A \mathcal{D}_M -algebra is an algebra \mathcal{A} in the monoidal category of \mathcal{D}_M -modules. More precisely, it is an \mathcal{O}_M -algebra equipped with an action

$$\Theta_M \otimes \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

of vector fields on M such that the product in \mathcal{A} fulfills Leibniz's rule

$$\partial(fg) = \partial(f)g + f\partial(g).$$

Recall from [Pau11] that one can extend the jet functor to the category of smooth \mathcal{D} -algebras (and even to smooth super-algebras), to extend the forthcoming results to the study of non-polynomial smooth partial differential equations. The forgetful functor

$$\text{Forget} : \text{ALG}_{\mathcal{D}} \rightarrow \text{ALG}_{\mathcal{O}}$$

has an adjoint (free \mathcal{D} -algebra on a given \mathcal{O} -algebra)

$$\text{Jet} : \text{ALG}_{\mathcal{O}} \rightarrow \text{ALG}_{\mathcal{D}}$$

called the (infinite) jet functor. It fulfills the universal property that for every \mathcal{D} -algebra \mathcal{B} , the natural map

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{ALG}_{\mathcal{O}}}(\mathcal{O}_C, \mathcal{B}) \cong \text{Hom}_{\text{ALG}_{\mathcal{D}}}(\text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C), \mathcal{B})$$

induced by the natural map $\mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)$ is a bijection.

Using the jet functor, one can show that the solution space of the non-linear partial differential equation

$$F(t, \partial_t^i x) = 0$$

of the above example is representable, meaning that there is a natural isomorphism of functors on \mathcal{D} -algebras

$$\text{Sol}_{\mathcal{D}, F=0}(-) \cong \text{Hom}_{\text{ALG}_{\mathcal{D}}}(\text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)/(F), -)$$

where (F) denotes the \mathcal{D} -ideal generated by F . This shows that the jet functor plays the role of the polynomial algebra in the differential algebraic setting. If $\pi : C \rightarrow M$ is a bundle, we define

$$\text{Jet}(C) := \underline{\text{Spec}}(\text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)).$$

One can summarize the above discussion by the following array:

Equation	Polynomial	Partial differential
Formula	$P(x) = 0$	$F(t, \partial^\alpha x) = 0$
Naive variable	$x \in \mathbb{R}$	$x \in \text{Hom}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$
Algebraic structure	commutative unitary ring A	\mathcal{D}_M -algebra A
Free structure	$P \in \mathbb{R}[x]$	$F \in \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)$
Solution space	$\{x \in A, P(x) = 0\}$	$\{x \in A, F(t, \partial^\alpha x) = 0\}$

Example 2.3.1. If $\pi : C = \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n = M$ is a trivial bundle of dimension $m+n$ over M of dimension n , with algebra of coordinates $\mathcal{O}_C := \mathbb{R}[\underline{t}, \underline{x}]$ for $\underline{t} = \{t^i\}_{i=1, \dots, n}$ and $\underline{x} = \{x^j\}_{j=1, \dots, m}$ given in multi-index notation, its jet algebra is

$$\text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C) := \mathbb{R}[\underline{t}, \underline{x}_\alpha]$$

where $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^m$ is a multi-index representing the derivation index. The \mathcal{D} -module structure is given by making $\frac{\partial}{\partial t^i}$ act through the total derivative

$$D_i := \frac{\partial}{\partial t^i} + \sum_{\alpha, k} x_{i\alpha}^k \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\alpha^k}$$

where $i\alpha$ denotes the multi-index α increased by one at the i -th coordinate. For example, if $\pi : C = \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} = M$, one gets

$$D_1 = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + x_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + x_2 \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} + \dots$$

Definition 2.3.2. Let $\pi : C \rightarrow M$ be a bundle. A *partial differential equation* on the space $\Gamma(M, C)$ of sections of π is given by a quotient \mathcal{D}_M -algebra

$$p : \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

of the jet algebra of the \mathcal{O}_M -algebra \mathcal{O}_C . Its *local space of solutions* is the \mathcal{D} -space whose points with values in $\text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)$ - \mathcal{D} -algebras \mathcal{B} are given by

$$\underline{\text{Sol}}_{\mathcal{D},(\mathcal{A},p)} := \{x \in \mathcal{B} \mid f(x) = 0, \forall f \in \text{Ker}(p)\}$$

The *non-local space of solutions* of the partial differential equation (\mathcal{A}, p) is the subspace of $\underline{\Gamma}(M, C)$ given by

$$\underline{\text{Sol}}_{(\mathcal{A},p)} := \{x \in \underline{\Gamma}(M, C) \mid (j_\infty x)^* L = 0 \text{ for all } L \in \text{Ker}(p)\}$$

where $(j_\infty x)^* : \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_M$ is (dual to) the Jet of x . Equivalently, $x \in \underline{\text{Sol}}_{(\mathcal{A},p)}$ if and only if there is a natural factorization

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C) & \xrightarrow{(j_\infty x)^*} & \mathcal{O}_M \\ & \searrow p & \uparrow \\ & & \mathcal{A} \end{array}$$

of the jet of x through p .

2.4 Local functionals and local differential forms

The natural functional invariant associated to a given \mathcal{D} -algebra \mathcal{A} is given by the De Rham complex

$$\text{DR}(\mathcal{A}) := (I_{*,M} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}[n]) \overset{\mathbb{L}}{\otimes}_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{A}$$

of its underlying \mathcal{D} -module with coefficient in the universal complex of integral forms $I_{*,M} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}[n]$, and its cohomology $h^*(\text{DR}(\mathcal{A}))$. We will denote

$$h(\mathcal{A}) := h^0(\text{DR}(\mathcal{A})) = \text{Ber}_M \otimes_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{A}$$

where Ber_M here denotes the Berezinian object (and not only the complex concentrated in degree 0). If M is a non-super variety, one gets

$$\text{DR}(\mathcal{A}) = \Omega_M^n \overset{\mathbb{L}}{\otimes}_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{A} \quad \text{and} \quad h(\mathcal{A}) = \Omega_M^n \otimes_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{A}.$$

The De Rham cohomology is given by the cohomology of the complex

$$\text{DR}(\mathcal{A}) = I_{*,M}[n] \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_M} \mathcal{A},$$

which gives

$$\text{DR}(\mathcal{A}) = \wedge^* \Omega_M^1[n] \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_M} \mathcal{A}$$

in the non super case.

If \mathcal{A} is a jet algebra of section of a bundle $\pi : C \rightarrow M$ with basis a classical manifold, the De Rham complex identifies with a sub-complex of the usual De Rham complex of $\wedge^* \Omega_{\mathcal{A}/\mathbb{R}}^1$ of \mathcal{A} viewed as an ordinary ring. One can think of classes in $h^*(\text{DR}(\mathcal{A}))$ as defining a special class of (partially defined) functionals on the space $\underline{\Gamma}(M, C)$, by integration along singular homology cycles with compact support.

Definition 2.4.1. Let M be a super-variety of dimension $p|q$. For every smooth simplex Δ_n , we denote $\Delta_{n|q}$ the super-simplex obtained by adjoining q odd variables to Δ_n . The *singular homology of M with compact support* is defined as the homology $H_{*,c}(M)$ of the simplicial set

$$\text{Hom}(\Delta_{\bullet|q}, M)$$

of super-simplices with compact support condition on the body and non-degeneracy condition on odd variables.

Recall that, following [Pau11], a functional $f \in \text{Hom}(\underline{\Gamma}(M, C), \mathbb{A}^1)$ on a space of fields denotes in general, by definition, only a partially defined function (with a well-chosen domain of definition).

Proposition 2.4.1. *Let $\pi : C \rightarrow M$ be a bundle and \mathcal{A} be the \mathcal{D}_M -algebra $\text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)$. There is a natural integration pairing*

$$\begin{aligned} H_{*,c}(M) \times h^{*-n}(\text{DR}(\mathcal{A})) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(\underline{\Gamma}(M, C), \mathbb{A}^1) \\ (\Sigma, \omega) &\mapsto [x \mapsto \int_{\Sigma} (j_{\infty} x)^* \omega] \end{aligned}$$

where $j_{\infty} x : M \rightarrow \text{Jet}(C)$ is the Taylor series of a given section x . If $p : \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ is a given partial differential equation (such that \mathcal{A} is \mathcal{D} -smooth) on $\Gamma(M, C)$ one also gets an integration pairing

$$\begin{aligned} H_{*,c}(M) \times h^{*-n}(\text{DR}(\mathcal{A})) &\rightarrow \text{Hom}(\underline{\text{Sol}}_{(\mathcal{A}, p)}, \mathbb{A}^1) \\ (\Sigma, \omega) &\mapsto S_{\Sigma, \omega} : [x(t, u) \mapsto \int_{\Sigma} (j_{\infty} x)^* \omega]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Remark that the values of the above pairing are given by partially defined functions, with a domain of definition given by Lebesgue's domination condition to make $t \mapsto \int_{\Sigma} (j_{\infty} x_t)^* \omega$ a smooth function of t if x_t is a parametrized trajectory. The only point to check is that the integral is independent of the chosen cohomology class. This follows from the fact that the integral of a total divergence on a closed subspace is zero, by Stokes' formula (the super case follows from the classical one). \square

Definition 2.4.2. A functional $S_{\Sigma, \omega} : \underline{\Gamma}(M, C) \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$ or $S_{\Sigma, \omega} : \underline{\text{Sol}}_{(\mathcal{A}, p)} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$ obtained by the above constructed pairing is called a *quasi-local functional*. We denote

$$\mathcal{O}^{qloc} \subset \mathcal{O} := \underline{\text{Hom}}(\underline{\Gamma}(M, C), \mathbb{A}^1)$$

the space of quasi-local functionals.

Remark that for $k \leq n$, the classes in $h^{*-k}(\text{DR}(\mathcal{A}))$ are usually called (higher) conservation laws for the partial differential equation $p : \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$.

If \mathcal{A} is a \mathcal{D} -algebra, i.e., an algebra in $(\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}), \otimes_{\mathcal{O}})$, one defines, as usual, an \mathcal{A} -module of differential forms as an \mathcal{A} -module $\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1$ in the monoidal category $(\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}), \otimes)$, equipped with a (\mathcal{D} -linear) derivation $d : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1$ such for every \mathcal{A} -module \mathcal{M} in $(\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}), \otimes)$, the natural map

$$\text{Hom}_{\text{MOD}(\mathcal{A})}(\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1, \mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \text{Der}_{\text{MOD}(\mathcal{A})}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{M})$$

given by $f \mapsto f \circ d$ is a bijection.

Remark that the natural \mathcal{O} -linear map

$$\Omega_{\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{O}}^1 \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1$$

is an isomorphism of \mathcal{O} -modules. The \mathcal{D} -module structure on $\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1$ can be seen as an Ehresman connection, i.e., a section of the natural projection

$$\Omega_{\mathcal{A}/\mathbb{R}}^1 \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathcal{A}/M}^1.$$

Example 2.4.1. In the case of the jet space algebra $\mathcal{A} = \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)$ for $C = \mathbb{R}^{n+m} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n = M$, a basis of $\Omega_{\mathcal{A}/M}^1$ compatible with this section is given by the Cartan forms

$$\theta_{\alpha}^i = dx_{\alpha}^i - \sum_{j=1}^n x_{j\alpha}^i dt^j.$$

The De Rham differential $d : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1$ in the \mathcal{D} -algebra setting and its De Rham cohomology (often denoted d^V in the literature), can then be computed by expressing the usual De Rham differential $d : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \Omega_{\mathcal{A}/M}^1$ in the basis of Cartan forms.

As explained in Section 2.1, the right notion of finiteness and duality in the monoidal category of \mathcal{D} -modules is not the \mathcal{O} -finite presentation and duality but the \mathcal{D} -finite presentation and duality. This extends to the category of \mathcal{A} -modules in $(\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}), \otimes)$. The following notion of smoothness differs from the usual one (in general symmetric monoidal categories) because we impose the $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -finite presentation, where $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}] := \mathcal{A} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}$, to have good duality properties.

Definition 2.4.3. The \mathcal{D} -algebra \mathcal{A} is called *\mathcal{D} -smooth* if $\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1$ is a projective \mathcal{A} -module of finite $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -presentation in the category of \mathcal{D} -modules, and \mathcal{A} is a (geometrically) finitely generated \mathcal{D} -algebra, meaning that there exists an \mathcal{O} -module \mathcal{M} of finite type, and an ideal $\mathcal{I} \subset \text{Sym}_{\mathcal{O}}(\mathcal{M})$ and a surjection

$$\text{Jet}(\text{Sym}_{\mathcal{O}}(\mathcal{M})/\mathcal{I}) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{A}.$$

Proposition 2.4.2. *If $\mathcal{A} = \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)$ for $\pi : C \rightarrow M$ a smooth map of varieties, then \mathcal{A} is \mathcal{D} -smooth and the $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module $\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1$ is isomorphic to*

$$\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1 \cong \Omega_{C/M}^1 \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_C} \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}].$$

In particular, if $\pi : C = \mathbb{R} \times M \rightarrow M$ is the trivial bundle with fiber coordinate u , one gets the free $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module of rank one

$$\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1 \cong \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]^{\{\{du\}\}}$$

generated by the form du .

2.5 Local vector fields and local operations

We refer to Beilinson-Drinfeld's book [BD04] for a complete and axiomatic study of general pseudo-tensor categories. We will only present here the tools from this theory needed to understand local functional calculus. Local operations are new operations on \mathcal{D} -modules, that induce ordinary multilinear operations on their De Rham cohomology. We start by explaining the main motivation for introducing these new operations when one does geometry with \mathcal{D} -algebras.

We now define the notion of local vector fields.

Definition 2.5.1. Let \mathcal{A} be a smooth \mathcal{D} -algebra. The $\mathcal{A}^r[\mathcal{D}^{op}]$ -module of *local vector fields* is defined by

$$\Theta_{\mathcal{A}} := \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]}(\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1, \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]),$$

where $\mathcal{A}^r[\mathcal{D}^{op}] := \mathcal{A}^r \otimes_{\text{Ber}_M} \mathcal{D}^{op}$ acts on the right through the isomorphism

$$\mathcal{A}^r[\mathcal{D}^{op}] \cong (\mathcal{A} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \text{Ber}_M) \otimes_{\text{Ber}_M} \mathcal{D}^{op} \cong \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}^{op}].$$

Remark now that in ordinary differential geometry, one way to define vector fields on a variety M is to take the \mathcal{O}_M -dual

$$\Theta_M := \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_M}(\Omega_M^1, \mathcal{O}_M)$$

of the module of differential forms. The Lie bracket

$$[\cdot, \cdot] : \Theta_M \otimes \Theta_M \rightarrow \Theta_M$$

of two vector fields X and Y can then be defined from the universal derivation $d : \mathcal{O}_M \rightarrow \Omega_M^1$, as the only vector field $[X, Y]$ on M such that for every function $f \in \mathcal{O}_M$, one has the equality of derivations

$$[X, Y].f = X.i_Y(df) - Y.i_X(df).$$

In the case of a \mathcal{D} -algebra \mathcal{A} , this construction does not work directly because the duality used to define local vector fields is not the \mathcal{A} -linear duality (because it doesn't have good finiteness properties) but the $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -linear duality. This explains why the Lie bracket of local vector fields and their action on \mathcal{A} are new kinds of operations of the form

$$[\cdot, \cdot] : \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \boxtimes \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \Delta_* \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}$$

and

$$L : \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \boxtimes \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \Delta_* \mathcal{A}$$

where $\Delta : M \rightarrow M \times M$ is the diagonal map and the box product is defined by

$$\mathcal{M} \boxtimes \mathcal{N} := p_1^* \mathcal{M} \otimes p_2^* \mathcal{N}$$

for $p_1, p_2 : M \times M \rightarrow M$ the two projections. One way to understand these construction is by looking at the natural injection

$$\Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \hookrightarrow \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}])$$

given by sending $X : \Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ to $X \circ d : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$. The theory of \mathcal{D} -modules tells us that the datum of this map is equivalent to the datum of a $\mathcal{D}_{M \times M}^{op}$ -linear map

$$L : \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \boxtimes \mathcal{A}^r \rightarrow \Delta_* \mathcal{A}^r.$$

Similarly, the above formula

$$[X, Y].f = X.i_Y(df) - Y.i_X(df)$$

of ordinary differential geometry makes sense in local computations only if we see $\Theta_{\mathcal{A}}$ as contained in $\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}])$ (and not in $\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A})$, contrary to what is usually done), so that we must think of the bracket as a morphism of sheaves

$$\Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{D}^{op}}(\Theta_{\mathcal{A}}, \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \otimes \mathcal{D}^{op})^r.$$

This is better formalized by a morphism of $\mathcal{D}_{M \times M}^{op}$ -modules

$$[\cdot, \cdot] : \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \boxtimes \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \Delta_* \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}$$

as above. Another way to understand these local operations is to make an analogy with multilinear operations on \mathcal{O}_M -modules. Indeed, if \mathcal{F} , \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{H} are three quasi-coherent \mathcal{O}_M -modules, one has a natural adjunction isomorphism

$$\mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_M}(\mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H}) \cong \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_M}(\Delta^*(\mathcal{F} \boxtimes \mathcal{G}), \mathcal{H}) \cong \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{O}_{M \times M}}(\mathcal{F} \boxtimes \mathcal{G}, \Delta_* \mathcal{H}),$$

and local operations are given by a \mathcal{D} -linear version of the right part of the above equality. It is better to work with this expression because of finiteness properties of the \mathcal{D} -modules in play.

We now recall for the reader's convenience from Beilinson-Drinfeld [BD04] the basic properties of general local operations (extending straightforwardly their approach to the case of a base supervariety M).

Definition 2.5.2. Let $(\mathcal{L}_i)_{i \in I}$ be a finite family of \mathcal{D}^{op} -modules and \mathcal{M} be a \mathcal{D}^{op} -module. We define the *space of $*$ -operations*

$$P_I^*(\{\mathcal{L}_i\}, \mathcal{M}) := \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{D}_{X^I}}(\boxtimes \mathcal{L}_i, \Delta_*^{(I)} \mathcal{M})$$

where $\Delta^{(I)} : M \rightarrow M^I$ is the diagonal embedding and $\boxtimes \mathcal{L}_i := \otimes_{i \in I} p_i^* \mathcal{L}_i$ with $p_i : X^I \rightarrow X$ the natural projections. The datum $(\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}^{op}), P_I)$ is called the *pseudo tensor structure* on the category of \mathcal{D}^{op} -modules.

One can define natural composition maps of pseudo-tensor operations, and a pseudo-tensor structure is very similar to a tensor structure in many respect: one has, under some finiteness hypothesis, good notions of internal homomorphisms and internal $*$ -operations.

The pseudo-tensor structure actually defines what one usually calls a colored operad with colors in $\text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}^{op})$. It is very important because it allows to easily manipulate covariant objects like local vector fields or local Poisson brackets. The main idea of Beilinson and Drinfeld's approach to geometry of \mathcal{D} -spaces is that functions and differential forms usually multiply by using ordinary tensor product of \mathcal{D} -modules, but that local vector fields and local differential operators multiply by using pseudo-tensor operations. This gives the complete toolbox to do differential geometry on \mathcal{D} -spaces in a way that is very similar to ordinary differential geometry.

Another way to explain the interest of $*$ -operations, is that they induce ordinary operations in De Rham cohomology. Since De Rham cohomology is the main tool of local functional calculus (it gives an algebraic presentation of local functions, differential forms and vector fields on the space $\underline{\Gamma}(M, C)$ of trajectories of a given field theory), we will make a systematic use of these operations. We refer to Beilinson-Drinfeld [BD04] for a proof of the following result, that roughly says that the De Rham functor can be extended to respect the natural pseudo-tensor structures of its source and target categories. This means, in simpler terms, that local, i.e., $*$ -operations can be used to define usual operations on quasi-local functionals.

Proposition 2.5.1. *The central De Rham cohomology functor $h : \text{MOD}(\mathcal{D}^{op}) \rightarrow \text{MOD}(\mathbb{R}_M)$ given by $h(\mathcal{M}) := h^0(\text{DR}^r(\mathcal{M})) := \mathcal{M} \otimes_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{O}$ induces a natural map*

$$h : P_I^*(\{\mathcal{L}_i\}, \mathcal{M}) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\otimes_i h(\mathcal{L}_i), h(\mathcal{M}))$$

from $*$ -operations to multilinear operations. At the level of complexes, the choice of a dg- \mathcal{D} -algebra resolution $\epsilon : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}$, that is flat as a dg- \mathcal{D} -module (i.e., $\otimes_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{P}$ transforms acyclic complexes in acyclic complexes), induces a natural morphism

$$\mathrm{DR} : P_I^*(\{\mathcal{L}_i\}, \mathcal{M}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}\mathrm{Hom}(\otimes_i^{\mathbb{L}} \mathrm{DR}(\mathcal{L}_i), \mathrm{DR}(\mathcal{M})).$$

3 Gauge theories and the covariant phase space

We are inspired, when discussing the Batalin-Vilkovisky (later called BV) formalism, by a huge physical literature, starting with Peierls [Pei52] and De Witt [DeW03] for the covariant approach to quantum field theory, and with [HT92] and [FH90] as general references for the BV formalism. More specifically, we also use Stasheff's work [Sta97] and [Sta98] as homotopical inspiration, and [FLS02], [Bar10] and [CF01] for explicit computations.

3.1 A finite dimensional toy model

In this section, we will do some new kind of differential geometry on spaces of the form $X = \underline{\mathrm{Spec}}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{A})$ given by spectra of \mathcal{D} -algebras, that encode solution spaces of non-linear partial differential equations in a coordinate free fashion (to be explained in the next section).

Before starting this general description, that is entailed of technicalities, we present a finite dimensional analog, that can be used as a reference to better understand the constructions done in the setting of \mathcal{D} -spaces.

Let H be a finite dimensional smooth variety (analogous to the space of histories $H \subset \Gamma(M, C)$ of a given Lagrangian variational problem) and $S : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a smooth function (analogous to an action functional on the space of histories). Let $d : \mathcal{O}_H \rightarrow \Omega_H^1$ be the De Rham differential and

$$\Theta_H := \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{O}_H}(\Omega_H^1, \mathcal{O}_H).$$

There is a natural biduality isomorphism

$$\Omega_H^1 \cong \mathrm{Hom}_{\mathcal{O}_H}(\Omega_H^1, \mathcal{O}_H).$$

Let $i_{dS} : \Theta_H \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_H$ be given by the insertion of vector fields in the differential $dS \in \Omega_H^1$ of the given function $S : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

The claim is that there is a natural homotopical Poisson structure on the space T of critical points of $S : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, defined by

$$T = \{x \in H, d_x S = 0\}.$$

Define the algebra of functions \mathcal{O}_T as the quotient of \mathcal{O}_H by the ideal \mathcal{I}_S generated by the equations $i_{dS}(\vec{v}) = 0$ for all $\vec{v} \in \Theta_H$. Remark that \mathcal{I}_S is the image of the insertion map $i_{dS} : \Theta_H \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_H$ and is thus locally finitely generated by the image of the basis vector fields $\vec{x}_i := \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$ that correspond to the local coordinates x_i on H . Now let \mathcal{N}_S be the kernel of i_{dS} . It describes the relations between the generating equations $i_{dS}(\vec{x}_i) = \frac{\partial S}{\partial x_i}$ of \mathcal{I}_S .

The differential graded \mathcal{O}_H -algebra

$$\mathcal{O}_P := \mathrm{Sym}_{dg}([\Theta_H \xrightarrow[-1]{i_{dS}} \mathcal{O}_H])$$

is isomorphic, as a graded algebra, to the algebra of multi-vectors

$$\wedge_{\mathcal{O}_H}^* \Theta_H.$$

This graded algebra is equipped with an odd, so called Schouten bracket, given by extending the Lie derivative

$$L : \Theta_H \otimes \mathcal{O}_H \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_H$$

and Lie bracket

$$[\cdot, \cdot] : \Theta_H \otimes \Theta_H \rightarrow \Theta_H$$

by Leibniz's rule.

Proposition 3.1.1. *The Schouten bracket is compatible with the insertion map i_{d_S} and makes \mathcal{O}_P a differential graded odd Poisson algebra. The Lie bracket on Θ_H induces a Lie bracket on \mathcal{N}_S .*

Now let $\mathfrak{g}_S \rightarrow \mathcal{N}_S$ be a projective resolution of \mathcal{O}_T as an \mathcal{O}_H -module. This graded module is the finite dimensional analog of the space of gauge (and higher gauge) symmetries. Suppose that \mathcal{P} is bounded with projective components of finite rank.

Definition 3.1.1. The *finite dimensional BV algebra* associated to $S : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is the bigraded \mathcal{O}_H -algebra

$$\mathcal{O}_{BV} := \text{Sym}_{\text{bigrad}} \left(\left[\begin{array}{c} \mathfrak{g}_S[2] \oplus \Theta_H[1] \oplus \mathcal{O}_H \\ \oplus \\ {}^t\mathfrak{g}_S^*[-1] \end{array} \right] \right),$$

where ${}^t\mathfrak{g}_S^*$ is the \mathcal{O}_H -dual of the graded module \mathfrak{g}_S transposed to become a vertical ascending graded module.

The main theorem of the Batalin-Vilkovisky formalism, that is the aim of this section, is the following:

Theorem 3.1.1. *There exists a non-trivial extension*

$$S_{cm} = S_0 + \sum_{i \geq 1} S_i \in \mathcal{O}_{BV}$$

of the classical function S that fulfills the classical master equation

$$\{S_{cm}, S_{cm}\} = 0.$$

The differential $D = \{S_{cm}, \cdot\}$ gives \mathcal{O}_{BV} the structure of a differential graded odd Poisson algebra.

The corresponding derived space $\mathbb{R}\underline{\text{Spec}}(\mathcal{O}_{BV}, D)$ can be thought as a kind of derived Poisson reduction

$$\mathbb{R}\underline{\text{Spec}}(\mathcal{O}_{BV}, D) \cong \mathbb{R}\underline{\text{Spec}}(\mathcal{O}_H/\mathcal{I}_H)/\mathcal{N}_S$$

that corresponds to taking the quotient of the homotopical critical space of S (cofibrant replacement of $\mathcal{O}_T = \mathcal{O}_H/\mathcal{I}_H$) by the foliation induced by the Noether relations \mathcal{N}_S .

Example 3.1.1. To be even more explicit, let us treat a simple example of the above construction. Let $H = \mathbb{R}^2$ be equipped with the polynomial function algebra $\mathcal{O}_H = \mathbb{R}[x, y]$. The differential one forms on H are given by the free \mathcal{O}_H -modules

$$\Omega_H^1 = \mathbb{R}[x, y]^{(dx, dy)}.$$

Let $S \in \mathcal{O}_H$ be the function $F(x, y) = \frac{x^2}{2}$. One then has $dS = xdx$. The module Θ_H of vector fields is the free module

$$\Theta_H = \mathbb{R}[x, y]^{(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y})}$$

and the insertion map is given by the $\mathbb{R}[x, y]$ -module morphism

$$i_{dS} : \begin{array}{ccc} \Theta_H & \rightarrow & \mathcal{O}_H \\ \vec{v} & \mapsto & \langle dS, \vec{v} \rangle, \end{array}$$

and, in particular, $i_{dS}(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}) = x$, and $i_{dS}(\frac{\partial}{\partial y}) = 0$. The image of the insertion map is given by the ideal $\mathcal{I}_S = (x)$ in $\mathcal{O}_H = \mathbb{R}[x, y]$. The kernel \mathfrak{N}_S of the insertion map is the free submodule

$$\mathfrak{N}_S = \mathfrak{g}_S = \mathbb{R}[x, y]^{(\frac{\partial}{\partial y})}$$

of Θ_H . One then has a quasi-isomorphism

$$\mathrm{Sym}_{\mathcal{O}_H-dg}([\mathfrak{g}_S[2] \rightarrow \Theta_H[1] \xrightarrow{i_{dS}} \mathcal{O}_H]) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_H/\mathcal{I}_S.$$

The obtained algebra is called the Koszul-Tate resolution of $\mathcal{O}_H/\mathcal{I}_S$. Now the bigraded BV algebra \mathcal{O}_{BV} is given by

$$\mathcal{O}_{BV} := \mathrm{Sym}_{bigrad} \left(\left[\begin{array}{ccc} \mathfrak{g}_S[2] & \oplus & \Theta_H[1] & \oplus & \mathcal{O}_H \\ & & & & \oplus \\ & & & & {}^t\mathfrak{g}_S^*[-1] \end{array} \right] \right).$$

It can be described more explicitly as

$$\mathcal{O}_{BV} = \mathrm{Sym}_{\mathcal{O}_H-bigrad} \left(\left[\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{O}_H^{(\frac{\partial}{\partial y})}[2] & \oplus & \mathcal{O}_H^{(\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y})}[1] & \oplus & \mathcal{O}_H \\ & & & & \oplus \\ & & & & \mathcal{O}_H^{(dy)}[-1] \end{array} \right] \right).$$

The graded version is the \mathcal{O}_H -algebra

$$\mathcal{O}_{BV} = \mathrm{Sym}^*(\mathfrak{g}_S) \otimes \wedge^* \Theta_H \otimes \wedge^* \mathfrak{g}_S^*$$

on $4 = 1 + 2 + 1$ variables. The action map $\mathfrak{g}_S \otimes \mathcal{O}_H \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_H$ induces a differential operator

$$\mathcal{O}_H \rightarrow \mathrm{Hom}(\mathfrak{g}_S, \mathcal{O}_H)$$

whose extension to the algebra $\wedge^* \mathfrak{g}_S^*$ is the Chevalley-Eilenberg differential of the action. The extension of the natural differential on the horizontal part

$$\mathcal{O}_{KT} := \mathrm{Sym}^*(\mathfrak{g}_S) \otimes \wedge^* \Theta_H \subset \mathcal{O}_{BV}$$

of the BV algebra gives the Koszul-Tate differential. The BV formalism gives a way to combine the Koszul-Tate differential with the Chevalley-Eilenberg differential by constructing an $S_{cm} \in \mathcal{O}_{BV}$ such that some components of the bracket $\{S_{cm}, \cdot\}$ induce both differentials on the corresponding generators of the BV algebra. In our case, the Koszul-Tate part of S_{cm} is defined by

$$S_{KT} = S + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \cdot dy,$$

so that

$$d_{KT} = \{S_{KT}, \cdot\} : \mathcal{O}_{KT} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{KT}.$$

In this case, the expression S_{KT} is a solution S_{cm} of the classical master equation. This construction is not so interesting because the critical algebra $\mathcal{O}_T = \mathcal{O}_H/\mathcal{I}_S$ is simply $\mathbb{R}[x, y]/(x) \cong \mathbb{R}[y]$ and the foliation by gauge orbits on it is given by the free action of the vector field $\frac{\partial}{\partial y}$, so that the invariants $\mathcal{O}_T^{\mathfrak{g}_S}$ are simply the space \mathbb{R} of functions on the critical space T/\mathfrak{g}_S , that is simply a point. The action being nice, there is no higher cohomology and the BV differential graded algebra (\mathcal{O}_{BV}, D) is quasi-isomorphic to \mathbb{R} . In the case of spaces of fields and action functionals, the situation is not so simple, and the foliation by gauge orbits can be more singular on the critical space.

The aim of this section is to generalize the above construction to local variational problems, where $H \subset \underline{\Gamma}(M, C)$ is a space of histories (subspace of the space of sections of a bundle $\pi : C \rightarrow M$) and $S : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is given by the integration of a Lagrangian density. The main difficulties that we will encounter and overcome trickily in this generalization are that:

1. The \mathcal{D} -module $\mathcal{D} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}$ is not \mathcal{D} -coherent, so that a projective resolution of \mathcal{N}_S will not be dualizable in practical cases. This will impose us to use finer resolutions of the algebra \mathcal{O}_T of functions on the critical space.
2. Taking the bracket between two *densities* of vector fields on the space H of histories is not an \mathcal{O}_M -bilinear operation but a new kind of operation, called a locally bilinear operation and described in Section 2.5.
3. The ring \mathcal{D} is not commutative. This will be overcome by using the equivalence between \mathcal{D} -modules and \mathcal{D}^{op} -modules given by tensoring by Ber_M .

Out of the above technical points, the rest of the constructions of this section are completely parallel to what we did on the finite dimensional toy model.

3.2 General gauge theories

Proposition 3.2.1. *Let M be a super-variety and \mathcal{A} be a smooth \mathcal{D} -algebra. There is a natural isomorphism, called the local interior product*

$$\begin{aligned} i : h(\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1) &:= \text{Ber}_M \otimes_{\mathcal{D}} \Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1 &\longrightarrow & \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]}(\Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^{\ell}, \mathcal{A}) \\ \omega & &\longmapsto & [X \mapsto i_X \omega]. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. By definition, one has

$$\Theta_{\mathcal{A}} := \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]}(\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1, \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}])$$

and since \mathcal{A} is \mathcal{D} -smooth, the biduality map

$$\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{H}om_{\mathcal{A}^r[\mathcal{D}^{op}]}(\Theta_{\mathcal{A}}, \mathcal{A}^r[\mathcal{D}^{op}])$$

is an isomorphism. Tensoring this map with Ber_M over \mathcal{D} gives the desired result. \square

Definition 3.2.1. If \mathcal{A} is a smooth \mathcal{D} -algebra and $\omega \in h(\Omega_{\mathcal{A}}^1)$, the $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ linear map

$$i_{\omega} : \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^{\ell} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

is called the *insertion map*. Its kernel \mathcal{N}_{ω} is called the $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module of *Noether identities* and its image \mathcal{I}_{ω} is called the *Euler-Lagrange ideal*.

If $\mathcal{A} = \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)$ for $\pi : C \rightarrow M$ a bundle and $\omega = dS$, the Euler-Lagrange ideal \mathcal{I}_{dS} is locally generated as an $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module by the image of the local basis of vector fields in

$$\Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^{\ell} \cong \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}] \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_C} \Theta_{C/M}.$$

If M is of dimension n and the relative dimension of C over M is m , this gives n equations (indexed by $i = 1, \dots, n$, one for each generator of $\Theta_{C/M}$) given in local coordinates by

$$\sum_{\alpha} (-1)^{|\alpha|} D_{\alpha} \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial x_{i,\alpha}} \right) \circ (j_{\infty} x)(t) = 0,$$

where $S = [Ld^n t] \in h(\mathcal{A})$ is the local description of the Lagrangian density.

We now define the notion of local variational problem with nice histories. This type of variational problem can be studied completely by only using geometry of \mathcal{D} -spaces. This gives powerful finiteness and biduality results that are necessary to study conceptually general gauge theories.

Definition 3.2.2. Let $\pi : C \rightarrow M$, $H \subset \Gamma(M, C)$ and $S : H \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a Lagrangian variational problem, and suppose that S is a local functional, i.e., if $\mathcal{A} = \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)$, there exists $[L\omega] \in h(\mathcal{A}) := \text{Ber}_M \otimes_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{A}$ and $\Sigma \in H_{c,n}(M)$ such that $S = S_{\Sigma, L\omega}$. The variational problem is called a *local variational problem with nice histories* if the space of critical points $T = \{x \in H, d_x S = 0\}$ identifies with the space $\underline{\text{Sol}}(\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_{dS})$ of solutions to the Euler-Lagrange equation.

The notion of variational problem with nice histories can be explained in simple terms by looking at the following simple example. The point is to define H by adding boundary conditions to elements in $\Gamma(M, C)$, so that the boundary terms of the integration by part, that we do to compute the variation $d_x S$ of the action, vanish.

Example 3.2.1. Let $\pi : C = \mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1] = M$, $\mathcal{A} = \mathbb{R}[t, x_0, x_1, \dots]$ be the corresponding \mathcal{D}_M -algebra with action of ∂_t given by $\partial_t x_i = x_{i+1}$, and $S = \frac{1}{2}m(x_1)^2 dt \in h(\mathcal{A})$ be the local action functional for the variational problem of newtonian mechanics for a free particle in \mathbb{R}^3 . The differential of $S : \Gamma(M, C) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ at $u : U \rightarrow \Gamma(M, C)$ along the vector field $\vec{u} \in \Theta_U$ is given by integrating by part

$$\langle d_x S, \vec{u} \rangle = \int_M \langle -m\partial_t^2 x, \frac{\partial x}{\partial \vec{u}} \rangle dt + \left[\langle \partial_t x, \frac{\partial x}{\partial \vec{u}} \rangle \right]_0^1.$$

The last term of this expression is called the boundary term and we define nice histories for this variational problem by fixing the starting and ending point of trajectories to annihilate this boundary term:

$$H = \{x \in \Gamma(M, C), x(0) = x_0, x(1) = x_1\}$$

for x_0 and x_1 some given points in \mathbb{R}^3 . In this case, one has

$$T = \{x \in H, d_x S = 0\} \cong \underline{\text{Sol}}(\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_{dS})$$

where \mathcal{I}_{dS} is the \mathcal{D} -ideal in \mathcal{A} generated by $-mx_2$, i.e., by Newton's differential equation for the motion of a free particle in \mathbb{R}^3 . The critical space is thus given by

$$T = \{x \in H, \partial_t x \text{ is constant on } [0, 1]\},$$

i.e., the free particle is moving on the line from x_0 to x_1 with constant speed.

Definition 3.2.3. A *general gauge theory* is a local variational problem with nice histories.

3.3 Regularity conditions and higher Noether identities

We now describe regularity properties of gauge theories, basing our exposition on the article [Pau10]. We will moreover use the language of homotopical and derived geometry in the sense of Toen-Vezzosi [TV08] to get geometric insights on the spaces in play in this section (See [Pau11] for an introduction and references). We denote $\mathcal{A} \mapsto Q\mathcal{A}$ a cofibrant replacement functor in a given model category. Recall that all differential graded algebras are fibrant for their standard model structure.

In all this section, we set $\pi : C \rightarrow M$, $H \subset \underline{\Gamma}(M, C)$, $\mathcal{A} = \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)$ and $S \in h(\mathcal{A})$ a gauge theory. The kernel of its insertion map

$$i_{dS} : \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^{\ell} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

is called the space \mathcal{N}_S of Noether identities. Its right version

$$\mathcal{N}_S^r = \text{Ber}_M \otimes \mathcal{N}_S \subset \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}$$

is called the space of Noether gauge symmetries.

Definition 3.3.1. The *derived critical space* of a gauge theory is the differential graded \mathcal{A} -space

$$\begin{aligned} P := \text{Spec}(\mathcal{A}_P) : \text{dg-}\mathcal{A}\text{-ALG} &\rightarrow \text{SSETS} \\ \mathcal{R} &\mapsto s\text{Hom}_{\text{dg-Alg}_{\mathcal{D}}}(\mathcal{A}_P, \mathcal{R}). \end{aligned}$$

whose coordinate differential graded algebra is

$$\mathcal{A}_P := \text{Sym}_{\text{dg}}([\Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^{\ell}[1] \xrightarrow{i_{dS}} \mathcal{A}]).$$

A *non-trivial Noether identity* is a class in $H^1(\mathcal{A}_P, i_{dS})$.

We refer to Beilinson and Drinfeld's book [BD04] for the following proposition.

Proposition 3.3.1. *The local Lie bracket of vector fields extends naturally to an odd local (so-called Schouten) Poisson bracket on the dg- \mathcal{A} -algebra \mathcal{A}_P of coordinates on the derived critical space.*

The following corollary explains why we called \mathcal{N}_S^r the space of Noether gauge symmetries.

Corollary 3.3.1. *The natural map*

$$\mathcal{N}_S^r \boxtimes \mathcal{N}_S^r \rightarrow \Delta_* \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}$$

induced by the local bracket on local vector fields always factors through $\Delta_ \mathcal{N}_S^r$ and the natural map*

$$\mathcal{N}_S^r \boxtimes \mathcal{A}^r / \mathcal{I}_S^r \rightarrow \Delta_* \mathcal{A}^r / \mathcal{I}_S^r$$

is a local Lie \mathcal{A} -algebroid action.

The trivial Noether identities are those in the image of the natural map

$$\wedge^2 \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^{\ell} \rightarrow \Theta_{\mathcal{A}},$$

and these usually don't give a finitely generated $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module because of the simple fact that $\mathcal{D} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}} \mathcal{D}$ is not \mathcal{D} -coherent. This is a very good reason to consider only non-trivial Noether identities, because these can usually (i.e., in all the applications we have in mind) be given by a finitely generated $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module.

Definition 3.3.2. The *proper derived critical space* of a gauge theory is the (derived) space

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{R}\mathrm{Spec}(\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_S) : \quad \mathrm{dg} - \mathcal{A} - \mathrm{ALG} &\rightarrow \mathrm{SSETS} \\ \mathcal{R} &\mapsto s\mathrm{Hom}_{\mathrm{dg} - \mathrm{Alg}_{\mathcal{D}}}(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{R}). \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathcal{B} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_{dS}$ is a cofibrant resolution of $\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_S$ as a dg- \mathcal{A} -algebra in degree 0.

From the point of view of derived geometry, differential forms on the cofibrant resolution \mathcal{B} give a definition of the cotangent complex of the \mathcal{D} -space morphism

$$i : \underline{\mathrm{Spec}}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_S) \rightarrow \underline{\mathrm{Spec}}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{A})$$

of inclusion of critical points of the action functional in the \mathcal{D} -space of general trajectories. This notion of cotangent complex gives a well behaved way to study infinitesimal deformations of the above inclusion map i (see Illusie [Ill71]), even if it is not a smooth morphism (i.e., even if the critical space is singular).

It is easy to define a cofibrant resolution of the critical space related to Noether identities. If $\mathfrak{g}_S \rightarrow \mathcal{N}_S$ is a projective $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -resolution, the dg-algebra

$$\mathcal{B} = \mathrm{Sym}_{\mathrm{dg}}([\mathfrak{g}_S[2] \rightarrow \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^{\ell}[1] \rightarrow \mathcal{A}])$$

is a cofibrant resolution of $\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_S$. An important problem with this simple construction is that the terms of the given resolution $\mathfrak{g}_S \rightarrow \mathcal{N}_S$ are usually *not finitely generated* as $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -modules. We will see how to define a finer, so-called Koszul-Tate resolution, that will have better finiteness properties, by using generating spaces of Noether identities. These can be defined by adapting Tate's construction [Tat57] to the local context. We are inspired here by Stasheff's paper [Sta97].

Definition 3.3.3. A *generating space of Noether identities* is a tuple $(\mathfrak{g}_S, \mathcal{A}_n, i_n)$ composed of

1. a negatively graded projective $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module \mathfrak{g}_S ,
2. a negatively indexed family \mathcal{A}_n of dg- \mathcal{A} -algebras with $\mathcal{A}_0 = \mathcal{A}$, and
3. for each $n \leq -1$, an $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -linear morphism $i_n : \mathfrak{g}_S^{n+1} \rightarrow Z^n \mathcal{A}_n$ to the n -cycles of \mathcal{A}_n ,

such that if one extends \mathfrak{g}_S by setting $\mathfrak{g}_S^1 = \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^{\ell}$ and if one sets

$$i_0 = i_{dS} : \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^{\ell} \rightarrow \mathcal{A},$$

1. one has for all $n \leq 0$ an equality

$$\mathcal{A}_{n-1} = \mathrm{Sym}_{\mathcal{A}_n}([\mathfrak{g}_S^{n+1}[-n+1] \otimes_{\mathcal{A}} \mathcal{A}_n \xrightarrow{i_n} \mathcal{A}_n]),$$

2. the natural projection map

$$\mathcal{A}_{KT} := \lim_{\rightarrow} \mathcal{A}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_S$$

is a cofibrant resolution, called the *Koszul-Tate algebra*, whose differential is denoted d_{KT} .

We are now able to define the right regularity properties for a given gauge theory. These finiteness properties are imposed to make the generating space of Noether identities dualizable as an $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module (resp. as a graded $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module). Without any regularity hypothesis, the constructions given by homotopical Poisson reduction of gauge theories, the so-called derived covariant phase space, don't give \mathcal{A} -algebras, but only \mathbb{R} -algebras, that are too poorly behaved and infinite dimensional to be of any (even theoretical) use. We thus don't go through the process of their definition, that is left to the interested reader.

We now recall the language used by physicists (see for example [HT92]) to describe the situation. This can be useful to relate our constructions to the one described in physics books.

Definition 3.3.4. A gauge theory is called *regular* if there exists a generating space of Noether identities \mathfrak{g}_S whose components are finitely generated and projective. It is called *strongly regular* if this regular generating space is a bounded graded module. Suppose given a regular gauge theory. Consider the inner dual graded space (well-defined because of the regularity hypothesis)

$$\mathfrak{g}_S^\circ := \text{Hom}_{\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]}(\mathfrak{g}_S, \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}])^\ell.$$

1. The generators of $\Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^\ell$ are called *antifields* of the theory.
2. The generators of \mathfrak{g}_S of higher degree are called *antighosts*, or (non-trivial) *higher Noether identities* of the theory.
3. The generators of the graded $\mathcal{A}^r[\mathcal{D}^{op}]$ -module \mathfrak{g}_S^r are called (non-trivial) *higher gauge symmetries* of the theory.
4. The generators of the graded $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module \mathfrak{g}_S° are called *ghosts* of the theory.

Remark that the natural map $\mathfrak{g}_S^{0,r} \rightarrow \mathcal{N}_S^r \subset \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}$ identifies order zero gauge symmetries with (densities of) local vector fields that induce tangent vectors to the \mathcal{D} -space $\underline{\text{Spec}}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_S)$ of solutions to the Euler-Lagrange equation. This explains the denomination of higher gauge symmetries for \mathfrak{g}_S^r .

We now define an important invariant of gauge theories, called the Batalin-Vilkovisky bigraded algebra. This will be used in next section on the derived covariant phase space.

Definition 3.3.5. Let \mathfrak{g}_S be a regular generating space of the Noether gauge symmetries. The bigraded $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -module

$$\mathcal{V}_{BV} := \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \mathfrak{g}_S[2] \oplus \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^\ell[1] \oplus & & 0 \\ & \oplus & \\ & & {}^t\mathfrak{g}_S^\circ[-1] \end{array} \right],$$

where ${}^t\mathfrak{g}_S^\circ$ is the vertical chain graded space associated to \mathfrak{g}_S° , is called the module of *additional fields*. The completed bigraded symmetric algebra

$$\hat{\mathcal{A}}_{BV} := \widehat{\text{Sym}}_{\mathcal{A}\text{-bigraded}}(\mathcal{V}_{BV})$$

is called the *completed Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra* of the given gauge theory. The corresponding symmetric algebra

$$\mathcal{A}_{BV} := \text{Sym}_{\mathcal{A}\text{-bigraded}}(\mathcal{V}_{BV})$$

is called the *Batalin-Vilkovisky algebra*.

In practical situations, physicists usually think of ghosts and antifields as sections of an ordinary graded bundle on spacetime itself (and not only on jet space). This idea can be formalized by the following.

Definition 3.3.6. Let \mathfrak{g} be a regular generating space of Noether symmetries for $S \in h(\mathcal{A})$. Suppose that all the $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -modules \mathfrak{g}^i and $\Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^\ell$ are locally free on M . A *Batalin-Vilkovisky bundle* is a bigraded vector bundle

$$E_{BV} \rightarrow C$$

with an isomorphism of $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -modules

$$\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}] \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_C} \mathcal{E}_{BV}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{V}_{BV},$$

where \mathcal{E}_{BV} are the sections of $E_{BV} \rightarrow C$. The sections of the graded bundle $E_{BV} \rightarrow M$ are called the *fields-antifields variables* of the theory.

Recall that neither $C \rightarrow M$, nor $E_{BV} \rightarrow M$ are vector bundles in general. To illustrate the above general construction by a simple example, suppose that the action $S \in h(\mathcal{A})$ has no non-trivial Noether identities, meaning that for all $k \geq 1$, one has $H^k(\mathcal{A}_P) = 0$. In this case, one gets

$$\mathcal{V}_{BV} = \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^\ell[1]$$

and the relative cotangent bundle $E_{BV} := T_{C/M}^* \rightarrow C$ gives a BV bundle because

$$\Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^\ell \cong \mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}] \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_C} \Theta_{C/M}.$$

The situation simplifies further if $C \rightarrow M$ is a vector bundle because then, the vertical bundle $VC \subset TC \rightarrow M$, given by the kernel of $TC \rightarrow \pi^*TM$, is isomorphic to $C \rightarrow M$. Since one has $T_{C/M}^* \cong (VC)^*$, one gets a natural isomorphism

$$E_{BV} \cong C \oplus C^*$$

of bundles over M . This linear situation is usually used as a starting point for the definition of a BV theory (see for example Costello's book [Cos10]). Starting from a non-linear bundle $C \rightarrow M$, one can linearize the situation by working with the bundle

$$C_{x_0}^{linear} := x_0^* T_{C/M} \rightarrow M$$

with $x_0 : M \rightarrow C$ a given solution of the equations of motion (sometimes called the vacuum).

Proposition 3.3.2. *Let $E_{BV} \rightarrow C$ be a BV bundle. There is a natural isomorphism of bigraded algebras*

$$\text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_{E_{BV}}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{A}_{BV} = \text{Sym}_{bigrad}(\mathcal{V}_{BV}).$$

Proof. Since $E_{BV} \rightarrow C$ is a graded vector bundle concentrated in non-zero degrees, one has

$$\mathcal{O}_{E_{BV}} = \text{Sym}_{\mathcal{O}_C}(\mathcal{E}_{BV}^*).$$

The natural map

$$\mathcal{E}_{BV}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{V}_{BV}$$

induces a morphism

$$\mathcal{O}_{E_{BV}} = \text{Sym}_{\mathcal{O}_C}(\mathcal{E}_{BV}^*) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{BV}.$$

Since \mathcal{A}_{BV} is a \mathcal{D} -algebra, one gets a natural morphism

$$\text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_{E_{BV}}) \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{BV} = \text{Sym}_{\text{bigrad}}(\mathcal{V}_{BV}).$$

Conversely, the natural map $\mathcal{E}_{BV}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{E_{BV}}$ extends to an $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -linear map

$$\mathcal{V}_{BV} \rightarrow \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_{E_{BV}}),$$

that gives a morphism

$$\mathcal{A}_{BV} \rightarrow \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_{E_{BV}}).$$

The two constructed maps are inverse of each other. \square

The main interest of the datum of a BV bundle is that it allows to work with non-local functionals of the fields and antifields variables. This is important for the effective renormalization of gauge theories, that involves non-local functionals.

Definition 3.3.7. Let $E_{BV} \rightarrow C$ be a BV bundle. Denote $\mathbb{A}^1(A) := A$ the graded affine space. The space of *non-local functionals of the fields-antifields* is defined by

$$\mathcal{O}_{BV} := \underline{\text{Hom}}(\underline{\Gamma}(M, E_{BV}), \mathbb{A}^1)$$

of (non-local) functionals on the space of sections of E_{BV} . The image of the natural map

$$h(\mathcal{A}_{BV}) \cong h(\text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_{E_{BV}})) \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{BV}$$

is called the space of *local functionals of the fields-antifields* and denoted $\mathcal{O}_{BV}^{\text{oloc}} \subset \mathcal{O}_{BV}$.

3.4 The derived covariant phase space

In all this section, we set $\pi : C \rightarrow M$, $H \subset \underline{\Gamma}(M, C)$, $\mathcal{A} = \text{Jet}(\mathcal{O}_C)$ and $S \in h(\mathcal{A})$ a gauge theory. Suppose given a strongly regular generating space of Noether symmetries \mathfrak{g}_S for S , in the sense of definitions 3.3.3 and 3.3.4.

The idea of the BV formalism is to define a (local and odd) Poisson dg- \mathcal{A} -algebra $(\mathcal{A}_{BV}, D, \{.,.\})$ whose spectrum $\mathbb{R}\text{Spec}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{A}_{BV}, D)$ can be thought as a kind of homotopical space of leaves

$$\mathbb{R}\text{Spec}(\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_S)/\mathcal{N}_S^r$$

of the foliation induced by the action (described in corollary 3.3.1) of Noether gauge symmetries \mathcal{N}_S^r on the derived critical space $\mathbb{R}\text{Spec}_{\mathcal{D}}(\mathcal{A}/\mathcal{I}_S)$. It is naturally equipped with a homotopical Poisson structure, which gives a nice starting point for quantization. From this point of view, the above space is a wide generalization of the notion extensively used by DeWitt in his covariant approach to quantum field theory [DeW03] called the covariant phase space. This explains the title of this section.

We will first define the BV Poisson dg-algebra by using only a generating space for Noether identities, and explain in more details in the next section how this relates to the above intuitive statement.

Proposition 3.4.1. *The local Lie bracket and local duality pairings*

$$[\cdot, \cdot] : \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \boxtimes \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \rightarrow \Delta_* \Theta_{\mathcal{A}} \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle : (\mathfrak{g}_S^n)^r \boxtimes (\mathfrak{g}_S^{n^\circ})^r \rightarrow \Delta_* \mathcal{A}^r, \quad n \geq 0,$$

induce an odd local Poisson bracket

$$\{\cdot, \cdot\} : \hat{\mathcal{A}}_{BV}^r \boxtimes \hat{\mathcal{A}}_{BV}^r \rightarrow \Delta_* \hat{\mathcal{A}}_{BV}^r$$

called the BV-antibracket on the completed BV algebra

$$\hat{\mathcal{A}}_{BV} = \widehat{\text{Sym}}_{\text{bigrad}} \left(\left[\begin{array}{c} \mathfrak{g}_S[2] \oplus \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^\ell[1] \oplus \mathcal{A} \\ \oplus \\ {}^t \mathfrak{g}_S^\circ[-1] \end{array} \right] \right)$$

and on the BV algebra \mathcal{A}_{BV} .

Definition 3.4.1. Let \mathfrak{g}_S be a regular generating space of Noether identities. A *formal solution to the classical master equation* is an $S_{cm} \in h(\hat{\mathcal{A}}_{BV})$ such that

1. the degree $(0, 0)$ component of S_{cm} is S ,
2. the component of S_{cm} that is linear in the ghost variables, denoted S_{KT} , induces the Koszul-Tate differential $d_{KT} = \{S_{KT}, \cdot\}$ on antifields of degrees $(k, 0)$, and
3. the *classical master equation*

$$\{S_{cm}, S_{cm}\} = 0$$

(meaning $D^2 = 0$ for $D = \{S_{cm}, \cdot\}$) is fulfilled in $h(\hat{\mathcal{A}}_{BV})$.

A *solution to the classical master equation* is a formal solution that comes from an element in $h(\mathcal{A}_{BV})$.

The main theorem of homological perturbation theory, given in a physical language in Henneaux-Teitelboim [HT92], Chapter 17 (DeWitt indices), can be formulated in our language by the following.

Theorem 3.4.1. *Let \mathfrak{g}_S be a regular generating space of Noether symmetries. There exists a formal solution to the corresponding classical master equation, constructed through an inductive method. If \mathfrak{g}_S is further strongly regular and the inductive method ends after finitely many steps, then there exists a solution to the classical master equation.*

Proof. One can attack this theorem conceptually using the general setting of homotopy transfer for curved local L_∞ -algebroids (see Schaetz's paper [Sch09] for a finite dimensional analog). We only need to prove the theorem when \mathfrak{g} has all \mathfrak{g}^i given by free $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -modules of finite rank since this is true locally on M . We start by extending S to a generator of the Koszul-Tate differential $d_{KT} : \mathcal{A}_{KT} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{KT}$. Remark that the BV bracket with S on \mathcal{A}_{BV} already identifies with the insertion map

$$\{S, \cdot\} = i_{dS} : \Theta_{\mathcal{A}}^\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{A}.$$

We want to define $S_{KT} := \sum_{k \geq 0} S_k$ with $S_0 = S$ such that

$$\{S_{KT}, \cdot\} = d_{KT} : \mathcal{A}_{KT} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{KT}.$$

Let $C_{\alpha_i}^*$ be generators of the free $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -modules \mathfrak{g}^i and C^{α_i} be the dual generators of the free $\mathcal{A}[\mathcal{D}]$ -modules $(\mathfrak{g}^i)^\circ$. We suppose further that all these generators correspond to closed elements for the de Rham differential. Let $n_{\alpha_i} := d_{KT}(C_{\alpha_i}^*)$ in \mathcal{A}_{KT} . Then setting $S_k = \sum_{\alpha_k} n_{\alpha_k} C^{\alpha_k}$, one gets

$$\begin{aligned} \{S_i, C_{\alpha_i}^*\} &= \{n_{\alpha_i} C^{\alpha_i}, C_{\alpha_i}^*\} \\ &= n_{\alpha_i} \\ &= d_{KT}(C_{\alpha_i}^*) \end{aligned}$$

so that $\{S_{KT}, \cdot\}$ identifies with d_{KT} on \mathcal{A}_{KT} . Now let m_{α_j} denote the coordinates of n_{α_i} in the basis $C_{\alpha_j}^*$, so that

$$n_{\alpha_i} = \sum_j m_{\alpha_j} C_{\alpha_j}^*.$$

One gets in these coordinates

$$S_i = \sum_{\alpha_i, \alpha_j} C_{\alpha_j}^* m_{\alpha_j} C^{\alpha_i}.$$

The next terms in $S = \sum_{k \geq 0} S_k$ are determined by the recursive equation

$$2d_{KT}(S_k) + D_{k-1} = 0$$

where D_{k-1} is the component of Koszul-Tate degree (i.e., degree in the variables $C_{\alpha_i}^*$) $k-1$ in $\{R_{k-1}, R_{k-1}\}$, with

$$R_{k-1} = \sum_{j \leq k-1} S_j.$$

These equations have a solution because D_{k-1} is d_{KT} -closed, because of Jacobi's identity for the odd bracket $\{.,.\}$ and since d_{KT} is exact on the Koszul-Tate components (because it gives, by definition, a resolution of the critical ideal), these are also exact. If we suppose that the generating space \mathfrak{g}_S is strongly regular (i.e., bounded) and the inductive process ends after finitely many steps, one can choose the solution S in $h(\mathcal{A}_{BV})$. \square

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