

INNER FLUCTUATIONS OF THE SPECTRAL ACTION

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ABSTRACT. We prove in the general framework of noncommutative geometry that the inner fluctuations of the spectral action can be computed as residues and give exactly the counterterms for the Feynman graphs with fermionic internal lines. We show that for geometries of dimension less or equal to four the obtained terms add up to a sum of a Yang-Mills action with a Chern-Simons action.

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We dedicate this paper to Daniel Kastler on his eightieth birthday

1. INTRODUCTION

The spectral action is defined as a functional on noncommutative geometries. Such a geometry is specified by a fairly simple data of operator theoretic nature, namely a spectral triple

$$(1.1) \quad (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D),$$

where \mathcal{A} is a noncommutative algebra with involution $*$, acting in the Hilbert space \mathcal{H} while D is a self-adjoint operator with compact resolvent and such that,

$$(1.2) \quad [D, a] \text{ is bounded } \forall a \in \mathcal{A}.$$

Additional structures such as the $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ grading γ in the even case and the real structure J of \mathcal{H} will play little role below, but can easily be taken into account.

The spectral action fulfills two basic properties

- It only depends upon the spectrum of D .
- It is additive for direct sums of noncommutative geometries.

It is given in general by the expression

$$(1.3) \quad \text{Trace}(f(D/\Lambda)),$$

where f is a positive even function of the real variable and the parameter Λ fixes the mass scale. The dimension of a noncommutative geometry is not a number but a spectrum, the *dimension spectrum* (*cf.* [6]) which is the subset Π of the complex plane \mathbb{C} at which the spectral functions have singularities.

Under the hypothesis that the dimension spectrum is *simple* i.e. that the spectral functions have at most simple poles, the residue at the pole defines a far reaching extension (cf. [6]) of the fundamental integral in noncommutative geometry given by the Dixmier trace (cf. [3]). This extends to the framework of spectral triples the Wodzicki residue (originally defined for pseudodifferential operators on standard manifolds) as a trace on the algebra of operators generated by \mathcal{A} and powers of D so that

$$(1.4) \quad P \rightarrow \oint P \in \mathbb{C}, \quad \oint P_1 P_2 = \oint P_2 P_1.$$

Both this algebra and the functional (1.4) do not depend on the detailed knowledge of the *metric* defined by D and the residue is unaltered by a change $D \rightarrow D'$ of D such that the difference

$$\text{Log } D' - \text{Log } D,$$

is a *bounded* operator with suitable regularity. In other words the residue only depends on the quasi-isometry class of the noncommutative metric.

In this generality the spectral action (1.3) can be expanded in decreasing powers of the scale Λ in the form

$$(1.5) \quad \text{Trace}(f(D/\Lambda)) \sim \sum_{k \in \Pi^+} f_k \Lambda^k \oint |D|^{-k} + f(0) \zeta_D(0) + o(1),$$

where Π^+ is the positive part of the dimension spectrum Π . The function f only appears through the scalars

$$(1.6) \quad f_k = \int_0^\infty f(v) v^{k-1} dv.$$

One lets

$$(1.7) \quad \zeta_D(s) = \text{Tr}(|D|^{-s}),$$

and regularity at $s = 0$ is assumed.

Both the gauge bosons and the Feynman graphs with fermionic internal lines can be readily defined in the above generality of a noncommutative geometry $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$ (cf. [2]). Indeed, as briefly recalled at the beginning of section 2, the inner fluctuations of the metric coming from the Morita equivalence $\mathcal{A} \sim \mathcal{A}$ generate perturbations of D of the form $D \rightarrow D' = D + A$ where the A plays the role of the gauge potentials and is a self-adjoint element of the bimodule

$$(1.8) \quad \Omega_D^1 = \left\{ \sum a_j [D, b_j]; a_j, b_j \in \mathcal{A} \right\}.$$

The line element $ds = D^{-1}$ plays the role of the Fermion propagator so that the value $U(\Gamma_n)$ of one loop graphs Γ_n with fermionic internal lines and n external bosonic lines (such as the triangle graph of Figure 1) is easy to obtain and given at the formal level by,

$$U(\Gamma_n) = \text{Tr}((AD^{-1})^n).$$

These graphs diverge in dimension 4 for $n \leq 4$ and the residue at the pole in dimensional regularization can be computed and expressed as

$$\oint (AD^{-1})^n,$$

as will be shown in [5].

In this paper we analyze how the spectral action behaves under the inner fluctuations. The main results are

- In dimension 4 the variation of the spectral action under inner fluctuations gives the local counterterms for the fermionic graphs of Figures 4, 2, 1 and 3 respectively

$$\zeta_{D+A}(0) - \zeta_D(0) = - \oint AD^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} \oint (AD^{-1})^2 - \frac{1}{3} \oint (AD^{-1})^3 + \frac{1}{4} \oint (AD^{-1})^4,$$

- Assuming that the tadpole graph of Figure 4 vanishes the above variation is the sum of a Yang-Mills action and a Chern-Simons action relative to a cyclic 3-cocycle on \mathcal{A} .

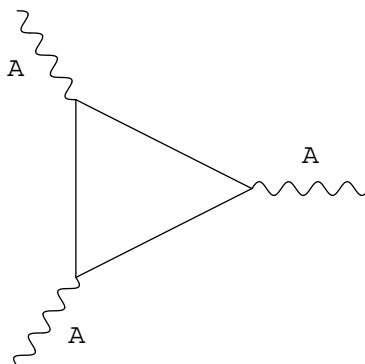


FIGURE 1. The triangle graph.

As a corollary, combining both results we obtain that the variation under inner fluctuations of the scale independent terms of the spectral action is given (*cf.* Theorem 3.5 for precise notations) in dimension 4 by

$$(1.9) \quad \zeta_{D+A}(0) - \zeta_D(0) = \frac{1}{4} \int_{\tau_0} (dA + A^2)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\psi} (AdA + \frac{2}{3}A^3).$$

The conceptual meaning of the above tadpole condition is that the original noncommutative geometry $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$ is a critical point for the (Λ -independent part of the) spectral action, which is a natural hypothesis. The functional τ_0 is a Hochschild 4-cocycle but in general not a cyclic cocycle. In particular, as explained in details in [3] Chapter VI, the expression

$$(1.10) \quad \int_{\tau_0} (dA + A^2)^2,$$

coincides with the Yang-Mills action functional provided that $\tau_0 \geq 0$ *i.e.* that τ_0 is a positive Hochschild cocycle. The Hochschild cocycle τ_0 cannot be cyclic unless the expression (1.10) vanishes.

We show at the end of the paper that the cyclic cohomology class of the cyclic three cocycle ψ is determined modulo the image of the boundary operator B and that the pairing of ψ with the K_1 -group is trivial. This shows that under rather general assumptions one can eliminate ψ by a suitable redefinition of τ_0 (see Proposition 3.7).

The meaning of the vanishing of ψ together with positivity of τ_0 is that the original noncommutative geometry $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$ is at a *stable* critical point as far as the inner fluctuations are concerned. In fact it gives in that case an absolute minimum for the (scale independent terms of the) spectral action in the corresponding class modulo inner fluctuations. We end the paper with the corresponding open questions : elimination of ψ and positivity of the 4-cocycle τ_0 .

2. INNER FLUCTUATIONS OF THE METRIC AND THE SPECTRAL ACTION

The inner fluctuations of the noncommutative metric appear through the simple issue of Morita equivalence. Indeed let \mathcal{B} be the algebra of endomorphisms of a finite projective (right) module \mathcal{E} over \mathcal{A}

$$(2.1) \quad \mathcal{B} = \text{End}_{\mathcal{A}}(\mathcal{E}).$$

Given a spectral triple $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$ one easily gets a representation of \mathcal{B} in the Hilbert space

$$\mathcal{H}' = \mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{A}} \mathcal{H}.$$

But to define the analogue D' of the operator D for \mathcal{B} requires the choice of a *hermitian connection* on \mathcal{E} . Such a connection ∇ is a linear map $\nabla : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E} \otimes_{\mathcal{A}} \Omega_D^1$ satisfying the following rules ([3])

$$(2.2) \quad \nabla(\xi a) = (\nabla \xi)a + \xi \otimes da, \quad \forall \xi \in \mathcal{E}, a \in \mathcal{A},$$

$$(2.3) \quad (\xi, \nabla \eta) - (\nabla \xi, \eta) = d(\xi, \eta), \quad \forall \xi, \eta \in \mathcal{E},$$

where $da = [D, a]$ and where $\Omega_D^1 \subset \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})$ is the \mathcal{A} -bimodule (1.8). The operator D' is then given by

$$(2.4) \quad D'(\xi \otimes \eta) = \xi \otimes D\eta + \nabla(\xi)\eta.$$

Any algebra \mathcal{A} is Morita equivalent to itself and when one applies the above construction with $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{A}$ one gets the inner deformations of the spectral geometry. These replace the operator D by

$$(2.5) \quad D \rightarrow D + A,$$

where $A = A^*$ is an arbitrary selfadjoint element of Ω_D^1 where we disregard the real structure for simplicity. To incorporate the real structure one replaces the algebra \mathcal{A} by its tensor product $\mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}^o$ with the opposite algebra.

2.1. Pseudodifferential calculus.

As developed in [6] one has under suitable regularity hypothesis on the spectral geometry $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}, D)$ an analogue of the pseudodifferential calculus. We briefly recall the main ingredients here. We say that an operator T in \mathcal{H} is *smooth* iff

$$(2.6) \quad t \rightarrow F_t(T) = e^{it|D|} T e^{-it|D|} \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{H})),$$

and let OP^0 be the algebra of smooth operators. Any smooth operator T belongs to the domains of δ^n , where the derivation δ is defined by

$$(2.7) \quad \delta(T) = |D|T - T|D| = [|D|, T].$$

The analogue of the Sobolev spaces are given by

$$\mathcal{H}_s = \text{Dom } |D|^s \quad s \geq 0, \quad \mathcal{H}_{-s} = (\mathcal{H}_s)^*, \quad s < 0.$$

For any smooth operator T one has (cf. [6]) $T\mathcal{H}_s \subset \mathcal{H}_s$ and we let

$$OP^\alpha = \{T; |D|^{-\alpha} T \in OP^0\}.$$

We work in dimension ≤ 4 which means that $ds = D^{-1}$ is an infinitesimal of order $\frac{1}{4}$ and thus that for $N > 4$, OP^{-N} is inside trace class operators. In general we work modulo operators of large negative order, *i.e.* mod OP^{-N} for large N . We let $\mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A})$ be the algebra generated by \mathcal{A} and D considered first at the formal level. The main point is the following lemma [6] which allows to multiply together *pseudodifferential* operators of the form

$$(2.8) \quad P D^{-2n}, \quad P \in \mathcal{D}(\mathcal{A}).$$

One lets $\nabla(T) = D^2 T - T D^2$.

Lemma 2.1. [6] *Let $T \in OP^0$.*

- a) $\nabla^n(T) \in OP^n \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$
- b) $D^{-2} T = \sum_0^n (-1)^k \nabla^k(T) D^{-2k-2} + (-1)^{n+1} D^{-2} \nabla^{n+1}(T) D^{-2n-2}$.
- c) *The remainder $R_n = D^{-2} \nabla^{n+1}(T) D^{-2n-2}$ belongs to $OP^{-(n+3)}$.*

Proof. a) The equality

$$(2.9) \quad |D|T|D|^{-1} = T + \beta(T), \quad \beta(T) = \delta(T)|D|^{-1},$$

shows that for $T \in OP^0$ one has

$$(2.10) \quad D^2 T D^{-2} = T + 2\beta(T) + \beta^2(T) \in OP^0.$$

Similarly one has,

$$(2.11) \quad D^{-2} T D^2 \in OP^0.$$

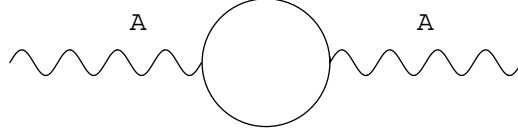


FIGURE 2. The self-energy graph.

This shows that in the definition of OP^α one can put $|D|^{-\alpha}$ on either side.

To prove a) we just need to check that $\nabla(T) \in OP^1$ and then proceed by induction. We have $\nabla(T) = D^2 T - T D^2 = (D^2 T D^{-2} - T) D^2 = (2\beta(T) + \beta^2(T)) D^2 = 2\delta(T) |D| + \delta^2(T)$,

$$(2.12) \quad \nabla(T) = 2\delta(T) |D| + \delta^2(T),$$

which belongs to OP^1 .

b) For $n = 0$ the statement follows from

$$(2.13) \quad D^{-2} T = T D^{-2} - D^{-2} \nabla(T) D^{-2}.$$

Next assume we proved the result for $(n - 1)$. To get it for n we must show that

$$(2.14) \quad \begin{aligned} & (-1)^n \nabla^n(T) D^{-2n-2} + (-1)^{n+1} D^{-2} \nabla^{n+1}(T) D^{-2n-2} \\ &= (-1)^n D^{-2} \nabla^n(T) D^{-2n}. \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying by D^{2n} on the right, with $T' = (-1)^n \nabla^n(T)$, we need to show that

$$T' D^{-2} - D^{-2} \nabla(T') D^{-2} = D^{-2} T',$$

which is (2.13).

c) Follows from a). □

Thus when working mod OP^{-N} for large N one can write

$$(2.15) \quad D^{-2} T \sim \sum_0^\infty (-1)^k \nabla^k(T) D^{-2k-2},$$

and this allows to compute the product in the algebra $\Psi\mathcal{D}$ of operators which, modulo OP^{-N} for any N , are of the form (2.8). Such operators will be called pseudodifferential.

2.2. The operator $\text{Log}(D + A)^2 - \text{Log}(D^2)$.

We let A be a gauge potential,

$$(2.16) \quad A = \sum a_i [D, b_i]; \quad a_i, b_i \in \mathcal{A}, \quad A = A^*,$$

and we consider the operator X defined from the square of the self-adjoint operator $D + A$,

$$(2.17) \quad (D + A)^2 = D^2 + X, \quad X = AD + DA + A^2.$$

The following lemma is an adaptation to our set-up of a classical result in the pseudodifferential calculus on manifolds,

Lemma 2.2.

$$Y = \text{Log}(D + A)^2 - \text{Log}(D^2) \in \Psi\mathcal{D} \cap OP^{-1}.$$

Proof. We start with the equality ($a > 0$)

$$(2.18) \quad \text{Log } a = \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{\lambda + 1} - \frac{1}{\lambda + a} \right) d\lambda,$$

and apply it to both D^2 and $(D + A)^2 = D^2 + X$ to get,

$$(2.19) \quad Y = \int_0^\infty \left(\frac{1}{\lambda + D^2} - \frac{1}{\lambda + D^2 + X} \right) d\lambda.$$

One has

$$(\lambda + D^2 + X)^{-1} = ((1 + X(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1})(D^2 + \lambda))^{-1} = (D^2 + \lambda)^{-1}(1 + X(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1})^{-1},$$

and one can expand,

$$(2.20) \quad (1 + X(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1})^{-1} = \sum_0^\infty (-1)^n (X(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1})^n.$$

In this expansion the remainder is, up to sign,

$$(2.21) \quad (X(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1})^{n+1} (1 + X(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1})^{-1} = R_n(\lambda).$$

Here $X \in OP^1$ by construction so that a rough estimate of the order of the remainder is given by

$$(2.22) \quad \int X^{n+1}(D^2 + \lambda)^{-(n+1)} d\lambda \sim X^{n+1}(D^2)^{-n} \sim |D|^{n+1-2n}.$$

Now in lemma 2.15 b) we can use $D^2 + \lambda$ instead of D^2 . This does not alter ∇ since

$$(2.23) \quad [D^2 + \lambda, T] = [D^2, T],$$

and we thus get,

$$(2.24) \quad \begin{aligned} (D^2 + \lambda)^{-1} T &= \sum_0^n (-1)^k \nabla^k(T) (D^2 + \lambda)^{-(k+1)} \\ &+ (-1)^{n+1} (D^2 + \lambda)^{-1} \nabla^{n+1}(T) (D^2 + \lambda)^{-(n+1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus using (2.20) the integrand in (2.19) is up to a remainder,

$$(2.25) \quad \begin{aligned} &(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1} X(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1} - (D^2 + \lambda)^{-1} X(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1} X(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1} \\ &+ \dots + (-1)^{k+1} ((D^2 + \lambda)^{-1} X)^k (D^2 + \lambda)^{-1} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Using (2.24) one can move all the $(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1}$ to the right at the expense of replacing X 's by $\nabla^{k_j}(X)$ and increasing the n in $(D^2 + \lambda)^{-n}$. Thus using, ($n \geq 2$)

$$(2.26) \quad \int_0^\infty (D^2 + \lambda)^{-n} d\lambda = \frac{1}{n-1} D^{2(1-n)},$$

we get that Y is in $\Psi\mathcal{D} \cap OP^{-1}$ provided we control the remainders. To control the remainder in (2.21) one can use,

$$(2.27) \quad \int_0^\infty \|(X(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1})^3\| d\lambda < \infty,$$

while the other terms are uniformly on OP^{-N} since $D^2(D^2 + \lambda)^{-1}$ is bounded by 1 in any \mathcal{H}^s .

To get (2.27) since $X \in OP^1$ one can replace X by $|D|$ and only integrate from $\lambda = 1$ to ∞ . Then the inequality $D^2 + \lambda \geq 2|D|\lambda^{1/2}$ gives the required result. \square

Lemma 2.3. (1) For any N there is an element $B(t) \in \Psi\mathcal{D}$ such that modulo OP^{-N} ,

$$(2.28) \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\text{Log}(D^2 + tX) - \text{Log}D^2 - \text{Log}(1 + tXD^{-2})) = [D^2 + tX, B(t)]$$

(2) Modulo OP^{-N} one has

$$\text{Log}(D^2 + X) - \text{Log}D^2 - \text{Log}(1 + XD^{-2}) = [D^2, B_1] + [X, B_2]$$

where $B_1 = \int_0^1 B(t) dt$, $B_2 = \int_0^1 t B(t) dt$ are in $\Psi\mathcal{D}$.

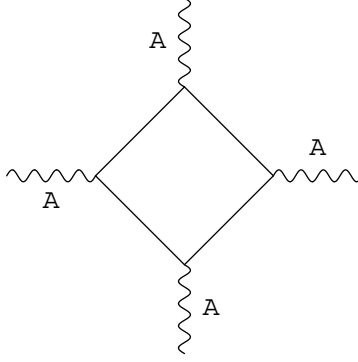


FIGURE 3. The quartic graph.

Proof. 1) From (2.19) one has,

$$(2.29) \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \text{Log}(D^2 + tX) = \int_0^\infty \frac{1}{\lambda + D^2 + tX} X \frac{1}{\lambda + D^2 + tX} d\lambda,$$

while

$$(2.30) \quad \int_0^\infty X \frac{1}{(\lambda + D^2 + tX)^2} d\lambda = X(D^2 + tX)^{-1},$$

which is the derivative in t of $\text{Log}(1 + tXD^{-2})$ since, $X(D^2 + tX)^{-1} = XD^{-2}(1 + tXD^{-2})^{-1}$. We thus get, calling $Z(t)$ the left hand side of (2.28),

$$(2.31) \quad Z(t) = \int_0^\infty \left[\frac{1}{\lambda + D^2 + tX}, X \frac{1}{\lambda + D^2 + tX} \right] d\lambda.$$

Let us define,

$$(2.32) \quad \nabla_t(T) = [D^2 + tX, T],$$

and apply the formula of lemma 2.15 b) with $\lambda + D^2 + tX$ instead of D^2 and $T = X(\lambda + D^2 + tX)^{-1}$. We thus get,

$$(2.33) \quad \left[\frac{1}{\lambda + D^2 + tX}, T \right] = \sum_1^n (-1)^k \nabla_t^k (T(\lambda + D^2 + tX)^{-(k+1)}) + R_n,$$

where we put $(\lambda + D^2 + tX)^{-(k+1)}$ inside the argument of ∇_t^k since it is in the centralizer of ∇_t . Thus,

$$(2.34) \quad \left[\frac{1}{\lambda + D^2 + tX}, T \right] = \nabla_t \left(\sum_1^n (-1)^k \nabla_t^{k-1}(X)(\lambda + D^2 + tX)^{-(k+2)} \right) + R_n.$$

When integrated in λ the parenthesis gives,

$$(2.35) \quad B(t) = \sum_1^n (-1)^k \nabla_t^{k-1}(X) \frac{1}{k+1} \frac{1}{(D^2 + tX)^{k+1}}.$$

Let us then check that $(D^2 + tX)^{-1} \in \Psi\mathcal{D}$. We just expand it as,

$$(2.36) \quad (D^2 + tX)^{-1} = D^{-2} - D^{-2}tXD^{-2} + D^{-2}tXD^{-2}tXD^{-2} - \dots$$

It follows that $B(t) \in \Psi\mathcal{D}$ while,

$$(2.37) \quad Z(t) = \nabla_t(B(t)) + R'_n.$$

2) Follows by integration using (2.35), (2.36) to express B_j as explicit elements of $\Psi\mathcal{D} \bmod OP^{-N}$. \square

2.3. The variation $\zeta_{D+A}(0) - \zeta_D(0)$.

We are now ready to prove the main result of this section, we work as above with a regular spectral triple with simple dimension spectrum.

Theorem 2.4. *Let A be a gauge potential,*

- (1) *The function $\zeta_{D+A}(s)$ extends to a meromorphic function with at most simple poles.*
- (2) *It is regular at $s = 0$.*
- (3) *One has*

$$\zeta_{D+A}(0) - \zeta_D(0) = - \int \text{Log}(1 + A D^{-1}) = \sum \frac{(-1)^n}{n} \int (A D^{-1})^n$$

Proof. 1) We start from the expansional formula

$$(2.38) \quad e^{A+B} e^{-A} = \sum_0^\infty \int_{0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_n \leq 1} B(t_1) B(t_2) \dots B(t_n) \prod dt_i$$

where

$$(2.39) \quad B(t) = e^{tA} B e^{-tA}.$$

We take $A = -\frac{s}{2} \text{Log} D^2$ and $B = -\frac{s}{2} Y$ so that,

$$(2.40) \quad e^{A+B} = (D^2 + X)^{-s/2}, \quad e^A = (D^2)^{-s/2}.$$

We define the one parameter group,

$$(2.41) \quad \sigma_u(T) = (D^2)^{u/2} T (D^2)^{-u/2},$$

so that with the above notations we get,

$$(2.42) \quad B(t) = -\frac{s}{2} \sigma_{-st}(Y).$$

We can thus write,

$$(2.43) \quad (D^2 + X)^{-s/2} = (D^2)^{-s/2} + \sum_{n=1}^\infty \left(-\frac{s}{2}\right)^n \left(\int_{0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_n \leq 1} \sigma_{-st_1}(Y) \dots \sigma_{-st_i}(Y) \dots \sigma_{-st_n}(Y) \prod dt_i \right) (D^2)^{-s/2}.$$

Since by lemma 2.2 one has $Y \in \Psi\mathcal{D} \cap OP^{-1}$ for any given half plane $H = \{z; \Re(z) \geq a\}$ only finitely many terms of the sum (2.43) contribute to the singularities in H of the function $\zeta_{D+A}(s) = \text{Tr}((D^2 + X)^{-s/2})$ and the expansion of the one parameter group σ_u (cf. [6])

$$(2.44) \quad \begin{aligned} \sigma_{2z}(T) &= T + z \epsilon(T) + \frac{z(z-1)}{2!} \epsilon^2(T) + \dots \\ &+ \frac{z(z-1) \dots (z-n+1)}{n!} \epsilon^n(T) \quad \text{mod } OP^{q-(n+1)} \end{aligned}$$

where $T \in OP^q$ and,

$$(2.45) \quad \epsilon(T) = [D^2, T] D^{-2} = [D^2, T D^{-2}].$$

gives the required meromorphic continuation.

2) By hypothesis the functions of the form $\text{Tr}(P |D|^{-s})$ for $P \in \Psi\mathcal{D}$ have at most simple poles thus only the first term of the infinite sum in (2.43) can contribute to the value $\zeta_{D+A}(0) - \zeta_D(0)$. This first term is

$$-\frac{s}{2} \int_0^1 \sigma_{-st}(Y) dt (D^2)^{-s/2},$$

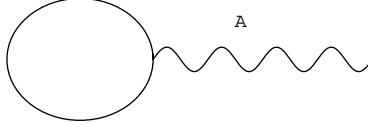


FIGURE 4. The tadpole graph.

and using (2.44) one can replace $\sigma_{-st}(Y)$ by Y without altering the value of $\zeta_{D+A}(0) - \zeta_D(0)$ which is hence, using the definition of the residue

$$(2.46) \quad \int P = \text{Res}_{s=0} \text{Tr}(P |D|^{-s}),$$

given by

$$(2.47) \quad \zeta_{D+A}(0) - \zeta_D(0) = -\frac{1}{2} \int Y = -\frac{1}{2} \int \text{Log}(1 + X D^{-2}),$$

using Lemma 2.3 (2) and the trace property (1.4).

3) For any elements $a, b \in \Psi\mathcal{D} \cap OP^{-1}$ one has the identity

$$(2.48) \quad \int \text{Log}((1+a)(1+b)) = \int \text{Log}(1+a) + \int \text{Log}(1+b).$$

This can be checked directly using the expansion

$$\text{Log}(1+a) = \sum_1^{\infty} (-1)^{n+1} \frac{a^n}{n},$$

and the trace property (1.4) of the residue. In fact one can reduce it to the identity

$$\int (t+b)^{-1} (t+a)^{-1} (2t+a+b) = \int ((t+a)^{-1} + (t+b)^{-1}),$$

which follows from (1.4) and the equality

$$(t+a)^{-1} (2t+a+b) (t+b)^{-1} = (t+a)^{-1} + (t+b)^{-1}.$$

Applying (2.48) to $a = D^{-1}A$ and $b = AD^{-1}$ one gets, with $X = DA + AD + A^2$ as above,

$$(2.49) \quad \int \text{Log}(1 + X D^{-2}) = 2 \int \text{Log}(1 + A D^{-1}),$$

which combined with (2.47) gives the required equality. \square

3. YANG-MILLS + CHERN-SIMONS

We work in dimension ≤ 4 and make the following hypothesis of *vanishing tadpole* (cf. Figure 4)

$$(3.1) \quad \int a [D, b] D^{-1} = 0, \quad \forall a, b \in \mathcal{A}.$$

By Theorem 2.4 this condition is equivalent to the vanishing of the first order variation of the (scale independent part of) the spectral action under inner fluctuations, and is thus a natural hypothesis.

Given a Hochschild cochain φ of dimension n on an algebra \mathcal{A} , normalized so that

$$\varphi(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0,$$

if any of the a_j for $j > 0$ is a scalar, it defines (cf. [3]) a functional on the universal n -forms $\Omega^n(\mathcal{A})$ by the equality

$$(3.2) \quad \int_{\varphi} a_0 da_1 \cdots da_n = \varphi(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n).$$

When φ is a Hochschild cocycle one has

$$(3.3) \quad \int_{\varphi} a \omega = \int_{\varphi} \omega a, \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{A}.$$

The boundary operator B_0 defined on normalized cochains by

$$(3.4) \quad (B_0 \varphi)(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}) = \varphi(1, a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}),$$

is defined in such a way that

$$(3.5) \quad \int_{\varphi} d\omega = \int_{B_0 \varphi} \omega.$$

Working in dimension ≤ 4 means that

$$(3.6) \quad D^{-1} \in \mathcal{L}^{(4, \infty)},$$

i.e. that D^{-1} is an infinitesimal of order $\frac{1}{4}$ (*cf.* [3]). The following functional is then a Hochschild cocycle and is given as Dixmier trace of infinitesimals of order one,

$$(3.7) \quad \tau_0(a^0, a^1, a^2, a^3, a^4) = \int a^0 [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1} [D, a^4] D^{-1}.$$

The following functional uses the residue in an essential manner,

$$(3.8) \quad \varphi(a^0, a^1, a^2, a^3) = \int a^0 [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1}.$$

Lemma 3.1. (1) $b\varphi = -\tau_0$

(2) $bB_0\tau_0 = 2\tau_0$

(3) $B_0\varphi = 0$

Proof. 1) One has,

$$\begin{aligned} b\varphi(a^0, \dots, a^4) &= \int a^0 a^1 [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1} [D, a^4] D^{-1} \\ &\quad - \int a^0 (a^1 [D, a^2] + [D, a^1] a^2) D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1} [D, a^4] D^{-1} \\ &\quad + \int a^0 [D, a^1] D^{-1} (a^2 [D, a^3] + [D, a^2] a^3) D^{-1} [D, a^4] D^{-1} \\ &\quad - \int a^0 [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} (a^3 [D, a^4] + [D, a^3] a^4) D^{-1} \\ &\quad + \int a^4 a^0 [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus using

$$(3.9) \quad a D^{-1} - D^{-1} a = D^{-1} [D, a] D^{-1},$$

we get 2).

2) One has

$$\begin{aligned} B_0 \tau_0(a^0, a^1, a^2, a^3) &= \int [D, a^0] D^{-1} [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1} \\ &= -\varphi(a^0, a^1, a^2, a^3) + \tilde{\varphi}(a^0, a^1, a^2, a^3), \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\tilde{\varphi}(a^0, a^1, a^2, a^3) = \int a^0 D^{-1} [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3].$$

Thus it is enough to check that $b\tilde{\varphi} = \tau_0$. One has

$$\begin{aligned}
b\tilde{\varphi}(a^0, \dots, a^4) &= \int a^0 a^1 D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1} [D, a^4] \\
&\quad - \int a^0 D^{-1} (a^1 [D, a^2] + [D, a^1] a^2) D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1} [D, a^4] \\
&\quad + \int a^0 D^{-1} [D, a^1] D^{-1} (a^2 [D, a^3] + [D, a^2] a^3) D^{-1} [D, a^4] \\
&\quad - \int a^0 D^{-1} [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} (a^3 [D, a^4] + [D, a^3] a^4) \\
&\quad + \int a^4 a^0 D^{-1} [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3] \\
&= \int a^0 D^{-1} [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1} [D, a^4].
\end{aligned}$$

and using (3.9) one gets the required equality since, using (3.6),

$$\int a^0 [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1} [D, a^4] D^{-1} = \int a^0 D^{-1} [D, a^1] D^{-1} [D, a^2] D^{-1} [D, a^3] D^{-1} [D, a^4].$$

3) We use the notation

$$(3.10) \quad \alpha(a) = D a D^{-1}, \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{A}.$$

Note that in general $\alpha(a) \notin \mathcal{A}$. One has

$$\alpha(ab) = \alpha(a) \alpha(b), \quad \forall a, b \in \mathcal{A}.$$

Let us show that the tadpole hypothesis (3.1) implies that for any three elements $a, b, c \in \mathcal{A}$,

$$(3.11) \quad \int \alpha^{\epsilon_1}(a) \alpha^{\epsilon_2}(b) \alpha^{\epsilon_3}(c) = \int a b c,$$

for all $\epsilon_j \in \{0, 1\}$. The trace property of the residue shows that this holds when all $\epsilon_j = 1$. One is thus reduced to show that

$$\int \alpha(x) y = \int x y, \quad \forall x, y \in \mathcal{A},$$

which follows from (3.1). One has by construction

$$B_0 \varphi(a_0, a_1, a_2) = \int (\alpha(a_0) - a_0)(\alpha(a_1) - a_1)(\alpha(a_2) - a_2),$$

which vanishes since the terms cancel pairwise. \square

Lemma 3.2. *One has for any $A \in \Omega^1$ the equality*

$$\int A D^{-1} A D^{-1} = - \int_{\varphi} A dA.$$

Proof. Let us first show that for any $a_j \in \mathcal{A}$ one has

$$(3.12) \quad \int a_0 [D, a_1] D^{-1} a_2 [D, a_3] D^{-1} = -\varphi(a^0, a^1, a^2, a^3).$$

It suffices using (3.9) to show that

$$\int a_0 [D, a_1] a_2 D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} = 0,$$

which follows using

$$a_0 [D, a_1] a_2 = a_0 [D, a_1 a_2] - a_0 a_1 [D, a_2],$$

and the vanishing of

$$\oint a [D, b] D^{-1} [D, c] D^{-1} = \int a (\alpha(b) - b) (\alpha(c) - c) = 0, \quad \forall a, b, c \in \mathcal{A}$$

using (3.7). Let then $A_1 = a_0 da_1$, $A_2 = a_2 da_3$, one has

$$\oint A_1 D^{-1} A_2 D^{-1} = - \int_{\varphi} A_1 dA_2,$$

since $dA_2 = a_2 da_3$, and the same holds for any $A_j \in \Omega^1$ so that lemma 3.2 follows. \square

Lemma 3.3. *One has for any $A \in \Omega^1$ the equality*

$$\oint (A D^{-1})^4 = \int_{\tau_0} A^4$$

Proof. It is enough to check that with a_j, b_j in \mathcal{A} one has

$$\int_{\tau_0} a_1 db_1 a_2 db_2 a_3 db_3 a_4 db_4 = \int A_1 D^{-1} A_2 D^{-1} A_3 D^{-1} A_4 D^{-1}, \quad A_j = a_j [D, b_j].$$

Since there are 4 terms D^{-1} one is in the domain of the Dixmier trace and one can freely permute the factors D^{-1} with the elements of \mathcal{A} in computing the residue of the right hand side. One can thus assume that $a_2 = a_3 = a_4 = 1$. The result then follows from (3.7). \square

Lemma 3.4. *One has for any $A_j \in \Omega^1$ the equality*

$$(3.13) \quad \begin{aligned} \oint A_1 D^{-1} A_2 D^{-1} A_3 D^{-1} &= \int_{\varphi + \frac{1}{2} B_0 \tau_0} A_1 A_2 A_3 \\ &- \frac{1}{2} \left(\int_{\tau_0} (dA_1) A_2 A_3 + \int_{\tau_0} A_1 dA_2 A_3 + \int_{\tau_0} A_1 A_2 dA_3 \right). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We can take $A_j = a_j db_j$ and the first task is to reorder

$$(3.14) \quad \begin{aligned} a_1 db_1 a_2 db_2 a_3 db_3 &= a_1 db_1 a_2 (d(b_2 a_3) - b_2 da_3) db_3 \\ &= a_1 (d(b_1 a_2) - b_1 da_2) d(b_2 a_3) db_3 \\ &- a_1 (d(b_1 a_2 b_2) - b_1 d(a_2 b_2)) da_3 db_3 \\ &= a_1 d(b_1 a_2) d(b_2 a_3) db_3 - a_1 b_1 da_2 d(b_2 a_3) db_3 \\ &- a_1 d(b_1 a_2 b_2) da_3 db_3 + a_1 b_1 d(a_2 b_2) da_3 db_3. \end{aligned}$$

We thus get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\varphi} A_1 A_2 A_3 &= \int a_1 [D, b_1 a_2] D^{-1} [D, b_2 a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ &- \int a_1 b_1 [D, a_2] D^{-1} [D, b_2 a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ &- \int a_1 [D, b_1 a_2 b_2] D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ &+ \int a_1 b_1 [D, a_2 b_2] D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ &= \int a_1 [D, b_1] a_2 D^{-1} [D, b_2 a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ &- \int a_1 [D, b_1] a_2 b_2 D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1}. \end{aligned}$$

Using $[D^{-1}, b_2] = -D^{-1} [D, b_2] D^{-1}$ we thus get,

$$(3.15) \quad \int_{\varphi} A_1 A_2 A_3 = \int a_1 [D, b_1] a_2 D^{-1} [D, b_2] a_3 D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ - \int a_1 [D, b_1] a_2 D^{-1} [D, b_2] D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1}.$$

Next one has using (3.14)

$$\int_{B_0 \tau_0} A_1 A_2 A_3 = \int [D, a_1] D^{-1} [D, b_1 a_2] D^{-1} [D, b_2 a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ - \int [D, a_1 b_1] D^{-1} [D, a_2] D^{-1} [D, b_2 a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ - \int [D, a_1] D^{-1} [D, b_1 a_2 b_2] D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ + \int [D, a_1 b_1] D^{-1} [D, a_2 b_2] D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1}.$$

Since one is in the domain of the Dixmier trace, one can permute D^{-1} with a for $a \in \mathcal{A}$. Thus the first two terms combine to give,

$$\int [D, a_1] D^{-1} [D, b_1] a_2 D^{-1} [D, b_2 a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ - \int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} [D, a_2] D^{-1} [D, b_2 a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1},$$

and the last two terms combine to give,

$$\int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} [D, a_2 b_2] D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ - \int [D, a_1] D^{-1} [D, b_1] a_2 b_2 D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1}.$$

Thus these 4 terms add up to give

$$(3.16) \quad \int_{B_0 \tau_0} A_1 A_2 A_3 = \int [D, a_1] D^{-1} [D, b_1] a_2 D^{-1} [D, b_2] a_3 D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ - \int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} [D, a_2] D^{-1} [D, b_2] a_3 D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ + \int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} a_2 [D, b_2] D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1}.$$

Combining this with (3.15) thus gives,

$$(3.17) \quad \int_{\varphi + \frac{1}{2} B_0 \tau_0} A_1 A_2 A_3 = \int a_1 [D, b_1] a_2 D^{-1} [D, b_2] a_3 D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ + \frac{1}{2} \int [D, a_1] D^{-1} [D, b_1] D^{-1} a_2 [D, b_2] D^{-1} a_3 [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ - \frac{1}{2} \int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} [D, a_2] D^{-1} [D, b_2] D^{-1} a_3 [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\ - \frac{1}{2} \int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} a_2 [D, b_2] D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1}.$$

But one has, using $[a, D^{-1}] = D^{-1} [D, a] D^{-1}$,

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int a_1 [D, b_1] a_2 D^{-1} [D, b_2] a_3 D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\
&= \int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} [D, a_2] D^{-1} [D, b_2] a_3 D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\
&+ \int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} a_2 [D, b_2] a_3 D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\
&= \int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} [D, a_2] D^{-1} [D, b_2] D^{-1} a_3 [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\
&+ \int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} a_2 [D, b_2] D^{-1} [D, a_3] D^{-1} [D, b_3] D^{-1} \\
&+ \int A_1 D^{-1} A_2 D^{-1} A_3 D^{-1},
\end{aligned}$$

which combined with (3.17) gives the required equality. \square

We can now state the main result

Theorem 3.5. *Under the tadpole hypothesis (3.1) one has*

(1) $\psi = \varphi + \frac{1}{2} B_0 \tau_0$ is a cyclic 3-cocycle given (with $\alpha(x) = D x D^{-1}$) by

$$(3.18) \quad \psi(a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3) = \frac{1}{2} \int (\alpha(a_0) a_1 \alpha(a_2) a_3 - a_0 \alpha(a_1) a_2 \alpha(a_3))$$

(2) For any $A \in \Omega^1$ one has

$$(3.19) \quad \int \text{Log}(1 + AD^{-1}) = -\frac{1}{4} \int_{\tau_0} (dA + A^2)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\psi} (AdA + \frac{2}{3} A^3)$$

Proof. 1) By lemma 3.1 ψ is a Hochschild cocycle. Moreover by lemma 3.1 it is in the kernel of B_0 and is hence cyclic. Expanding the expression

$$\psi(a_0, a_1, a_2, a_3) = \frac{1}{2} \int (\alpha(a_0) + a_0) (\alpha(a_1) - a_1) (\alpha(a_2) - a_2) (\alpha(a_3) - a_3),$$

and using (3.11), one gets (3.18).

2) One has

$$\int \text{Log}(1 + AD^{-1}) = -\frac{1}{2} \int (AD^{-1})^2 + \frac{1}{3} \int (AD^{-1})^3 - \frac{1}{4} \int (AD^{-1})^4.$$

Both sides of (3.19) are thus polynomials in A and it is enough to compare the monomials of degree 2, 3 and 4. In degree 2 the right hand side of (3.19) gives

$$-\frac{1}{4} \int_{\tau_0} (dA)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\psi} AdA = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\varphi} AdA,$$

using (3.5). Thus by lemma 3.2 one gets the same as the term of degree two in the left hand side of (3.19). In degree 4 the right hand side of (3.19) gives

$$-\frac{1}{4} \int_{\tau_0} A^4 = -\frac{1}{4} \int (AD^{-1})^4,$$

by lemma 3.3. It remains to handle the cubic terms, the right hand side of (3.19) gives

$$-\frac{1}{4} \int_{\tau_0} (dA A^2 + A^2 dA) + \frac{1}{3} \int_{\psi} A^3,$$

which using lemma 3.4 gives

$$\frac{1}{3} \int (AD^{-1})^3 + \frac{1}{6} \int_{\tau_0} (dA A^2 + A dA A + A^2 dA) - \frac{1}{4} \int_{\tau_0} (dA A^2 + A^2 dA).$$

Thus it remains to show that the sum of the last two terms is zero. In fact

$$\int_{\tau_0} dA A^2 = \int_{\tau_0} A dA A = \int_{\tau_0} A^2 dA.$$

This follows from the more general equality

$$(3.20) \quad \int_{\tau_0} \omega_1 \omega_2 \omega_3 \omega_4 = \int_{\tau_0} \omega_2 \omega_3 \omega_4 \omega_1, \quad \forall \omega_j \in \Omega^1,$$

which is seen as follows. Let $\omega_j = a_j db_j$, then

$$\int_{\tau_0} \omega_1 \omega_2 \omega_3 \omega_4 = \int a_1 [D, b_1] D^{-1} a_2 [D, b_2] D^{-1} a_3 [D, b_3] D^{-1} a_4 [D, b_4] D^{-1},$$

so that (3.20) follows from the trace property of the residue. \square

Combining this result with Theorem 2.4 one gets

Corollary 3.6. *The variation under inner fluctuations of the scale independent terms of the spectral action is given in dimension 4 by*

$$\zeta_{D+A}(0) - \zeta_D(0) = \frac{1}{4} \int_{\tau_0} (dA + A^2)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \int_{\psi} (AdA + \frac{2}{3} A^3)$$

Note that there is still some freedom in the choice of the cocycles τ_0 and ψ involved in Theorem 3.5,. Indeed let $B = A B_0$ be the fundamental boundary operator in cyclic cohomology ([3]), one has

Proposition 3.7. 1) *Theorem (3.5) still holds after the replacements $\tau_0 \rightarrow \tau_0 + \rho$ and $\psi \rightarrow \psi + \frac{1}{2} B_0 \rho$ for any Hochschild 4-cocycle ρ such that $B_0 \rho$ is already cyclic i.e. such that $A B_0 \rho = 4 B_0 \rho$.*

2) *If the cocycle ψ is in the image of B i.e. if $\psi \in B(Z^4(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}^*))$ one can eliminate ψ by a redefinition of τ_0 .*

Proof. 1) We first show that \int_{ρ} is a graded trace (cf. [3], Chapter III lemma 18). First since ρ is a Hochschild cocycle one has

$$\int_{\rho} a \omega = \int_{\rho} \omega a, \quad \forall a \in \mathcal{A}.$$

To show that \int_{ρ} is a graded trace it is enough to check that

$$\int_{\rho} da (a_0 da_1 da_2 da_3) = - \int_{\rho} a_0 da_1 da_2 da_3 da,$$

i.e. that

$$B_0 \rho(a a_0, \dots, a_3) - \rho(a, a_0, \dots, a_3) = -\rho(a_0, \dots, a_3, a),$$

which follows (cf. [3], Chapter III lemma 18) from

$$B_0 b + b' B_0 = \text{id} - \lambda,$$

(where λ is the cyclic permutation) and $b \rho = 0$, $b B_0 \rho = 0$. We need to show that the right hand side of (3.19) is unaltered by the above replacements. For the terms of degree 4 one has to show that

$$\int_{\rho} A^4 = 0,$$

which holds because \int_{ρ} is a graded trace. For the terms of degree 3 one has

$$\int_{\rho} (dA A^2 + A^2 dA) - \frac{4}{3} \int_{\frac{1}{2} B_0 \rho} A^3 = \int_{\rho} (dA A^2 + A^2 dA - \frac{2}{3} d(A^3)),$$

and the graded trace property of \int_{ρ} shows that this vanishes. For the quadratic terms one has

$$\int_{\rho} (dA)^2 - 2 \int_{\frac{1}{2} B_0 \rho} AdA = \int_{\rho} ((dA)^2 - d(AdA)) = 0.$$

2) By [3] Chapter III, Lemma 19, the condition $\psi \in B(Z^4(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}^*))$ implies that one can find a Hochschild 4-cocycle ρ such that $B_0 \rho$ is already cyclic and equal to -2ψ thus using 1) one can eliminate ψ . \square

The above ambiguity can thus be written in the form

$$(3.21) \quad \psi \rightarrow \psi + \delta, \quad \forall \delta \in B(Z^4(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}^*)).$$

and it does not alter the periodic cyclic cohomology class of the three cocycle ψ .

The Yang-Mills action given by

$$YM_\tau(A) = \int_\tau (dA + A^2)^2,$$

is automatically gauge invariant under the gauge transformations

$$(3.22) \quad A \rightarrow \gamma_u(A) = u du^* + u A u^*, \quad \forall u \in \mathcal{A}, \quad u u^* = u^* u = 1,$$

as soon as τ is a Hochschild cocycle since $F(A) = dA + A^2$ transforms covariantly *i.e.* $F(\gamma_u(A)) = u F(A) u^*$. This action and its precise relation with the usual Yang-Mills functional is discussed at length in [3] Chapter VI.

We now discuss briefly the invariance of the Chern-Simons action. An early instance of this action in terms of cyclic cohomology can be found in [9]. It is not in general invariant under gauge transformations but one has the following more subtle invariance,

Proposition 3.8. *Let ψ be a cyclic three cocycle on \mathcal{A} . The functional*

$$CS_\psi(A) = \int_\psi A dA + \frac{2}{3} A^3$$

fulfills the following invariance rule under the gauge transformation $\gamma_u(A) = u du^ + u A u^*$,*

$$CS_\psi(\gamma_u(A)) = CS_\psi(A) + \frac{1}{3} \langle \psi, u \rangle$$

where $\langle \psi, u \rangle$ is the pairing between $HC^3(\mathcal{A})$ and $K_1(\mathcal{A})$.

Proof. let $A' = \gamma_u(A) = u du^* + u A u^*$. One has

$$\begin{aligned} dA' &= du du^* + du A u^* + u dA u^* - u A du^*, \\ A' dA' &= u du^* du du^* + u du^* du A u^* + u du^* u dA u^* - u du^* u A du^* \\ &\quad + u A u^* du du^* + u A u^* du A u^* + u A dA u^* - u A^2 du^*. \end{aligned}$$

So that using the graded trace property of \int_ψ one gets

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_\psi (A' dA' - A dA) = \\ &\int_\psi (u du^* du du^* + du^* du A - du^* u du^* u A + u^* du du^* u A + du^* u dA + u^* du A^2 - du^* u A^2), \end{aligned}$$

which using

$$\int_\psi du^* u dA = - \int_\psi du^* du A,$$

gives

$$\int_\psi (A' dA' - A dA) = \int_\psi (u du^* du du^* + 2u^* du du^* u A + 2u^* du A^2).$$

Next one has

$$\int_\psi (A'^3 - A^3) = \int_\psi ((u du^*)^3 + 3(u du^*)^2 u A u^* + 3u du^* u A^2 u^*).$$

Since $du^* u = -u^* du$, the terms in A^2 cancel in the variation of CS_ψ . Similarly one has $du^* u du^* u = -u^* du du^* u$ so that the terms in A also cancel. One thus obtains

$$CS_\psi(\gamma_u(A)) - CS_\psi(A) = \int_\psi (u du^* du du^* + \frac{2}{3}(u du^*)^3).$$

One has $(u du^*)^3 = -u du^* du du^*$ which gives the required result. \square

Corollary 3.9. *Let ψ be the cyclic three cocycle of Theorem 3.5 then its pairing with the K_1 -group vanishes identically,*

$$\langle \psi, u \rangle = 0, \quad \forall u \in K_1(\mathcal{A})$$

Proof. The effect of the gauge transformation (3.22) is to replace the operator $D + A$ by the unitarily equivalent operator $D + \gamma_u(A) = u(D + A)u^*$, thus the spectral invariants are unaltered by such a transformation. Since the Yang-Mills term

$$\frac{1}{4} \int_{\tau_0} (dA + A^2)^2,$$

is invariant under gauge transformations, it follows that so is the Chern-Simons term which implies by Proposition 3.8 that the pairing between the cyclic cocycle ψ and the unitary u is zero. Tensoring the original spectral triple by the finite geometry $(M_n(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C}^n, 0)$ allows to apply the same argument to unitaries in $M_n(\mathcal{A})$ and shows that the pairing with the K_1 -group vanishes identically. \square

4. OPEN QUESTIONS

We shall briefly discuss two important questions which are left open in the generality of the above framework.

4.1. Triviality of ψ .

It is true under mild hypothesis that the vanishing of the pairing with the K_1 -group

$$\langle \psi, u \rangle = 0, \quad \forall u \in K_1(\mathcal{A}),$$

implies that the cyclic cocycle ψ is homologous to zero,

$$\psi \in BZ^4(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}^*).$$

Thus one can in any such case eliminate the Chern-Simons term using Proposition 3.7 2). We have not been able to find an example where ψ does not belong to the image of B and it could thus be that $\psi \in BZ^4(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{A}^*)$ holds in full generality.

4.2. Positivity.

In a similar manner the freedom given by Proposition 3.7 should be used to replace the Hochschild cocycle τ_0 by a *positive* Hochschild cocycle τ . Positivity in Hochschild cohomology was defined in [4] as the condition

$$\int_\tau \omega \omega^* \geq 0, \quad \forall \omega \in \Omega^2,$$

where the adjoint ω^* is defined by

$$(a_0 da_1 da_2)^* = da_2^* da_1^* a_0^*, \quad \forall a_j \in \mathcal{A}.$$

It then follows easily (*cf.* [3] Chapter VI) that the Yang-Mills action functional fulfills

$$YM_\tau(A) \geq 0, \quad \forall A \in \Omega^1.$$

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