

23. Renormalization group

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we had: $\lambda = \mu^{4-d} F(\lambda_{\text{ren}}(\mu), d)$

with $F(x, d) = x - 3\Lambda d \frac{x^2}{(4\pi)^2} + \dots$ (indep. of μ)

Bare coupling λ does not depend on $\mu \Rightarrow \frac{d\lambda}{d\mu} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \lambda_{\text{ren}}(\mu) = (d-4) \frac{F(\lambda_{\text{ren}}(\mu), d)}{F'(\lambda_{\text{ren}}(\mu), d)}$$

$d \rightarrow 4 \Rightarrow \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \lambda_{\text{ren}}(\mu) = \beta(\lambda_{\text{ren}}(\mu))$ renormalization group equation

with $\beta = \lim_{d \rightarrow 4} (d-4) \frac{F}{F'}$ (RGE)

perturbative expansion $\rightarrow \beta(\lambda) = \beta_0 \frac{\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^2} + \beta_1 \frac{\lambda^3}{(4\pi)^4} + \dots$

coefficients β_0, β_1, \dots are pure numbers

β_0 may be obtained from $\frac{d}{d\mu} \lambda_{\text{ren}}(\mu)$ (see ch. 22)

$\rightarrow \beta_0 = 3 \rightarrow$ for weak coupling: $\beta(\lambda) \approx \frac{3\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^2} > 0$

$\rightarrow \lambda_{\text{ren}}(\mu)$ grows if μ is increased

analogously: $m^2 = m_{\text{ren}}^2(\mu) \tilde{F}(\lambda_{\text{ren}}(\mu), d)$

\rightarrow differential equation for running mass: $\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} m_{\text{ren}}^2(\mu) = \gamma(\lambda_{\text{ren}}(\mu)) m_{\text{ren}}^2(\mu)$

$$\text{ch. 22} \Rightarrow g^2(\lambda) = \frac{\lambda}{(4\pi)^2} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^2)$$

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note: expressed in terms of the bare parameters λ, m , the d -dimensional n -point fctn of the bare field ϕ are scale-independent; but: renormalized n -point fctns are μ -dependent, because of field renormalisation constant

$$\begin{aligned} &\Rightarrow \langle 0 | T \phi_{ren}(x_1) \dots \phi_{ren}(x_n) | 0 \rangle \Big|_{\lambda_{ren}, m_{ren}, \mu} \\ &= Z^{n/2} \langle 0 | T \phi(x_1) \dots \phi(x_n) | 0 \rangle \Big|_{\lambda'_{ren}, m'_{ren}, \mu'} \\ Z &= \lim_{d \rightarrow 4} \frac{\overline{Z}'}{\overline{Z}} \quad \text{renormalisation group invariance} \end{aligned}$$

scale changes may be performed successively

→ renormalisation group parametrized by the factor μ'/μ

→ μ is a matter of choice, which does not affect physical quantities

if $\beta(\lambda)$ is known, the RGE fully determines the scale dependence of $\lambda_{ren}(\mu)$; even if only the leading term β_0 is known (the evaluation of β_n requires a calculation to $n+1$ loops), the RG implies that the coefficients \bar{a}_L in the relation between the running and the physical couplings,

$$\lambda_{ren} = \lambda_{ph} \left[1 + \bar{a}_1 \frac{\lambda_{ph}}{(4\pi)^2} + \bar{a}_2 \frac{\lambda_{ph}^2}{(4\pi)^4} + \dots \right]$$

are polynomials of rank L in the variable $t = \ln(\mu/m_{ph})$ (ex.: show this!):

$$\bar{a}_L = \bar{a}_{L,0} t^L + \bar{a}_{L,1} t^{L-1} + \dots + \bar{a}_{L,L}$$

last term $\bar{a}_{L,L}$ may be eliminated by replacing the scale of the logarithm with the scale m_1 , at which $\lambda_{ph} = \lambda_{ren}(m_1)$, $t = \ln(\mu/m_1)$;

term with highest power of $\ln \mu \equiv$ leading logarithmic contribution is fully determined by the first coefficient of the β -fctn: $\bar{a}_{L,0} = (\beta_0)^L$

⇒ leading logarithms → geometric series

$$\lambda_{ren} = \frac{\lambda_{ph}}{1 - \lambda_{ph} \beta_0 t / (4\pi)^2} + \dots \quad (*)$$

≙ reordering of the perturbation series

running coupling depends on the scale μ only through $t \rightarrow$ straightforward perturbative expansion yields a double series in powers of λ_{ph} and $t \rightarrow$ since the power t^L occurs only at order λ_{ph}^{L+1} or higher, the variable t may be replaced by $\bar{t} = \lambda_{ph} t$ and expand in powers of λ_{ph} at fixed $\bar{t} \rightarrow$ in this reordered expansion, (*) is valid to first order in λ_{ph} but to all orders in $\bar{t} \rightarrow$ one loop result

$$\lambda_{ren} = \lambda_{ph} \left[1 + \beta_0 \frac{\bar{t}}{(4\pi)^2} \right]$$

is less accurate, as it only contains λ_{ph} and $\lambda_{ph} \bar{t} \rightarrow$ significant improvement by reordering! if $\ln(\mu/m_+)$ is large!

remark: (*) is an approximate solution of the RGE for $\beta(\lambda) \approx \beta_0 \frac{\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^2}$

$$\rightarrow \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \frac{1}{\lambda_{ren}} = -\beta_0 / (4\pi)^2$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{1}{\lambda_{ren}} = -\frac{\beta_0}{(4\pi)^2} \ln \frac{\mu}{\Lambda_\phi} \quad \Lambda_\phi = \text{constant of int.}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\lambda_{ren}}{(4\pi)^2} = \frac{1}{\beta_0 \ln \frac{\Lambda_\phi}{\mu}}$$

$$\text{take } \mu = m_1 \rightarrow \Lambda_\phi = m_1 \exp[(4\pi)^2 / \beta_0 \lambda_{ph}]$$

\rightarrow (*) ✓

Λ_ϕ is independent of μ (by def.) \rightarrow renormalization group invariant scale of the model

see: J. Gasser, H. Leutwyler: Skript zur Vorlesung
Quantenfeldtheorie I, Sommersemester 1997,
Univ. Bern