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A worldline quantization approach to higher spin theories

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Using the effective action method, we investigate the higher spin actions in flat spacetime that can be obtained by integrating out a fermion field coupled to external higher spin source fields. In particular, an approach based on worldline quantization allows to identify the gauge symmetry of these models and to find the L_∞ structure that characterizes many (classical) field theories, including closed string field theory. This structure is also found to be consistent with a Yang-Mills-like model, where a limited amount of non-locality plays a crucial role in granting the absence of ghosts at perturbative level.

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