Gradient flow exact renormalization group

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The gradient flow in QCD and other strongly coupled field theories @ ECT*

- H. Sonoda (Kobe Univ.), H.S.,
 PTEP 2019, no.3, 033B05 (2019) [arXiv:1901.05169 [hep-th]]
 PTEP 2021, no.2, 023B05 (2021) [arXiv:2012.03568 [hep-th]]
 PTEP 2022, no.5, 053B01 (2022) [arXiv:2201.04448 [hep-th]]
- Y. Miyakawa, H.S.,PTEP 2021, no.8, 083B04 (2021) [arXiv:2106.11142 [hep-th]]
- Y. Miyakawa, H. Sonoda, H.S.,PTEP 2022, no.2, 023B02 (2022) [arXiv:2111.15529 [hep-th]]
- and works in progress

K. Wilson's Exact Renormalization Group (ERG)

Effective interactions under the change of the scale:

$$\langle \phi(\textbf{X}_1) \cdots \phi(\textbf{X}_n) \rangle_{\textbf{S}_{\tau}} \sim e^{n[(D-2)/2](\tau-\tau_0)} Z(\tau,\tau_0)^n \langle \phi(\textbf{e}^{\tau-\tau_0}\textbf{X}_1) \cdots \phi(\textbf{e}^{\tau-\tau_0}\textbf{X}_n) \rangle_{\textbf{S}_{\tau_0}}$$

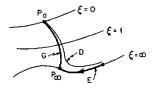


Fig. 12.6. Renormalization group trajector

• Continuum QFT: $\xi = \xi_0 |K - K_c|^{1/y_E}$:

$$\begin{split} &\langle \varphi(X_1) \cdots \varphi(X_n) \rangle_g \\ &\equiv \lim_{\tau_0 \to -\infty} e^{n[(D-2)/2](\tau-\tau_0)} Z(\tau,\tau_0)^n \langle \phi(e^{\tau-\tau_0}X_1) \cdots \phi(e^{\tau-\tau_0}X_n) \rangle_{S_{\tau_0},K=K_c-ge^{-\gamma_E(\tau-\tau_0)}} \end{split}$$

- Non-perturbative fixed point relevant to particle physics?
- Many-flavor gauge theories (Banks-Zaks fixed point)?
- Asymptotically-safe gravity?
- Gauge symmetry is essential...

ERG: Polchinski equation in scalar theory

Smooth momentum cutoff such as

$$K(p/\Lambda) = e^{-p^2/\Lambda^2}$$

- "Integrate out" momentum modes $|p| > \Lambda$ to yield the Wilson action $S_{\Lambda}[\phi]$
- $S_{\Lambda}[\phi]$: reaction under the change of the cutoff Λ
- Make everything dimensionless by taking Λ as the unit
- $S_{\tau}[\phi]$ ($\tau \sim -\ln \Lambda$): reaction under the change of the scale
- Polchinski equation:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} e^{S_{\tau}[\phi]} = \int d^{D}x \left(-2\partial^{2} - \frac{D-2}{2} - \gamma_{\tau} - x \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \phi(x) \cdot \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi(x)} e^{S_{\tau}[\phi]} + \int d^{D}x \left(-2\partial^{2} + 1 - \gamma_{\tau} \right) \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi(x)} \cdot \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi(x)} e^{S_{\tau}[\phi]}$$

(We have generalized as $K(p)[1 - K(p)] \to p^2$ and introduced the anomalous dimension by $\gamma_{\tau} \equiv \partial_{\tau} \ln Z(\tau, \tau_0)$)

Huge application in critical phenomena...

ERG in gauge theory

Local gauge transformation

$$egin{aligned} A_{\mu}^{a}(m{k}) &
ightarrow A_{\mu}^{a}(m{k}) + im{k}_{\mu}\chi^{a}(m{k}) - g\int_{q}f^{abc}\chi^{b}(q)A_{\mu}^{c}(m{k}-m{q}) \ & \psi(m{p}) &
ightarrow \psi(m{p}) - g\int_{q}\chi^{a}(q)T^{a}\psi(m{p}-m{q}) \end{aligned}$$

mixes modes with different momenta and the conventional ERG does not keep a manifest gauge symmetry

- ERG keeps a modified gauge symmetry (Becchi, Ellwanger, Bonini-D'Attanasio-Marchesini, Reuter-Wetterich, Higashi-Itou-Kugo, Igarashi-Itoh-Sonoda), but its precise form depends on the Wilson action itself!
- This prevents us to take a gauge-invariant ansatz (truncation) for the Wilson action...
- ... critical exponents can depend on the gauge fixing parameter...
- We want ERG that keeps a manifest gauge symmetry

Representation of the Wilson action by the field diffusion

"Integral representation" of the Wilson action:

$$e^{S_{\tau}[\phi]} = \hat{s} \int [d\phi'] \prod_{v} \delta\left(\phi(x) - e^{\int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} d\tau' [(D-2)/2 + \gamma_{\tau'}]} \phi'(t - t_0, e^{\tau - \tau_0} x)\right) (\hat{s}')^{-1} e^{S_{\tau_0}[\phi']}$$

Here, $\phi'(t, x)$ is the solution to the diffusion equation

$$\partial_t \phi'(t,x) = \partial^2 \phi'(t,x), \qquad \phi'(0,x) = \phi'(x),$$

where the diffusion time is given by

$$t - t_0 = e^{2(\tau - \tau_0)} - 1,$$

and the scrambler

$$\hat{\mathbf{s}} \equiv \exp\left[\frac{1}{2}\int d^Dx\, rac{\delta^2}{\delta\phi(x)\delta\phi(x)}
ight]$$

 ERG and the field diffusion: Abe-Fukuma, Carosso-Hasenfratz-Neil, Matsumoto-Tanaka-Tsuchiya

What happens with a gauge-covariant diffusion equation?

■ Yang-Mills gradient flow (Narayanan-Neuberger, Lüscher):

$$\partial_t A_{\mu}^{\prime a}(t,x) = D_{\nu}^{\prime} F_{\nu\mu}^{\prime a}(t,x) = \partial^2 A_{\mu}^{\prime a}(t,x) + \cdots, \qquad A_{\mu}^{\prime a}(0,x) = A_{\mu}^{\prime a}(x)$$

For fermion (Lüscher):

$$egin{aligned} \partial_t \psi'(t, x) &= D'_\mu D'_\mu \psi'(t, x) & \psi'(0, x) &= \psi'(x) \ \partial_t ar{\psi}'(t, x) &= ar{\psi}'(t, x) ar{D}'_\mu ar{D}'_\mu & ar{\psi}'(0, x) &= ar{\psi}'(x) \end{aligned}$$

■ Simply imitating the scalar theory, $\mathbf{S}_{\tau}[A,\psi,\bar{\psi}]$

$$\begin{split} &= \hat{\textbf{s}} \int [d\textbf{A}' d\psi' d\bar{\psi}'] \\ &\times \prod_{x,\mu,a} \delta \left(\textbf{A}_{\mu}^{a}(\textbf{x}) - \textbf{e}^{\int_{\tau_{0}}^{\tau} d\tau' \left[(D-2)/2 + \gamma_{\tau'} \right]} \textbf{A}_{\mu}'^{a}(\textbf{t} - \textbf{t}_{0}, \textbf{e}^{\tau - \tau_{0}} \textbf{x}) \right) \\ &\times \prod_{x} \delta \left(\psi(\textbf{x}) - \textbf{e}^{\int_{\tau_{0}}^{\tau} d\tau' \left[(D-1)/2 + \gamma_{F\tau'} \right]} \psi'(\textbf{t} - \textbf{t}_{0}, \textbf{e}^{\tau - \tau_{0}} \textbf{x}) \right) \\ &\times \prod_{x} \delta \left(\bar{\psi}(\textbf{x}) - \textbf{e}^{\int_{\tau_{0}}^{\tau} d\tau' \left[(D-1)/2 + \gamma_{F\tau'} \right]} \bar{\psi}'(\textbf{t} - \textbf{t}_{0}, \textbf{e}^{\tau - \tau_{0}} \textbf{x}) \right) (\hat{\textbf{s}}')^{-1} \textbf{e}^{S_{\tau_{0}}[\textbf{A}', \psi', \bar{\psi}']} \\ &\hat{\textbf{s}} \equiv \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} \int d^{D} \textbf{x} \, \frac{\delta^{2}}{\delta A_{\mu}^{a}(\textbf{x}) \delta A_{\mu}^{a}(\textbf{x})} \right] \exp \left[-i \int d^{D} \textbf{x} \, \frac{\vec{\delta}}{\delta \psi(\textbf{x})} \, \frac{\vec{\delta}}{\delta \bar{\psi}(\textbf{x})} \right] \end{split}$$

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We term this, Gradient Flow Exact Renormalization Group (GFERG)

Actually, to diffuse the gauge modes (Zwanziger term),

$$\partial_t A_{\mu}^{\prime a}(t,x) = D_{\nu}^{\prime} F_{\nu\mu}^{\prime a}(t,x) + \alpha_0 D_{\mu}^{\prime} \partial_{\nu} A_{\nu}^{\prime a}(t,x)$$
 etc.

■ RG evolution keeps a manifest gauge symmetry: If S_{τ_0} is invariant under $(g_{\tau} \equiv e^{-\int^{\tau} d\tau' [(D-4)/2+\gamma_{\tau'}]})$

$$A^{a}_{\mu}(x) \rightarrow A^{a}_{\mu}(x) + \partial_{\mu}\chi^{a}(x) + g_{\tau}f^{abc}A^{b}_{\mu}(x)\chi^{c}(x)$$

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow \psi(x) - g_{\tau}\chi^{a}(x)T^{a}\psi(x)$$

$$\bar{\psi}(x) \rightarrow \bar{\psi}(x) + g_{\tau}\chi^{a}(x)\bar{\psi}(x)T^{a}$$

then S_{τ} is invariant too.

■ RG evolution keeps a modified chiral symmetry: If S_{τ_0} satisfies

$$\int d^{D}x \left\{ S_{\tau} \frac{\overleftarrow{\delta}}{\delta \psi(x)} \gamma_{5} \psi(x) + \overline{\psi}(x) \gamma_{5} \frac{\overrightarrow{\delta}}{\delta \overline{\psi}(x)} S_{\tau} \right. \\ \left. + 2iS_{\tau} \frac{\overleftarrow{\delta}}{\delta \psi(x)} \gamma_{5} \frac{\overrightarrow{\delta}}{\delta \overline{\psi}(x)} S_{\tau} - 2i \operatorname{tr} \left[\gamma_{5} \frac{\overrightarrow{\delta}}{\delta \overline{\psi}(x)} S_{\tau} \frac{\overleftarrow{\delta}}{\delta \psi(x)} \right] \right\} = 0$$

then S_{τ} does too. This is a generalization of the Ginsparg-Wilson relation

Polchinski equation in GFERG

 \blacksquare Taking the τ derivative of the integral representation,

$$\begin{split} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} e^{S_{\tau}[A,\psi,\bar{\psi}]} \\ &= \int d^D x \, \frac{\delta}{\delta A_{\mu}^a(x)} \bigg[-2D_{\nu} F_{\nu\mu}^a(x) - 2\alpha_0 D_{\mu} \partial_{\nu} A_{\nu}^a(x) \\ & - \left(\frac{D-2}{2} + \gamma_{\tau} + x \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) A_{\mu}^a(x) \bigg] \bigg|_{A \to A + \delta/\delta A} e^{S_{\tau}[A,\psi,\bar{\psi}]} \\ & + \text{(fermion)} \end{split}$$

- This contains functional derivatives up to 4th order (conventional ERG contains only up to 2nd order)
- The price of the manifest gauge symmetry...

1PI action Γ_{τ}

- Usually, in non-perturbative studies in ERG, the so-called 1PI action Γ_{τ} (Nicoll-Chang, Wetterich, Morris, Bonini-D'Attanasio-Marchesini) is employed
- We can define the corresponding Legendre transf. in GFERG:

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{A}_{\mu}(x) &\equiv A_{\mu}(x) + \frac{\delta S_{\tau}}{\delta A_{\mu}(x)} = e^{-S_{\tau}} \hat{s} A_{\mu}(x) \hat{s}^{-1} e^{S_{\tau}} \\ \Psi(x) &\equiv \psi(x) + i \frac{\overrightarrow{\delta}}{\delta \overline{\psi}(x)} S_{\tau} = e^{-S_{\tau}} \hat{s} \psi(x) \hat{s}^{-1} e^{S_{\tau}} \\ \bar{\Psi}(x) &\equiv \bar{\psi}(x) + i S_{\tau} \frac{\overleftarrow{\delta}}{\delta \psi(x)} = e^{-S_{\tau}} \hat{s} \bar{\psi}(x) \hat{s}^{-1} e^{S_{\tau}} \\ \Gamma_{\tau}[A_{\mu}, \Psi, \bar{\Psi}] - \frac{1}{2} \int d^{D}x A_{\mu}(x) A_{\mu}(x) + i \int d^{D}x \, \bar{\Psi}(x) \Psi(x) \\ &\equiv S_{\tau}[A_{\mu}, \psi, \bar{\psi}] + \frac{1}{2} \int d^{D}x \, A_{\mu}(x) A_{\mu}(x) - i \int d^{D}x \, \bar{\psi}(x) \psi(x) \\ - \int d^{D}x \, A_{\mu}(x) A_{\mu}(x) + i \int d^{D}x \, \left[\bar{\Psi}(x) \psi(x) + \bar{\psi}(x) \Psi(x) \right] \end{split}$$

- Keeps the manifest gauge symmetry and the chiral symmetry
- GFERG equation is however quite involved...

(Formal) equivalence to the RG flow defined through the gradient flow

In the continuum limit, defined by

$$au_0 o -\infty, \qquad g_{ au_0} o 0,$$

at least formally,

$$\int [dA] e^{S_{\tau}[A]} \hat{s}^{-1} \left[g_{\tau} A_{\mu_{1}}^{a_{1}}(x_{1}) \cdots g_{\tau} A_{\mu_{n}}^{a_{n}}(x_{n}) \right]$$

$$= \Lambda^{-n} \int [d\tilde{A}] e^{S_{\Lambda_{0}}[\tilde{A}]} \tilde{A}_{\mu_{1}}^{a_{1}}(1/\Lambda^{2}, x_{1}/\Lambda) \cdots \tilde{A}_{\mu_{n}}^{a_{n}}(1/\Lambda^{2}, x_{n}/\Lambda),$$

where

$$\Lambda \equiv e^{-\tau}e^{\tau_0}\Lambda_0, \qquad \Lambda_0 \to \infty,$$

is kept fixed in the continuum limit, and the dimensionful field

$$ilde{A}_{\mu}^{a}(ilde{t}, ilde{x}), \qquad ilde{A}_{\mu}^{a}(ilde{t}=0, ilde{x}) \equiv ilde{A}_{\mu}^{a}(ilde{x}) = \Lambda_{0}g_{ au_{0}}A_{\mu}^{a}(x),$$

obeys the Yang-Mills gradient flow

- RHS: RG flow defined through the gradient flow around the Gaussian fixed point (Lüscher, Makino-Morikawa-H.S.) and even non-perturbative (Carosso-Hasenfratz-Neil, Carosso)
- This is "formal" because I neglected the issue of gauge fixing...

Perturbative analysis

■ Perturbative expansion around the Gauss fixed point (w.r.t. g_{τ})

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- D=4 Yang-Mills theory to $O(g_{\tau}^2)$, we had the beta function (Sonoda-H.S., unpublished).

$$\gamma_{ au} = -rac{eta_{ au}}{2g_{ au}^2} = -rac{1}{(4\pi)^2}rac{7}{2}C_Ag_{ au}^2, \qquad f^{acd}f^{bcd} = C_A\delta^{ab}$$

This is not the expected one.

$$\gamma_{ au} = -rac{eta_{ au}}{2g_{ au}^2} = -rac{1}{(4\pi)^2}rac{11}{3}C_{\!A}g_{ au}^2$$

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■ The gauge fixing is necessary in S_{τ_0} ?

$$\left\langle A_{\mu}^{a}(x)A_{\nu}^{b}(y)\right\rangle_{0}\sim\delta^{ab}\int_{k}e^{ik(x-y)}\frac{1}{k^{2}}\left[\left(\delta_{\mu\nu}-\frac{k_{\mu}k_{\nu}}{k^{2}}\right)+\frac{\xi_{\tau}}{k^{2}}\frac{k_{\mu}k_{\nu}}{k^{2}}\right]$$

and no gauge fixing $\rightarrow \xi_{\tau} = \infty$

GFERG with the gauge fixing?

- Introduce Faddeev-Popov (FP) ghost-anti-ghost and Nakanishi-Lautrup (NL) field
- It is easy to make the diffusion equations invariant under the conventional BRST:

$$egin{aligned} \delta A_{\mu}^{a}(x) &= \partial_{\mu}c^{a}(x) + g_{ au}f^{abc}A_{\mu}^{b}(x)c^{c}(x) \ \delta c^{a}(x) &= -rac{1}{2}g_{ au}f^{abc}c^{b}(x)c^{c}(x) \ \delta ar{c}^{a}(x) &= B^{a}(x) \ \delta B^{a}(x) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

However, the natural choice

$$\begin{split} \hat{\mathbf{s}} &\equiv \exp\left[\int d^D x \, \frac{1}{2} \frac{\delta^2}{\delta A_\mu^a(x) \delta A_\mu^a(x)}\right] \\ &\times \exp\left[-\int d^D x \, \frac{\delta}{\delta c^a(x)} \frac{\delta}{\delta \bar{c}^a(x)}\right] \exp\left[-\int d^D x \, \frac{1}{2} \frac{\delta^2}{\delta B^a(x) \delta B^a(x)}\right] \end{split}$$

breaks the BRST symmetry → (again) modified BRST symmetry...

At least in QED, we can circumvent the difficulty

- We can eliminate NL field
- FP ghost sector completely decouples and solvable
- BRST symmetry reduces to the WT identity

$$\begin{split} ik_{\mu} \frac{\delta S_{\tau}}{\delta A_{\mu}(k)} + \frac{k^{2}}{\xi_{\tau} E(e^{-2\tau} k^{2}) e^{-2k^{2}}} ik_{\mu} \left[A_{\mu}(-k) + \frac{\delta S_{\tau}}{\delta A_{\mu}(k)} \right] \\ + ig_{\tau} \int_{\rho} S_{\tau} \frac{\overleftarrow{\delta}}{\delta \psi(\rho + k)} \psi(\rho) - ig_{\tau} \int_{\rho} \bar{\psi}(-\rho - k) \frac{\delta}{\delta \bar{\psi}(-\rho)} S_{\tau} = 0 \end{split}$$

This is linear in the Wilson action.

- WT identity in the conventional ERG is infinite order in the Wilson action
- Perturbative analysis to $O(g_{\tau}^2)$: The beta function,

$$\beta = -2\gamma g^2 = -\frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \frac{8}{3} g^4 + \cdots$$

Anomalous dimensions associated with the electron:

$$eta_m = rac{6}{(4\pi)^2} g^2 + \cdots \qquad \gamma_F = rac{3}{(4\pi)^2} g^2 + \cdots$$

The latter coincides with the one for the flowed electron field (Lüscher)

Possible application to the Adler-Bardeen theorem ('t Hooft anomaly is not renormalized)

- \blacksquare D=4, massless fermion
- Assume the global symmetry is $SU(N)_L \times SU(N)_R$
- Introduce external gauge and ghost fields

$$L^A_\mu(x)$$
, $R^A_\mu(x)$, $\chi^A_L(x)$, $\chi^A_R(x)$

- Scrambler ŝ does not contain these non-dynamical fields
- Generator of the external BRST transf.

$$\begin{split} \hat{\delta} &\equiv \int d^D x \left\{ \left[\partial_\mu \chi_L^A(x) + f^{ABC} L_\mu^B(x) \chi_L^C(x) \right] \frac{\delta}{\delta L_\mu^A(x)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{2} f^{ABC} \chi_L^B(x) \chi_L^C(x) \frac{\delta}{\delta \chi_L^A(x)} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \chi_L^A(x) t^A P_L \psi(x) \frac{\delta}{\delta \psi(x)} + \chi_L^A(x) \bar{\psi}(x) P_B t^A \frac{\delta}{\delta \bar{\psi}(x)} \right\} \\ &\quad + \text{(right-handed part)} \end{split}$$

■ Modified BRST transformation is given by $\tilde{\hat{\delta}} = \hat{s}\hat{\delta}\hat{s}^{-1}$

Possible application to the Adler-Bardeen theorem

 Since the diffusion equations can be BRST invariant, for the 't Hooft anomaly,

$$ilde{\hat{\delta}} e^{S_{ au}} = \hat{s} \int [dA' d\psi' dar{\psi}' dL' d\chi'_L dR' d\chi'_R] \left(\text{delta functions} \right) (\hat{s}')^{-1} \tilde{\hat{\delta}}' e^{S_{\tau_0}}$$

This is identical relation to the Wilson action:

$$e^{S_{\tau}} = \hat{s} \int [dA'd\psi'd\bar{\psi}'dL'd\chi'_LdR'd\chi'_R] (delta functions)(\hat{s}')^{-1} e^{S_{\tau_0}}$$

Thus, the Wilson action infinitesimally deformed by the anomaly

$${\color{red} e^{S_{\tau}} - \eta \tilde{\hat{\delta}} e^{S_{\tau}} = \exp \left({\color{red} S_{\tau} - \eta e^{-S_{\tau}} \, \tilde{\hat{\delta}} e^{S_{\tau}} } \right)}$$

is also the solution of the GFERG

■ This shows that the anomaly

$$Q_{\chi_L,\chi_R} \equiv -e^{-S_{\tau}} \tilde{\hat{\delta}} e^{S_{\tau}}$$

is a composite operator with the scaling dimension D = 4

If S_{τ} is local, then $Q_{\chi_{I},\chi_{B}}$ is local

Possible application to the Adler-Bardeen theorem

- First assume the anomaly Q_{χ_I,χ_B} is a local functional of external fields
- It can be seen that diffused external fields with $t t_0 = -1$,

$$L_{\mu}^{A}(-1,x)$$
 $R_{\mu}^{A}(-1,x)$ $\chi_{L}^{A}(-1,x)$ $\chi_{R}^{A}(-1,x)$

are and their local products are composite operators

and they obey the simple BRST transf.

$$\begin{split} \delta L_{\mu}^{A}(-1,x) &= \partial_{\mu} \chi_{L}^{A}(-1,x) + f^{ABC} L_{\mu}^{B}(-1,x) \chi_{L}^{C}(-1,x) \\ \delta \chi_{L}^{A}(-1,x) &= -\frac{1}{2} f^{ABC} \chi_{L}^{B}(-1,x) \chi_{L}^{C}(-1,x) \\ \delta R_{\mu}^{A}(-1,x) &= \partial_{\mu} \chi_{R}^{A}(-1,x) + f^{ABC} R_{\mu}^{B}(-1,x) \chi_{L} R^{C}(-1,x) \\ \delta \chi_{R}^{A}(-1,x) &= -\frac{1}{2} f^{ABC} \chi_{R}^{B}(-1,x) \chi_{R}^{C}(-1,x) \end{split}$$

Moreover the anomaly obeys the Wess-Zumino consistency

$$\delta Q_{\chi_L,\chi_R} = 0$$

Possible application to the Adler-Bardeen theorem

■ The general solution is

$$Q_{\chi_L,\chi_R} = c \int d^4x \, \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \operatorname{tr} \left[\chi_5(-1,x) F_{\nu,\mu\nu}(-1,x) F_{\nu,\rho\sigma}(-1,x) + \cdots \right],$$

where

$$\chi_5(x) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left[\chi_R(x) - \chi_L(x) \right], \qquad v_\mu(x) \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left[R_\mu(x) + L_\mu(x) \right]$$

Then, from GFERG,

$$\frac{d}{d\tau}c=0$$

't Hooft anomaly does not depend on the renormalization scale

- Thus, cannot depend on the gauge coupling
- Form the lowest order calculation (Y. Miyakawa, arXiv:2201.08181)

$$c=\frac{1}{16\pi^2}$$

Summary

- We formulated GFERG, which keeps a manifest gauge symmetry and the modified chiral symmetry, starting from a connection between ERG and the field diffusion
- We can formulate the corresponding 1PI formalism
- We can argue that GFERG is basically equivalent to the familiar RG flow defined through the gradient flow (Lüscher, Makino-Morikawa-H.S., Carosso-Hasenfratz-Neil, Carosso, Kitazawa-H.S., . . .)

Future issues

- The issue of the gauge fixing term in S_{τ}
- Presumably, it is necessary at least in perturbative treatment ⇒ a manifest BRST symmetry in the FP ghost sector is difficult
- We can circumvent this difficulty at least in QED ⇒ reconsideration of non-trivial fixed points in QED (Aoki-Morikawa-Sumi-Terao-Tomoyose, Gies-Jaeckel, Igarashi-Itoh-Pawlowski, Gies-Ziebell, . . .)
- With the gauge fixing but no FP ghost? (cf. stochastic quantization)
- Application in non-Abelian gauge theory?
- Generalization to gravity?

Backup: "Composite operator"

■ Composite operator $\mathcal{O}_{\tau}(x)$ (Wilson, Wegner, Becchi, ...) is a combination that possesses a simple scaling law under ERG ($-y_{\tau}$ is scaling dimension):

$$\begin{split} &\int [d\phi] \, e^{S_{\tau}[\phi]} \mathcal{O}_{\tau}(x) \hat{s}^{-1} \left[e^{-\partial^2} \phi(x_1) \cdots e^{-\partial^2} \phi(x_n) \right] \\ &= e^{-\int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} d\tau' \, y_{\tau'}} Z(\tau, \tau_0)^n \\ &\quad \times \int [d\phi] \, e^{S_{\tau_0}[\phi]} \mathcal{O}_{\tau_0}(e^{\tau - \tau_0} x) \hat{s}^{-1} \left[e^{-\partial^2} \phi(x_1) \cdots e^{-\partial^2} \phi(x_n) \right]_{x_i \to e^{\tau - \tau_0} x_i} \end{split}$$

From the definition, it obeys

$$\left(\partial_{\tau} - x \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y_{\tau} - \mathcal{D}_{\tau}\right) \mathcal{O}_{\tau}(x) = 0$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{\tau}\mathcal{O}_{\tau}(x) = -e^{-S_{\tau}} \left[\hat{\mathbf{s}} \int d^{D}x \, \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi(x)} \left(2\partial^{2} + \frac{D-2}{2} + \gamma_{\tau} + x \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \right) \phi(x) \hat{\mathbf{s}}^{-1} e^{S_{\tau}}, \mathcal{O}_{\tau}(x) \right]$$

This can be regarded as an infinitesimal deformation of the Wilson action:

$$S_{ au}[\phi]
ightarrow S_{ au}[\phi] + \mathrm{e}^{\int^{ au} d au' \, y_{ au'}} \int d^D x \, \epsilon(x) \mathcal{O}_{ au}(\mathrm{e}^{- au} x)$$