

Symmetries and Ward identities

Exercise 1: Let us consider (Euclidean) complex scalar field theory, i.e.

$$\mathcal{L}_E = \partial_\mu \phi^* \partial_\mu \phi - V(\phi^* \phi) .$$

This theory is invariant in the global transformation $\phi \rightarrow e^{i\omega} \phi$, $\phi^* \rightarrow e^{-i\omega} \phi^*$. Derive the Noether current, through

- (a) the definition $\frac{\delta S_E}{\delta \omega(x)} \equiv -\partial_\mu j_\mu(x)$.
- (b) a comparison with Exercise 2.2 of QFTI. [Hint: Write $\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\phi_1 + i\phi_2)$.]

Exercise 2: Consider a “linearly realized” symmetry

$$\delta\phi^a(x) = \Phi_i^a(x) \delta\omega^i \equiv T_i^{ab} \phi^b(x) \delta\omega^i ,$$

where the T_i^{ab} are constants, and $\partial S_E[\phi^a]/\partial\omega^i = 0$. Show that

- (a) $\int d^4x T_i^{ab} \phi^b(x) \frac{\delta S_E[\phi]}{\delta \phi^a(x)} = 0$,
- (b) $\int d^4x T_i^{ab} J^a(x) \frac{\delta Z[J]}{\delta J^b(x)} = 0$,
- (c) $\int d^4x T_i^{ab} \varphi^b(x) \frac{\delta \Gamma[\varphi]}{\delta \varphi^a(x)} = 0$.

Here

$$\begin{aligned} Z[J] &\equiv \int \mathcal{D}\phi \exp \left\{ -S_E[\phi] + \int_x J(x) \phi(x) \right\} \equiv \exp\{W[J]\} , \\ \Gamma[\varphi] &\equiv W[J] - \int_x \varphi(x) J(x) \quad \text{with} \quad \varphi(x) \equiv \delta W[J]/\delta J(x) . \end{aligned}$$

[A comparison of points (a) and (c) implies that the “effective action”, $\Gamma[\varphi]$, displays the same symmetries as the classical one, $S_E[\phi]$.]