

Frobenius-Chern-Simons Gauge Theory

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Introductory remarks

- Desirable to have an action principle for Vasiliev HS theory for computing quantum corrections and holography.
- Previous work on actions:
 - Fradkin & Vasiliev'87: Curvature square giving terms up to cubics.

Useful but is the full curvature expansion feasible? Relation to Vasiliev perturbative expansion?

- Doroud & Smolin'11: Hamilton type in 4D.

HS invariants? Amplitudes?

- Boulanger & Sundell'11: Hamilton type, aux dimension, higher forms.

HS invariants used to compute tree level amplitudes but each invariant has undetermined overall coefficient.

Frobenius-Chern-Simons action

Boulanger, Sezgin and Sundell, arXiv:1505.04957

Extension of Boulanger-Sundell with the following key new ingredients:

- Enlargement of the HS gauge symmetry $hs(4)$ to $hs(4) \times hs(4) \times \mathcal{F}$ where \mathcal{F} is an 8-dimensional graded Frobenius algebra.
- Replacement of the rigid symplectic structure on the twistor space by a dynamical and bifundamental even form.
- Emergence of a Chern-Simons action for a superconnection.

Aim of this talk: Review the FCS model. Describe most general cubic action, show emergence of FCS gauge theory with generalized (quasi) Frobenius algebra. Describe also higher order interactions.

Vasiliev's original equations:

$$\begin{aligned}dW + W \star W + \Phi \star (J - \bar{J}) &= 0 , \\d\Phi + W \star \Phi - \Phi \star \pi(W) &= 0 .\end{aligned}$$

- One-form $W(x, Z; Y)$ and zero-form $\Phi(x, Z; Y)$ on $\mathcal{M}_4 \times \mathcal{Z}_4$.
- Z and Y are 4-component Majorana spinors. Exterior derivative given by:

$$d = d_X + d_Z$$

- Star product is Moyal-like, implementing normal ordering of (Z, Y) .
- π -twist defined by $\pi(y, \bar{y}, z, \bar{z}) = (-y, \bar{y}, -z, \bar{z})$

Twisted central two-form crucial for the theory:

$$J = -\frac{i}{4} \left(dz^\alpha dz_\alpha \kappa + d\bar{z}^{\dot{\alpha}} d\bar{z}_{\dot{\alpha}} \bar{\kappa} \right) ,$$

defined in terms of the inner Klein operator

$$\kappa = e^{iy^\alpha z_\alpha} , \quad \kappa \star \kappa = 1 .$$

The following relations hold:

$$dJ = 0 , \quad J \star W = \pi(W) \star J , \quad J \star \Phi = \pi(\Phi) \star J$$

Introducing extra dimension and dynamical two-form

- In addition to $\mathcal{M}_4 \times \mathcal{Z}_4$, introduce an **auxiliary dimension**, such that the total manifold on which the fields live is

$$\mathcal{M}_9 = \mathcal{X}_5 \times \mathcal{Z}_4$$

where $\partial\mathcal{Z}_4 = \emptyset$ and $\partial\mathcal{X}_4$ contains \mathcal{M}_4 . [Boulanger and Sundell, 2011].

- Take fields in associative higher spin algebra extended by outer Klein operators as well.
- Let $J - \bar{J} \rightarrow \tilde{B}$ where \tilde{B} is a dynamical two-form.

Obstacle:

$$F = B \star \tilde{B}, \quad DB = 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad [B, B \star \tilde{B}]_\star = 0$$

Way out: Introduce an additional master one-form \tilde{A} , let B, \tilde{B} transform under bifundamental representation of the enlarged HS algebra and postulate

$$dA + A \star A - B \star \tilde{B} = 0 ,$$

$$d\tilde{A} + \tilde{A} \star \tilde{A} - \tilde{B} \star B = 0 ,$$

$$dB + A \star B - B \star \tilde{A} = 0 ,$$

$$d\tilde{B} + \tilde{A} \star \tilde{B} - \tilde{B} \star A = 0 .$$

This system is Cartan integrable and implies the gauge transformations:

$$\delta A = d\epsilon + [A, \epsilon]_{\star} + \eta \star \tilde{B} + B \star \tilde{\eta} ,$$

$$\delta \tilde{A} = d\tilde{\epsilon} + [\tilde{A}, \tilde{\epsilon}]_{\star} + \tilde{\eta} \star B + \tilde{B} \star \eta ,$$

$$\delta B = d\eta + A \star \eta + \eta \star \tilde{A} - \epsilon \star B + B \star \tilde{\epsilon} ,$$

$$\delta \tilde{B} = d\tilde{\eta} + \tilde{A} \star \tilde{\eta} + \tilde{\eta} \star A - \tilde{\epsilon} \star \tilde{B} + \tilde{B} \star \epsilon .$$

Note the new symmetry parameters $\tilde{\epsilon}, \eta, \tilde{\eta}$.

Building Frobenius-Chern-Simons action

- Introduce an auxiliary dimensions.
- Introduce Lagrange multiplier fields.
- Extend field content to include set of odd and even forms.
- Employ Frobenius algebra to arrange all the fields into one superconnection.
- Write a Chern-Simons type action for the superconnection.

Frobenius algebra: A finite-dimensional, unital, associative algebra A defined over a field k , and equipped with a non-degenerate bilinear form $\sigma : A \times A \rightarrow k$ that satisfies the equation $\sigma(a \cdot b, c) = \sigma(a, b \cdot c)$.

Example: Any matrix algebra with the bilinear form $\sigma(a, b) = \text{tr}(a \cdot b)$.

- We employ the the **3-graded 8-dimensional Frobenius algebra**

$$\mathcal{F} = \bigoplus_{i,j=1,2} e_{ij} \oplus (h e_{ij}) = \mathcal{F}^{(-1)} \oplus \mathcal{F}^{(0)} \oplus \mathcal{F}^{(+1)}$$

$$e_{ij}, h e_{ij} \in \mathcal{F}^{(j-i)}$$

with product rule:

$$e_{ij}e_{kl} = \delta_{jk}e_{il} , \quad h e_{ij} = (-1)^{i-j} e_{ij} h , \quad h^2 = 1$$

- Master fields:

$$X = \sum_{i,j} X^{ij} e_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ \tilde{B} & \tilde{A} \end{pmatrix} , \quad P = \sum_{i,j} P^{ij} e_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} V & U \\ \tilde{U} & \tilde{V} \end{pmatrix}$$

$(A, \tilde{A}, V, \tilde{V})$ are odd forms, $(B, \tilde{B}, U, \tilde{U})$ are even forms.

Top odd forms, and $(B_8, U_8, \tilde{B}_0, \tilde{U}_0)$ are truncated out consistently (thanks to 3-grading), to avoid algebraic constraints on master fields.

Superconnection and Frobenius-Chern-Simons action

Assemble X and P into superconnection

$$Z = hX + P$$

Use the trace operation $\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}}$ (more on this below) to construct the action

$$S = \int_{\mathcal{M}_9} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}} \left(\frac{1}{2} Z \star qZ + \frac{1}{3} Z \star Z \star Z \right) - \frac{1}{4} \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}_9} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}} [h\pi_h(Z) \star Z]$$

where $q := hd$ and $\pi_h(h) = -h$. Equivalently

$$S = \int_{\mathcal{M}_9} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}} \left(P \star F^X + \frac{1}{3} P \star P \star P \right)$$

Invariant under $\delta Z = qZ + [Z, \theta]_{\star}$.

The component form of the action:

$$S = \int_{\mathcal{M}_9} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}} \left[V \star (F + B \star \tilde{B}) + \tilde{U} \star DB + \frac{1}{3} V^{\star 3} - V \star U \star \tilde{U} \right. \\ \left. + \tilde{V} \star (\tilde{F} + \tilde{B} \star B) + U \star \tilde{D}\tilde{B} + \frac{1}{3} \tilde{V}^{\star 3} - \tilde{V} \star \tilde{U} \star U \right],$$

- The terms cubic in Lagrange multipliers require the duality extended field content. This has significant effects on the Feynman rules.
- Using the boundary condition $P|_{\partial\mathcal{M}_9} = 0$, the field equation reduce to $dA + A \star A + B \star \tilde{B} = 0$, etc but note that these are duality extended.
- We choose \mathcal{Z} to be topologically $S^2 \times S^2$ obtained from \mathbb{R}^4 by adding suitable points at infinity to \mathbb{R}^4 .
- For \mathcal{X}_5 , one simple alternative is the semi-infinite cylinder

$$\mathcal{X}_5 = \mathcal{X}_4 \times [0, \infty), \quad \partial\mathcal{X}_4 = \emptyset.$$

Higher spin algebra and trace operations

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{F} \otimes \mathcal{W} \otimes \mathcal{K}$$

Here \mathcal{F} is the Frobenius algebra, $\mathcal{W} := \mathcal{W}(k_y, \bar{k}_{\bar{y}})|_{k_y=0=\bar{k}_{\bar{y}}}$, the extended Weyl algebra is defined as

$$\mathcal{W}(k_y, \bar{k}_{\bar{y}}) = \bigoplus_{m, \bar{m}=0,1} \text{Aq}(2; k_y, \bar{k}_{\bar{y}}) \star (\kappa_y)^{\star m} \star (\bar{\kappa}_{\bar{y}})^{\star \bar{m}}$$

The Weyl algebra $\text{Aq}(2; k_y, \bar{k}_{\bar{y}})$ consists of star polynomials of $(y^\alpha, \bar{y}^{\dot{\alpha}})$ obeying the algebra stated before and outer Klein operators $(k_y, \bar{k}_{\bar{y}})$ obey

$$\begin{aligned} \{k_y, y^\alpha\}_\star &= 0 = \{\bar{k}_{\bar{y}}, \bar{y}^{\dot{\alpha}}\}_\star, & k_y \star k_y &= \bar{k}_{\bar{y}} \star \bar{k}_{\bar{y}} = 1, \\ [\bar{k}_{\bar{y}}, y^\alpha]_\star &= 0 = [k_y, \bar{y}^{\dot{\alpha}}]_\star, & [k_y, \bar{k}_{\bar{y}}]_\star &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Inner Klein operators

$$\kappa_y = 2\pi\delta^2(y) \quad \bar{\kappa}_{\bar{y}} = 2\pi\delta^2(\bar{y})$$

required to generate the vacuum expectation values for \tilde{B}

$$\mathcal{K} = \{1, k, \bar{k}, k \star \bar{k}\}, \quad k = k_y \star k_z, \quad \bar{k} = \bar{k}_{\bar{y}} \star \bar{k}_{\bar{z}}$$

where $(k_z, \bar{k}_{\bar{z}})$ obey relations similar to those of $(k_z, \bar{k}_{\bar{z}})$

- The trace operation in the action sets $(k, \bar{k}, \kappa_y, \bar{\kappa}_{\bar{y}})$ to zero and takes the trace of 2×2 matrix.
- In performing the star products, the Y and Z dependence is factorized (call this separation of variables) but then the ensuing star product can be performed in normal order.
- The central off-mass shell theorem has been verified but higher order perturbative analysis is under study.
- General variation of the action requires $P|_{\partial\mathcal{M}_9} = 0$ and invariance under ϵ^P transformation requires $\epsilon^P|_{\partial\mathcal{M}_9} = 0$.

Reduction of the system

Letting $A = \tilde{A} \equiv W$ and choosing a suitable ansatz for \tilde{B} we obtain from the FCS field equations $D_W B = 0$ and

$$F_W + \mathcal{V} \star J - \bar{\mathcal{V}} \star \bar{J} + \mathcal{U}_0 \star J \star \bar{J} + \mathcal{U}_1 \star J_{[2]} + \mathcal{U}_2 \star J_{[4]} = 0$$

where \mathcal{V} and U are functions of B vanishing at $B = 0$, while $J_{[2]}$ and $J_{[4]}$ are central, closed but not exact forms on \mathcal{X}_4 . These are objects we choose depending on the topology of \mathcal{X}_4 .

Compare with Vasiliev's extended system, namely $D_W B = 0$ and

$$F_W + \mathcal{V} \star J - \bar{\mathcal{V}} \star \bar{J} + (g^{-2} + \mathcal{U}_0) \star J \star \bar{J} + J_{[2]} + J_{[4]} = 0$$

where g is a constant, and $J_{[2]}$ and $J_{[4]}$ are central, closed but not exact forms on \mathcal{X}_4 . These are objects defined by the above equation.

The integral of $\mathcal{L}_{[4]}$ has been proposed as a candidate for the generating functional of correlators in the AdS_4/CFT_3 higher spin holography [Vasiliev'15].

Our approach, instead, is as follows:

Add Chern classes to our FCS action as follows:

$$S_{\text{tot}} = S + \sum_{p,n} \int_{\mathcal{X}_{2p} \times \mathcal{Z}_4} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}} \left(c_n F^{*n} + \tilde{c}_n \tilde{F}^{*n} \right) ,$$

where $\mathcal{X}_{2p} \subseteq \mathcal{X}_4$, possibly augmented by Chern-Simons forms at boundary!

On shell these Chern classes reduce to

$$\int_{\mathcal{X}_0 \times \mathcal{Z}_4} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{A}} (B \star \tilde{B})^{*n} \quad \text{for } n = 1, 2$$

The consequences for amplitude computation under investigation.

Generalizations

Consider the general cubic action

$$\begin{aligned} S = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}} & \left[\left(\frac{1}{2} A^I \star dA^J \Sigma_{IJ} + \frac{1}{2} B^P \star dB^Q \Omega_{PQ} \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. + \frac{1}{3} t_{IJK} A^I \star A^J \star A^K + s_{IPQ} A^I \star B^P \star B^Q \right) \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{4} \oint_{\partial \mathcal{M}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}} [A^I \star A^J \Theta_{IJ} + B^P \star B^Q \Xi_{PQ}] \end{aligned}$$

\mathcal{M} is a noncommutative manifold of dimension $2n + 1$ and

$$\begin{aligned} A^I &= A^I_{[1]} + A^I_{[3]} + \cdots + A^I_{[2n+1]}, & I &= 1, \dots, N_+ \\ B^P &= B^P_{[0]} + B^P_{[2]} + \cdots + B^P_{[2n]}, & P &= 1, \dots, N_- \end{aligned}$$

are differential forms valued in an **associative algebra** \mathcal{H} with (cyclic) trace operation $\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}}$.

Appropriately cyclic trace operations, holding of Leibniz' rule holds together with Stokes' theorem requires

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma_{IJ} &= \Sigma_{JI} , & \Omega_{PQ} &= -\Omega_{QP} , & t_{IJK} &= t_{JKI} , \\ \Theta_{IJ} &= -\Theta_{JI} , & \Xi_{PQ} &= \Xi_{QP} .\end{aligned}$$

We assume that Σ_{IJ} and Ω_{PQ} are nondegenerate with inverses defined by

$$\Omega^{RP} \Omega_{QP} = \delta_Q^R , \quad \Sigma^{IK} \Sigma_{JK} = \delta_J^I .$$

The total variation

$$\delta S = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}} \left[\delta A^I \star R^J \Sigma_{IJ} + \dots \right]$$

where the generalized curvatures are defined as

$$R^I := dA^I + t^I_{JK} A^J \star A^K + s^I_{PQ} B^P \star B^Q, \quad R^P := \dots$$

Indices raised and lowered as $A^I = \Sigma^{IJ} A_J$ and $B^P = \Omega^{PQ} B_Q$. Curvatures obey Bianchi identities $dR^I + \dots \equiv 0$ provided that

$$\begin{aligned} t^J_{MK} t^I_{LJ} &= t^J_{LM} t^I_{JK}, \\ s^I_{PQ} s_{IRT} &= -s^I_{TP} s_{IQR}, \\ s_{JP}{}^R s_{IRQ} &= -t^K_{IJ} s_{KQP}, \\ s_I{}^P{}_Q s_{JPR} &= s_{JQ}{}^P s_{IRP} \end{aligned}$$

Implied Cartan gauge transformations:

$$\delta A^I = d\epsilon^I + \dots, \quad \delta B^P = d\eta^P + \dots$$

Constraints on the couplings are equivalent to the existence of a \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded associative algebra

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}^+ \oplus \mathcal{F}^-$$

where

$$\mathcal{F}^+ = \bigoplus_{I=1}^{N_+} \mathbb{C} \otimes e_I, \quad \mathcal{F}^- = \bigoplus_{P=1}^{N_-} \mathbb{C} \otimes f_P$$

with generators obeying the product laws

$$\begin{aligned} e_I e_J &= e_K t^K_{IJ}, & f_P f_Q &= -e_I s^I_{PQ} \\ e_I f_R &= -f_P s_{IR}^P, & f_R e_I &= f_P s_I^P{}_R, \end{aligned}$$

with a non-degenerate bilinear form

$$(e_I, e_J)_{\mathcal{F}} = \Sigma_{IJ}, \quad (f_P, f_Q)_{\mathcal{F}} = \Omega_{PQ}$$

obeying the invariance condition $(a, bc)_{\mathcal{F}} = (ab, c)_{\mathcal{F}}$ and the graded symmetry property $(a, b^{\pm})_{\mathcal{F}} = \pm (b^{\pm}, a)_{\mathcal{F}}$.

Define the master fields

$$\mathbf{A} := \sum_I A^I e_I, \quad \mathbf{B} := \sum_P B^P f_P$$

$$\mathbf{A}_\pm = \frac{1}{2}(1 \pm \Theta)\mathbf{A}, \quad \mathbf{B}_\pm = \frac{1}{2}(1 \pm \Xi)\mathbf{B}$$

Analyzing the general variation and gauge invariance of the action, the requirement of globally well defined action leads to

$$\Theta^2 = \text{Id}_{\mathcal{F}^+}, \quad \Xi^2 = \text{Id}_{\mathcal{F}^-}$$

and that the structure group is gauged by \mathbf{A}_+ and \mathbf{B}_+ . Defining

$$(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}; \bar{\mathbf{U}}, \bar{\mathbf{V}}) := (\mathbf{A}_+, \mathbf{B}_+; \mathbf{B}_-, \mathbf{A}_-)$$

we end up with the action based on **quasi-Frobenius algebra**

$$S = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}} \left[(\bar{\mathbf{U}}, \mathcal{D}\mathbf{B})_{\mathcal{F}} + (\bar{\mathbf{V}}, \mathcal{F} - \mathbf{B} \star \mathbf{B} + \frac{1}{3}\bar{\mathbf{V}} \star \bar{\mathbf{V}} - \bar{\mathbf{U}} \star \bar{\mathbf{U}})_{\mathcal{F}} \right]$$

Requiring equal number of momenta and coordinate like fields requires that the range of indices I and J are the same.

Trace operation and outer Klein operator

Assuming that \mathcal{F} is unital implies that the inner product is equivalent to the nondegenerate graded cyclic supertrace operation

$$\text{STr}_{\mathcal{F}}(a) := (1, a)_{\mathcal{F}}, \quad a \in \mathcal{F}$$

We furthermore assume that \mathcal{F} contains an idempotent element h , referred to as the Klein operator of the \mathbb{Z}_2 -graded algebra, such that

$$ha^{\pm}h = \pm a^{\pm}, \quad h^2 = 1, \quad a^{\pm} \in \mathcal{F}^{\pm}.$$

Thus the Frobenius algebra decomposes as: $\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}_0 \oplus h\mathcal{F}_0$. Defining

$$Z = hX + P, \quad X = \mathcal{A} + \mathcal{B}, \quad P = h(\bar{\mathcal{U}} + \bar{\mathcal{V}})$$

the action becomes

$$S = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{F}} \left(\frac{1}{2} Z \star qZ + \frac{1}{3} Z \star Z \star Z \right) - \frac{1}{4} \oint_{\partial \mathcal{M}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{W} \otimes \mathcal{K} \otimes \mathcal{F}} [h\pi_h(Z) \star Z]$$

Same form as our original FCS action but with general Frobenius algebra with general trace operation it is equipped with.

3-grading from inner Klein operator of \mathcal{F}_0

The system can be constrained algebraically off-shell as to remove the top-forms and hence the zero-form constraints on-shell, provided that the algebra admits a three grading defined by

$$\mathcal{F}^{(0)} := \mathcal{F}^+ , \quad \mathcal{F}^{(-1)} \oplus \mathcal{F}^{(+1)} := \mathcal{F}^-$$

and $\mathcal{F}^{(k)} \equiv 0$ for $k = \pm 2, \pm 3, \dots$, such that

$$\mathcal{F}^{(k)} \star \mathcal{F}^{(k')} \subseteq \mathcal{F}^{(k+k')}$$

Interesting examples to consider:

Twisted group algebras and Hopf algebras.

An example

Consider the Clifford algebra generated by $2n$ elements γ_i ($i = 1, \dots, 2n$) obeying $\{\gamma_i, \gamma_j\} = 2\delta_{ij}$ and take $\mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{Cl}_{2n}$.

The trace operation can be defined as the projection onto the identity:
 $\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{Cl}_{2n}} \gamma^{i_1 \dots i_p} = \delta_{p,0}$. The 3-grading is achieved by the inner Klein operator
 $\gamma = i^n \gamma_1 \cdots \gamma_{2n}$.

The resulting model consists of:

- odd forms, not containing top-forms valued, in $\frac{1}{4}(1 + \gamma)\mathcal{Cl}_{2n}(1 + \gamma)$ and $\frac{1}{4}(1 - \gamma)\mathcal{Cl}_{2n}(1 - \gamma)$, both isomorphic to the associative algebras $\text{mat}_{2^{n-1}}(\mathbb{C})$
- even forms, with constrained zero-form and $2n$ -form content, valued in $\frac{1}{4}(1 + \gamma)\mathcal{Cl}_{2n}(1 - \gamma)$ and $\frac{1}{4}(1 - \gamma)\mathcal{Cl}_{2n}(1 + \gamma)$, both forming $2^{n-1} \otimes 2^{n-1}$ matrices.
- This furnishes an FCS generalization Vasiliev equations with Chan-Paton factors.

Higher order corrections

Assuming that the superconnection is globally defined, our FCS action admits the following generalization by higher order terms:

$$S = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{F}} \left[\frac{1}{2} Z \star qZ + \int_0^1 dt Z \star G(tZ) \right] - \frac{1}{4} \oint_{\partial \mathcal{M}} \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H} \otimes \mathcal{F}} h \pi_h(Z) \star Z ,$$

where $G(Z) = \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} G_{2p} Z^{\star 2p}$. The resulting field equations are:

$$qZ + G(Z) = 0$$

Select open problems:

- Obtain worldsheet description via topological open string in whose target the FCS gauge theory lives. (Under study by Per Sundell and collaborators).
- Going back to the basic FCS model, study its perturbative expansion.
- Add the CS boundary terms, quantize the model and compute the amplitudes.