

$$\int d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \theta_1 \theta_2 = - \int d\theta_2 d\theta_1 \theta_1 \theta_2 = - \int d\theta_1 \theta_1 \int d\theta_2 \theta_2 = -1.$$

As for the scalar field, the Gaussian integral will be of particular interest to us in the context of path integrals for fermions.

Consider first a complex Grassmann made up of two Grassmann variables: $\Theta = \theta_1 + i\theta_2$ and $\bar{\Theta} \equiv \theta_1 - i\theta_2$. Here, θ_1 and θ_2 are real G-variables: $\theta_i = \theta_i^k$. Note that generally $(\Theta \eta)^k = \eta^k \Theta^k$ for complex G-variables. The relation between differentials is

$$d\bar{\Theta} d\Theta = \det \begin{pmatrix} \frac{d\theta_1}{d\bar{\Theta}} & \frac{d\theta_2}{d\bar{\Theta}} \\ \frac{d\theta_1}{d\Theta} & \frac{d\theta_2}{d\Theta} \end{pmatrix} d\theta_1 d\theta_2 = -\frac{i}{2} d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \quad (*)$$

The determinant appears on the opposite side of the eq. compared to c-number differentials. Let us briefly show why this is so.

Riemann integrals satisfy $\int dx \cdot f(ax) = \frac{1}{a} \int dx f(x)$ (int. integration limits assumed / integration over all allowed values). Instead, Berezin integration satisfies:

$$\int d\theta f(a\theta) = a \int d\theta f(\theta)$$

The reason is that Berezin integration is equivalent to differentiation, as we remarked. To see this, let $y = a\theta$ be a new G -variable and consider that by definition, we have:

$$\int dy \cdot y = \int d\theta \cdot \theta = 1.$$

Thus: $\int dy \cdot y = \int dy \cdot a \cdot \theta = \int d\theta \cdot \theta$. Clearly, $a \cdot dy = d\theta$.

So $dy = \frac{1}{a} d\theta$ while in standard calculus we would have had

$$dy = a d\theta \quad (\text{for } \eta, \theta \in \mathbb{C}).$$

This can now be generalized to a transformation $\eta_i = \sum_j a_{ij} \theta_j$ (a_{ij} c-numbers)

$$\Rightarrow \det(a) d\eta_1 d\eta_2 \dots d\eta_N = d\theta_1 d\theta_2 \dots d\theta_N$$

with the $\det(a)$ on the opposite side of the eq. compared to the standard case.

Back to the Gaussian integral. Let b be a c-number. Then:

$$\int d\bar{\theta} d\theta e^{-\bar{\theta} b \theta} = \int d\bar{\theta} d\theta (1 - \bar{\theta} b \theta) = b. \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \text{use that } (\bar{\theta} b \theta)^2 = 0 \\ \text{in the expansion of } e^{-\bar{\theta} b \theta} \end{array} \right.$$

Using (*) (previous page), we see that this is also equal to:

$$-\frac{i}{2} \int d\theta_1 d\theta_2 e^{-2ib \theta_1 \theta_2}$$

Now, for N complex G -variables θ_j and $\bar{\theta}_j$, this Gaussian integral generalizes to:

$$\int \prod_{j=1}^N d\bar{\theta}_j d\theta_j e^{-\bar{\theta}_j B_{jn} \theta_n} = \int \prod_{j=1}^N d\bar{\theta}'_j d\theta'_j e^{-\sum_j \bar{\theta}'_j b_j \theta'_j}$$

$$= \prod_{j=1}^N b_j = \det(B). \quad (+)$$

Here, we used a unitary transformation to diagonalize the matrix B_{jn} :

$$U_{jn} B_{nm} U_{lm}^{-1} = b_j \delta_{jm} \quad \text{defined } \theta'_j = U_{jn} \theta_n \quad [\text{which gives}$$

$$\bar{\theta}'_j = U_{jn}^* \bar{\theta}_n = [(U^{-1})^T]_{jn} \bar{\theta}_n \quad \text{since } U^\dagger = (U^*)^T = U^{-1}].$$

Since $\det[(U^{-1})^T] = \det(U^{-1})$, we then get that the measure is invariant:

$$\prod_{j=1}^N d\bar{\theta}_j d\theta_j = \underbrace{\det(U^{-1}) \det(U)}_{=1} \prod_{j=1}^N d\bar{\theta}'_j d\theta'_j = \prod_{j=1}^N d\bar{\theta}'_j d\theta'_j$$

Observe how (+) gives $\det(B)$ in the Grassmann case, while we saw that an ordinary Gaussian integral gives $\frac{1}{\det(B)}$.

Completing a square in a Grassmann Gaussian also works nicely.

For instance, consider the following integral with η and $\bar{\eta}$

coupled to $\bar{\theta}$ and θ :

$$\int d\bar{\theta} d\theta e^{-\bar{\theta}b\theta + \bar{\eta}\theta + \bar{\theta}\eta} = \int d\bar{\theta} d\theta (1 - \bar{\theta}b\theta + \bar{\eta}\theta\bar{\eta})$$

$$= b + \bar{\eta}\eta = b e^{\bar{\eta}b^{-1}\eta} \quad (1)$$

However, we can also express the integral as:

$$\int d\bar{\theta} d\theta e^{-\bar{\theta}b\theta + \bar{\eta}\theta + \bar{\theta}\eta} = \int d\bar{\theta} d\theta e^{-(\bar{\theta} - \bar{\eta}b^{-1})b(\theta - b^{-1}\eta)} e^{\bar{\eta}b^{-1}\eta}$$

$$= e^{\bar{\eta}b^{-1}\eta} \underbrace{\int d\bar{\theta} d\theta e^{-(\bar{\theta} - \bar{\eta}b^{-1})b(\theta - b^{-1}\eta)}}_b = b e^{\bar{\eta}b^{-1}\eta} \quad (2)$$

We know this is equal to b
from the invariance under constant shift
of variables

So completing the square in (2) gives the same result as direct evaluation in (1). Finally, we can define a δ -function in B -variables, $\delta(\theta - \theta')$, such that

$$\int d\theta \delta(\theta - \theta') f(\theta) = f(\theta').$$

You can verify that this is satisfied by

$$\delta(\theta - \theta') = \theta - \theta'.$$