

The problem of equivalence of different gauges in external current QED

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Motivation:

- In classical ED: change of gauge has no influence on the experimental results.
In QED this issue is more controversial.

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Strategy:

i) Physics Part:

- 1 Gauge Freedom
- 2 Canonical Quantization
- 3 Maxwell Fields in different Gauges

ii) Math Part:

- 1 Equivalence of Observables in different gauges

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 - Vanishing charge
 - Non-vanishing charge

Singular Systems

- Configuration space \mathcal{M} , Lagrange function $L : T\mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$
- Legendre trafo \Rightarrow Hamiltonian: $H(q, p) = \sum_i v^i p_i - L(q, p)$

$$\rho_L : T\mathcal{M} \rightarrow T^*\mathcal{M}, \quad (q^i, v^i) \mapsto (q^i, p_i := \frac{\partial L}{\partial v^i})$$

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Definition

Lagrangian L is called singular if ρ_L is *not* a local isomorphism:

$$\det\left(\frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial v^i \partial v^j}\right) = 0$$

- **Problem:** Hamiltonian depends linearly on some v^a :

$$H(q^i, p_i, v^a) = \tilde{H}(q^i, p_i) - v^a \phi_a(q^i, p_i)$$

Singular Systems

- e.o.m. $\Rightarrow \{H, v^a\} = 0 \Rightarrow \phi_a \stackrel{!}{=} 0$
- With $M_{ab} := \{\phi_a, \phi_b\}$:

$$\phi_b \stackrel{!}{=} 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}\phi_b = \{\phi_b, \tilde{H}\} + v^a M_{ab} \stackrel{!}{=} 0 \quad (1)$$

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- Two cases:
 - ① $\{\phi_b, \tilde{H}\} \neq 0, \det(M) \neq 0 \Rightarrow$ all v^a are fixed by (1)
 - ② $\{\phi_b, \tilde{H}\} = 0$, some v^a are fixed by (1) depending on $rk(M)$

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Definition

A constraint ϕ_α is called *first class* if $\{\phi_\alpha, \phi_i\} = 0$ for every constraint function ϕ_i , otherwise *second class*.

Dirac Bracket

Case 1:

- only 2nd class constraints
- v^a fixed: $v^a = -(M^{-1})^{ab}\{\phi_b, \tilde{H}\} \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}F = \{F, \tilde{H}\}_D$

Definition

Let $F, G \in C^\infty(\mathcal{M})$. Their *Dirac bracket* is:

$$\{F, G\}_D := \{F, G\} - \{F, \phi_a\}(M^{-1})^{ab}\{\phi_b, G\}_D$$

- $\mathcal{M}_{phys} \subset \mathcal{M}$ with $\{\cdot, \cdot\}|_{\mathcal{M}_{phys}} = \{\cdot, \cdot\}_D$

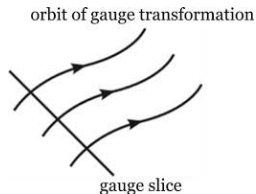
Gauge Freedom

Case 2:

- 1st class constraints ϕ_α generate gauge transformations:

$$\delta_\epsilon F = \epsilon^\alpha \{F, \phi_\alpha\}$$

- $\{\text{gauge orbits}\} \cong \mathcal{M}_{phys}$
 - Gauge fixing = intersecting each gauge orbit once
- \Leftrightarrow external constraints \rightarrow no 1st class cons.
- \Rightarrow Dirac bracket
- $\underset{1}{\Rightarrow}$



¹Graphic from H.Itoyama, *The Birth of String Theory*, Progress in Experimental and Theoretical Physics, 2016

Canonical Quantization

- Fix a Hilbert space \mathbb{H}
- Any $F \in C^\infty(\mathcal{M}_{phys})$ mapped to a self adjoint operator \hat{F} on \mathbb{H} such that:

$$\{F, G\} \rightarrow \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\hat{F}, \hat{G}]$$

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Problem: $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ not compatible with constraints

\Rightarrow Solution :

$$\{F, G\}_D \rightarrow \frac{1}{i\hbar}[\hat{F}, \hat{G}]$$

Strategy of Canonical Quantization

- \mathfrak{h} : one-particle space, Bosonic Fock space:

$$\Gamma_s(\mathfrak{h}) = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} E_s(\mathfrak{h}^{\otimes n})$$

- $a(f), a^\dagger(f), f \in \mathfrak{h}$: the usual annihilation and creation operators on Γ_s

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- $a(f), a^\dagger(f), f \in \mathfrak{h}$: the usual annihilation and creation operators on Γ_s
- Choose $\mathbb{H} = \Gamma_s(\mathfrak{h})$ with $\mathfrak{h} = L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{C}^3$
- Find a classical representation of Dirac bracket in terms of modes $\tilde{a}_n, \tilde{a}_n^\dagger$ satisfying $\{\tilde{a}_n(k), \tilde{a}_m^\dagger(k')\}_D = -i\delta_{nm}\delta^{(3)}(k - k')$
- Quantization: $\tilde{a}_n^{(\dagger)} \rightarrow a_n^{(\dagger)}$

Covariant Formulation of Maxwell Equations

- Vector field $A \in \Omega^1(Mink_4)$ and field strength tensor
 $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$
- Current $j \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathcal{C}^4$ with charge $Q = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3x j_0(x) = \hat{j}_0(0)$
- Lagrange density:

$$\mathcal{L} = F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} - j_\mu A^\mu$$
$$\Rightarrow \pi_\mu := \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta \partial^0 A^\mu} = F_{\mu 0} = E_\mu$$

$$\Rightarrow \pi_0 = F_{00} = 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{L} \text{ is singular}$$

Gauge Freedom

- Two first class constraints

$$\pi_0 = F_{00} \approx 0 \quad \nabla \cdot \pi + j_0 \approx 0 \quad (\text{Gauss law})$$

⇒ two generators of gauge transformations:

$$\begin{aligned} A_0 &\rightarrow A_0 + \xi \\ A_i &\rightarrow A_i + \partial_i \chi \end{aligned}$$

⇒ Well known $U(1)$ gauge freedom

⇒ 2 gauge conditions needed

The Coulomb gauge

- Choose gauge conditions:

$$(i) \quad \nabla \cdot A \approx 0, \quad (ii) \quad \Delta A_0 + j_0 \approx 0$$

\Rightarrow Dirac bracket:

$$\{A_i(x), \pi_j(y)\}_D = \left(\delta_{ij} - \frac{\partial_i \partial_j}{\Delta} \right) \delta^{(3)}(x - y)$$

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Let $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{R}^3$, then:

- $\pi^C(f) = a\left(\left(\frac{\omega}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} P_T(\hat{f})\right) + a^\dagger\left(\left(\frac{\omega}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} P_T(\hat{f})\right) + \langle k \cdot \hat{f}, \hat{j}_0 \rangle$
- $B^C(f) = a\left((2\omega)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \widehat{\text{curl}}(f)\right) + a^\dagger\left((2\omega)^{\frac{1}{2}} \widehat{\text{curl}}(f)\right)$

with P_T : projection to $\mathfrak{h}_T := \{g \in \mathfrak{h}; k \cdot \hat{g} = 0\}$

The Axial gauge

- Choose gauge conditions

$$(i) \quad e \cdot A \approx 0 \quad (ii) \quad e \cdot (\pi - \nabla A_0) \approx 0$$

⇒ Dirac bracket:

$$\{A_i(x), \pi_j(y)\}_D = \left(\delta_{ij} - \frac{e_j \partial_i}{e \cdot \nabla} \right) \delta^{(3)}(x - y)$$

Problem: $\frac{e_i \partial_j}{e \cdot \nabla} : \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^3) \not\rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$

Smearing of the Axial gauge

- Extend phase space to have n copies of $A \rightarrow$ extends Gauge freedom to $U(1) \times \cdots \times U(1)$
- Axial gauge fixing for each A_i with gauge vector $e_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$
- Dirac bracket:

$$\{A_i(x), \pi_j(y)\}_D = \left[\delta_{ij} - \frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{e_{i,j}}{e \cdot \nabla} \right) \partial_i \right] \delta^{(3)}(x - y)$$

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- Interpretation as Riemann sum:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{e_{k,j}}{e \cdot \nabla} = PV - \int_{S^2} d\Omega(e) \frac{e_j}{e \cdot \nabla} g(e)$$

for $g \in C^1(S^2)$ and $\int_{S^2} d\Omega(e) g(e) = 1$

Observables

Let $f \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{R}^3$, then:

- $\pi^{ax}(f) = a(i\omega^{\frac{1}{2}} P_T \hat{f}) + a^\dagger(i\omega^{\frac{1}{2}} P_T \hat{f}) + \langle \hat{f}, \int_{S^2} \frac{e}{e \cdot k} g(e) j_0 \rangle$
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$$\textcircled{1} PV - \int_{S^2} d\Omega(e) \frac{e_j}{e \cdot \nabla} g(e) : \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^3) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$$

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- 2 $B^{ax} = B^C$
- 3 Difference of π^C and π^{ax} only in transversal part:

$$\pi^{ax}(f) = \pi^C(f) + \langle P_T(\hat{f}), \int_{S^2} \frac{P_T(e)}{e \cdot k} g(e) \hat{j}_0 \rangle$$

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\Rightarrow Inequivalence can only arise from transversal fields

Weyl operators on transversal Fock space

- Transversal Fock space: $\Gamma_T := \Gamma_s(\mathfrak{h}_T)$ with

$$\mathfrak{h}_T := \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{C}^3; k \cdot \hat{f} = 0\}$$

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$$\mathfrak{h}_T := \{f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{C}^3; k \cdot \hat{f} = 0\}$$

- $\phi(f) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(a(\widehat{Re(f)}) + a^\dagger(\widehat{Re(f)}) \right)$ and
 $\pi(f) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(a(\widehat{ilm(f)}) + a^\dagger(\widehat{ilm(f)}) \right)$ are self adjoint on Γ_T^{fin}

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 $\pi(f) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(a(i\widehat{Im(f)}) + a^\dagger(i\widehat{Im(f)}) \right)$ are self adjoint on Γ_T^{fin}
- The Weyl operators $e^{i\phi(f)}, e^{i\pi(g)}$ are unitary and satisfy

$$e^{i\phi(f)} e^{i\pi(g)} = e^{-\frac{i}{2}\langle f, g \rangle} e^{i(\phi(f) + \pi(g))}$$

Algebra of observables

- Weyl operators of the canonical momenta:

$$e^{i\pi_T^C(if)} = e^{i\pi(if)}$$

$$e^{i\pi_T^{ax}(if)} = e^{i\langle \int_{S^2} d\Omega(e) \frac{P_T(e)}{e \cdot k} g(e) \hat{j}_0, \hat{f} \rangle} e^{i\pi(if)}$$

- Test function space $L \subset \mathfrak{h}_T$ with P_T projection on \mathfrak{h}_T :

$$L := \omega^{-\frac{1}{2}} \text{curl}(\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{R}^3) + i\omega^{\frac{1}{2}} P_T(\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R}^3) \otimes \mathbb{R}^3)$$

- $\mathfrak{U} := \{W(f), f \in L\}''$ is the algebra of observables
- The set $\{W(f), f \in L\}$ is irreducible in Γ_T

Gauge Equivalence for current with vanishing charge

Theorem

$$e^{i\pi^C} \cong e^{i\pi^{ax}} \text{ iff } \hat{j}_0(0) = 0$$

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Strategy for " \Leftarrow ":

- $e^{i\phi(\omega^{-\frac{1}{2}} \int_{S^2} d\Omega(e) \frac{P_T(e)}{e \cdot k} g(e) \hat{j}_0)} := U_g(\hat{j}_0)$ is a unitary on $\Gamma_{\mathcal{T}}$ iff $\hat{j}_0(0) = 0$ due to:

$$\omega^{-\frac{1}{2}} \int_{S^2} d\Omega(e) \frac{P_T(e)}{e \cdot k} g(e) \hat{j}_0 \in \mathfrak{h}_{\mathcal{T}} \Leftrightarrow \hat{j}_0(0) = 0$$

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- $U_g(\hat{j}_0) W(if) U_g^\dagger(\hat{j}_0) = e^{i\langle \hat{f}, \int_{S^2} d\Omega(e) \frac{P_T(e)}{e \cdot k} g(e) \hat{j}_0 \rangle} W(if)$

\Rightarrow Equivalence of the gauges if $\hat{j}_0(0) = 0$:

$$U_g(\hat{j}_0) e^{i\pi^C} U_g^\dagger(\hat{j}_0) = e^{i\pi^{ax}}$$

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Strategy for " \Rightarrow ":

Defintion

Let L' be the algebraic dual of L and $F \in L'$. An automorphism of \mathcal{W} of the form

$$\gamma_F(W(g)) = e^{iF(g)} W(g)$$

is called *coherent automorphism*.

- $e^{i\pi^C}$ and $e^{i\pi^{ax}}$ are linked via the coherent automorphism with
$$F(f) = \text{Im} \left(\left\langle \int_{S^2} d\Omega(e) \frac{P_T(e)}{e \cdot k} g(e) \widehat{j}_0, \omega^{\frac{1}{2}} f \right\rangle \right)$$

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- Equivalent Problem: $\gamma_F \cong \mathbb{I} \Rightarrow \hat{j}_0(0)$

Theorem

If $\gamma_F \cong \mathbb{I}$, then: $\hat{j}_0(0) = 0$

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Strategy:

- Construct a central sequence $W(if_\lambda) \subset \mathcal{W}$:

$$[A, \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow \infty} W(if_\lambda)] = 0$$

for all $A \in \mathcal{W}$ such that $\|f_\lambda\| = \|f\|$

- Irreducibility: $\Rightarrow W(if_\lambda) \rightarrow c\mathbb{I}$, $c \in \mathbb{C}$
 - $\|f_\lambda\| = \|f\| \Rightarrow W(if_\lambda) \rightarrow \omega_0(W(if))\mathbb{I}$ weakly
 - $F(f_\lambda) \rightarrow \hat{j}_0(0)a_f$ with $a_f \in \mathbb{R}$
- $\Rightarrow \gamma_F(W(if_\lambda)) \rightarrow e^{i\hat{j}_0(0)a_f}\omega_0(W(if))\mathbb{I}$
- We can choose f such that $a_f \neq 0$

- Discussed Canonical Quantization for system with Gauge Freedom
- Defined Maxwell fields on Γ_s that satisfy Coulomb gauge
- Regularized Axial gauge by Smearing
- Main Result:

$$\text{Axial gauge} \cong \text{Coulombg gauge} \Leftrightarrow \hat{j}_0(0) = 0$$

Outlook:

- Classify Axial gauges in terms of g that are unitarily equivalent

Thank you for your attention!