

Branes, Coset Models & Supergravity

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Based on: [2512.XXXXX] FM, Iñaki García Etxebarria, J. A. Rosabal

IV GRASS – SYMBHOL Meeting • Toledo



Motivation 1: Higher form symmetries

Gaiotto+'14

- Continuous 0-form symmetry
 - ▶ 0-form parameter $\lambda^{(0)}$
 - ▶ $(D-1)$ -form closed current $j^{(D-1)}$
 - ▶ $j^{(D-1)}$ coupled to a background $A^{(1)}$
 - ▶ Example

$$S = \int \frac{1}{2} d\phi^\dagger \wedge \star d\phi, \quad j^{(D-1)} = i\phi^\dagger \star d\phi + \text{c.c.}, \quad \int A^{(1)} \wedge j^{(D-1)}$$

- Continuous q -form symmetry
 - ▶ q -form parameter $\lambda^{(q)}$
 - ▶ $(D-q-1)$ -form closed current $j^{(D-q-1)}$
 - ▶ $j^{(D-q-1)}$ coupled to a background $A^{(q+1)}$
 - ▶ Example: $q=1$

$$S = \int \frac{1}{2} dC^{(1)} \wedge \star dC^{(1)}, \quad j^{(D-2)} = \star dC^{(1)}, \quad \int A^{(2)} \wedge j^{(D-2)}$$

Motivation 2: Higher group symmetries

Cordova-Dumitrescu-Intriligator'18

- It involves two higher form symmetries
- Definition: **2-group**

$$\begin{aligned}A^{(1)} &\rightarrow A^{(1)} + d\lambda^{(0)} , \\ B^{(2)} &\rightarrow B^{(2)} + d\lambda^{(1)} + d\lambda^{(0)} \wedge A^{(1)}\end{aligned}$$

- Definition: **$(2q+2)$ -group $U(1)^{(q)} \times_{\kappa} U(1)^{(2q+1)}$**

$$\begin{aligned}A^{(q+1)} &\rightarrow A^{(q+1)} + d\lambda^{(q)} , \\ B^{(2q+2)} &\rightarrow B^{(2q+2)} + d\lambda^{(2q+1)} + \kappa d\lambda^{(q)} \wedge A^{(q+1)}\end{aligned}$$

- Example: **4-group $U(1)^{(2)} \times_1 U(1)^{(5)}$ in 11D SUGRA ($q=2$)**

$$\begin{aligned}A^{(3)} &\rightarrow A^{(3)} + d\lambda^{(2)} , \\ B^{(6)} &\rightarrow B^{(6)} + d\lambda^{(5)} + d\lambda^{(2)} \wedge A^{(3)}\end{aligned}$$

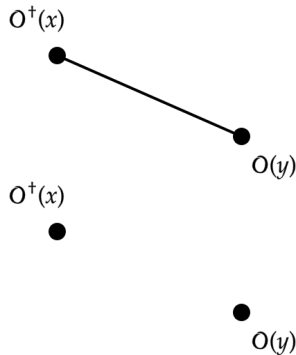
SSB in global symmetries

- Classification of phases of matter
 - ▶ Unbroken phase. Excitations are gapped and correlation functions decay exponentially

$$\langle \mathcal{O}^\dagger(x) \mathcal{O}(y) \rangle \sim \exp\{-m|x - y|\}$$

- ▶ Broken phase. Something condenses. Correlation functions factorize and saturate at large distances

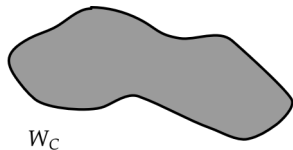
$$\langle \mathcal{O}^\dagger(x) \mathcal{O}(y) \rangle \sim \langle \mathcal{O}^\dagger \rangle \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle$$



SSB in global symmetries

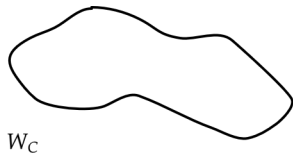
- For a 1-form symmetry
 - ▶ Unbroken phase. All excitations are gapped. Charged operators have an area law. Analogue of exponentially decaying correlator of local operators

$$\langle W_C \rangle \sim \exp\{-T_{p+1} \text{Area}[C]\}$$



- ▶ Broken phase. Strings condense and have no tension. Charged operators develop perimeter laws at large distance. Analogue of factorized local correlators

$$\langle W_C \rangle \sim \exp\{-T_p \text{Perimeter}[C]\}$$



Goldstone Theorem (0-form symmetry)

Euclidean path integral

Levin-Wen '04, Hofman-Iqbal '18

- Conserved $\star j$ from 0-form symmetry and charged $\mathcal{O}$

$$d \star j(x) \mathcal{O}(0) = iq \mathcal{O}(0) \delta^{(d)}(x)$$

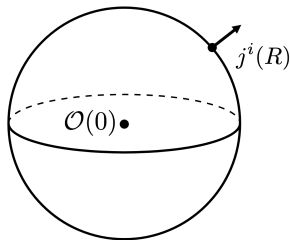
- Integrating over a 4-ball of radius R and evaluating:

$$\left\langle \left(\int_{S^3(R)} \star j \right) \mathcal{O}(0) \right\rangle = iq \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle$$

- If $\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle \neq 0$, R independence implies

$$\langle \star j^i(x) \mathcal{O}(0) \rangle \propto \frac{iq n^i}{R^3}$$

- Power-law decay $\Rightarrow$ 1 Goldstone mode



Goldstone Theorem (p -form symmetries)

- Conserved $\star j$ from a p -form symmetry with charged operator $W(C)$ over a p -dim manifold

$$d \star j(x) W(C) = iq \delta_C(x) W(C)$$

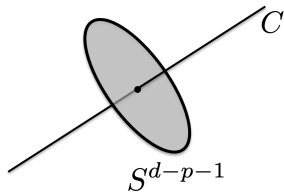
- If C is an infinite p -plane, we integrate over a $(d-p)$ -ball B_{d-p}

$$\left\langle \left(\int_{S^{d-p-1}(R)} \star j \right) W(C) \right\rangle = iq \langle W(C) \rangle$$

- If $\langle W(C) \rangle \neq 0$, R independence implies

$$\langle \star j(R) W(C) \rangle \propto \frac{iqc}{R^{d-p-1}}$$

- Power-law decay $\Rightarrow$ Goldstone p -form modes



EFT for Goldstone modes

Coleman-Wess-Zumino'69, Callan-Coleman-Wess-Zumino'69

- Coset construction
 - ▶ Quotient space G/H
 - ▶ Given a SSB of G , where $H \subset G$ is preserved

$$\text{Lie}(G) = \left\{ \underbrace{V_I}_{\text{broken}}, \underbrace{Z_a}_{\text{unbroken}} \right\}$$

- ▶ For $\tilde{g} \in G/H$, we can express it as $\tilde{g} = \exp\{\xi^a(x)Z_a\}$
 - ▶ ξ^a are the Goldstone modes
- For $g \in G$, $\tilde{g}$ transforms as

$$g \exp\{\xi^a Z_a\} = \exp\{\xi'^a Z_a\} h(g, \xi^a), \quad h \in H$$

- Usually, the transformation $g : \xi^a \rightarrow \xi'^a$ is complicated (nonlinear)
- How to build actions?

EFT for Goldstone modes

Coleman-Wess-Zumino'69, Callan-Coleman-Wess-Zumino'69

- How to build actions?
- Lie-algebra valued Maurer-Cartan 1-form

$$\omega = \tilde{g}^{-1} d\tilde{g} \equiv \omega_Z + \omega_V \equiv \omega^a Z_a + \omega^I V_I$$

- Transforms homogeneously under G

$$g : \begin{cases} \omega_Z & \rightarrow h(x) \omega_Z h^{-1} \\ \omega_V & \rightarrow h(x) (\omega_V + d) h^{-1} \end{cases}$$

- At leading order in derivative expansion:

$$\mathcal{L} \propto \text{Tr} [\omega \wedge \star \omega]$$

Example: EFT for periodic scalar

- For $\theta(x)$, we consider $\Psi(x) = e^{i\theta(x)}$
- The Maurer-Cartan 1-form

$$\omega = -i\Psi^{-1}(x)d\Psi(x) = d\theta(x)$$

- To lowest order in derivatives,

$$S = f^2 \int \omega \wedge \star \omega = f^2 \int d\theta \wedge \star d\theta$$

- This is more than required!
 - ▶ Invariant under U(1) “momentum” symmetry $\theta(x) \rightarrow \theta(x) + \alpha$
 - ▶ Invariant under U(1) “winding” $(D - p - 2)$ symmetry

Example: EFT for periodic scalar

Witten95

- Understanding the “winding”

$$S = f^2 \int (\mathrm{d}\theta - \beta) \wedge \star(\mathrm{d}\theta - \beta) + 2\pi i \int \beta \wedge \mathrm{d}\eta$$

$$[\beta] : \star(\mathrm{d}\theta - \beta) = \pi i f^{-2} \mathrm{d}\eta$$

$$[\eta] : \mathrm{d}\beta = 0$$

β dynamical 1-form connection

η dynamical $(D - p - 2)$ connection (Lagrange multiplier)

- Being β pure gauge:

$$\star \mathrm{d}\theta = \pi i f^{-2} \mathrm{d}\eta$$

- We say that θ and η are electromagnetic duals
- For $D = 2$, $p = 0$, this is T duality

Questions & Goals

- How about 1-form symmetries
 - ▶ Maxwell as the EFT of Goldstone bosons?
 - ▶ Coset construction?
 - ▶ Rôle of Wilson and 't Hooft operators?
- How about p -form symmetries?
 - ▶ Coset construction and EFT?
 - ▶ Rôle of charged objects?
- One step further: is SUGRA an EFT of Goldstone bosons?
 - ▶ Motivation: Goldstone theorem for non invertible + symmetry operators
Iqbal-GarcíaEtxebarria'20, FM-Giorgi-Marqués-Rosabal'24
 - ▶ Bosonic sector: “generalized” electromagnetism
 - ▶ Chern Simons?
 - ▶ Higher groups?

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Maxwell as a theory of Goldstone modes
3. Generalized Maxwell for p -forms
4. 5D Maxwell-CS
5. Supergravity
6. Conclusions and prospects

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1-form Symmetries & Loop Space

Polyakov'79

- Charged objects supported by a closed manifold Σ_1
 - ▶ The coset representative: $\Psi[\Sigma_1] = \exp i \int_{\Sigma_1} P[A_1]$
 - ▶ The loop variation under a vector X is defined as

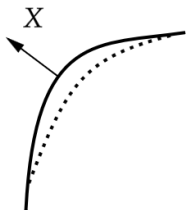
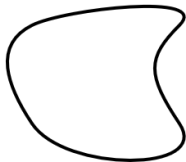
$$\delta_X \Phi[\Sigma_1] = \int_{\Sigma_1} d\sigma \delta X^\mu(\sigma) \frac{\delta \Phi}{\delta X^\mu(\sigma)}$$

- ▶ Maurer-Cartan 1-form

$$\omega_X(\Sigma_1) \equiv \omega(X; \Sigma_1) = -i\Psi^{-1}[\Sigma_1]\delta_X\Psi[\Sigma_1] = \int_{\Sigma_1} \iota_X dA_1$$

- Maurer-Cartan (Bianchi-like)

$$\delta_X \omega_Y(\Sigma_1) - \delta_Y \omega_X(\Sigma_1) - \omega_{[X,Y]}(\Sigma_1) = 0$$



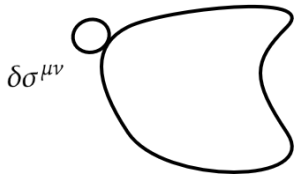
Area & Loop Derivatives

Makeenko-Migdal'79, Migdal'80, Iqbal-McGreevy'21

- An equivalent approach: area derivative

$$\Psi[C \cup \delta C] = \Psi[C] + \sigma^{\mu\nu}(\delta C) \frac{\delta \Psi[C]}{\delta \sigma^{\mu\nu}(\lambda)},$$

$$\sigma^{\mu\nu}(\delta C) = \frac{1}{2} \oint_{\delta C} dX^\mu X^\nu$$



- Example: $\phi[C] \equiv \oint_C dX^\mu A_\mu$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi[C \cup \delta C] - \phi[C] &= \oint_{\delta C} dX^\mu A_\mu \\ &= \oint_{\delta C} dX^\mu (A(X_0)_\mu + (X_0 - X)^\nu \partial_\nu A_\mu(X_0) + \dots) \end{aligned}$$

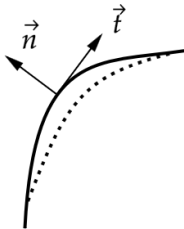
which implies

$$\frac{\delta \phi[C]}{\delta \sigma^{\mu\nu}(\lambda)} = 2\partial_{[\mu} A_{\nu]}(X_0(\lambda))$$

Area & Loop Derivatives

- Equivalence with Polyakov

$$\frac{\delta \Psi[C]}{\delta X^\mu(s)} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{dX^\nu}{ds} \frac{\delta \Psi[C]}{\delta \sigma^{\mu\nu}(s)}$$



- A generic action

$$S[\Psi] = \mathcal{N} \int [dC] \oint_C ds \sqrt{h} \frac{\delta \Psi^\dagger[C]}{\delta \sigma_{\mu\nu}(s)} \frac{\delta \Psi[C]}{\delta \sigma^{\mu\nu}(s)} + V(\Psi^\dagger[C] \Psi[C])$$

- For $V = 0$ and $\Psi[C] = \exp i \int_C P[A]$,

$$S[\Psi] = \mathcal{N} \int [dC] \oint_C ds \frac{\delta \Psi^\dagger[C]}{\delta \sigma_{\mu\nu}(s)} \frac{\delta \Psi[C]}{\delta \sigma^{\mu\nu}(s)} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma_d} dA \wedge \star dA$$

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Area derivative for p -forms

Hidaka-Kawana'23

- Consider $\Psi[C_p] = \exp i \int_{C_p} A_p$
- Variation of $\Psi[C_p]$ for an arbitrary change δC_p ,

$$\delta \Psi[C_p] = \int d^p \xi \sqrt{h} \delta X^\mu(\xi) \frac{\delta \Psi[C_p]}{\delta X^\mu(\xi)} = \frac{1}{(p+1)!} \sigma^{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_{p+1}}(\delta C_p) \frac{\delta \Psi[C_p]}{\delta \sigma^{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_{p+1}}(\xi)},$$

$$\sigma^{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_{p+1}}(\delta C_p) = \int_{\delta C_p} \delta X^{[\mu_1} dX^{\mu_2} \wedge \cdots \wedge dX^{\mu_{p+1}]}$$

- The action

$$S[\Psi] = \mathcal{N}_p \int [dC_p] \oint_{C_p} d^p \xi \frac{\delta \Psi^\dagger[C_p]}{\delta \sigma_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_{p+1}}(\xi)} \frac{\delta \Psi[C]}{\delta \sigma^{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_{p+1}}(\xi)} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma_d} dA_p \wedge \star dA_p$$

EFT for p - and q -forms

- Coset construction

$$\Psi[\Sigma_p, \Sigma_q] = \exp i \left\{ \int_{\Sigma_p} A_p + \int_{\Sigma_q} A_q \right\}$$

- Maurer-Cartan 1-form

$$\omega_X(\Sigma_p, \Sigma_q) = \int_{\Sigma_p} \iota_X dA_p + \int_{\Sigma_q} \iota_X dA_q$$

- Maurer-Cartan equations

$$\int_{\Sigma_p} \iota_X d^2 A_p + \int_{\Sigma_q} \iota_X d^2 A_q = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad d^2 A_p = d^2 A_q = 0$$

- If $q = d - p - 2$ and $\star dA_p = dA_q$

$$d^2 A_p = 0, \quad d \star dA_p = 0$$

- Other: read off the Maurer-Cartan components: dA_p and dA_q

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5D Maxwell-CS

- Action $S = \int \frac{1}{2} dA \wedge \star dA + \frac{\kappa}{3} A \wedge dA \wedge dA$
- Democratic formulation

$$S_{\text{dem}} = \int \alpha_1 dA \wedge \star dA + \alpha_2 (dB - A \wedge dA) \wedge \star (dB - A \wedge dA) \\ + \frac{2\alpha_1 - 4\alpha_2}{3} A \wedge dA \wedge dA$$

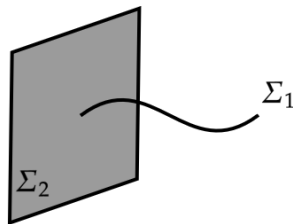
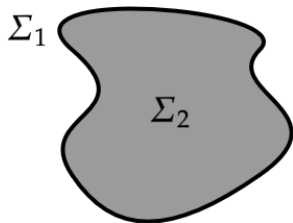
- Higher group: $\delta B = d\lambda_1 + d\lambda_0 \wedge A$
- Coset construction (charged objects)

$$\Psi[\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2] = \exp i \left\{ \int_{\Sigma_1} A + \int_{\Sigma_2} B \right\}$$

- String theory: objects localized on the brane?
- Why? Ψ only depends on Σ_1 and Σ_2

5D Maxwell-CS

- What can we do with a Wilson line (Σ_1) and a 't Hooft string (Σ_2)?
 - ▶ $\partial\Sigma_2 = \Sigma_1$
 - ▶ $\partial\Sigma_1 \subseteq \Sigma_2$ with $\partial\Sigma_2 = \emptyset$
 - ▶ Others?



5D Maxwell-CS

- Gauge invariance for $\partial\Sigma_1 \subseteq \Sigma_2$ with $\partial\Sigma_2 = \emptyset$

$$\delta \left(\int_{\Sigma_1} A + \int_{\Sigma_2} B \right) = \int_{\partial\Sigma_1} \lambda_0$$

- We propose a localized field

$$\int_{\Sigma_2} B - d\theta \wedge A \quad \delta\theta = \lambda_0$$

- This requires $\delta B = d\lambda_1 + d\lambda_0 \wedge A$ but it's not enough! We need

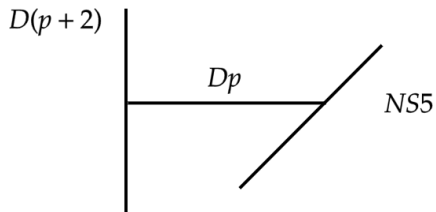
$$dd\theta = -\delta_2(\partial\Sigma_1)$$

$$\delta \left(\int_{\Sigma_1} A + \int_{\Sigma_2} B - d\theta \wedge A \right) = \int_{\partial\Sigma_1} \lambda_0 - \int_{\Sigma_2} d\theta \wedge d\lambda_0 = 0$$

- This was studied in string theory!

Witten'95, Hanany-Witten'96

Hanany-Witten & Freed-Witten



- In type IIB

D5	x	x	x				x	x	x
NS5	x	x	x	x	x	x			
D3	x	x	x						x

Hanany-Witten & Freed-Witten

- Here we require $d\mathcal{F} = H + \delta_3(\partial\Sigma_4)$ at the boundary of the D3
- The presence of the NS5 is crucial, as it requires $\oint H \neq 0$!
- Freed-Witten: branes in the presence of nontrivial H are anomalous
- Anomaly cancels by making another brane end on it Maldacena-Moore-Seiberg'01

$$[H] = \cancel{[W]} + [\delta] \tag{1}$$

- Punchline: The HW brane creation is required to cancel the FW anomaly. Conversely, the FW condition is required to explain the HW brane creation.
- Generalization to M theory Witten'99

"This reduces to (1) in the appropriate situation, and I suspect it holds in general"

Coset for Maxwell-CS

- From Freed-Witten,

$$[F_2] = [\delta_2] \quad \Rightarrow \quad F_2 = dC_1 + \delta_2(\partial\Sigma_1)$$

- Coset construction

$$\Psi[\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2] = \exp i \left(\int_{\Sigma_1} A + \int_{\Sigma_2} B - C_1 \wedge A \right)$$

- C_1 not entirely determined
 - ▶ If $C_1 = d\theta + A$ is gauge invariant (like $\mathcal{F}$) then we have to prescribe $\delta_X \theta$
 - ▶ If C_1 is gauge invariant (like B) then we have to choose a section of the bundle and integrate over the gauge transformations of C_1 (or, equivalently, over $d\theta$)
- Inherent integration over $d\theta$ makes the coset noninvertible

Coset for Maxwell-CS

- We can do the path integral over θ and average over all the gauge transformations

$$\Psi_{\text{eff}}[\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2] = \int [D\theta] \Psi[\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2]$$

- To do so, we have to do it legally, including every single term involving θ

$$\Psi_{\text{eff}}[\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2] = \int [D\theta] \Psi[\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2] \exp \left\{ i \int_{\Sigma_2} (d\theta - A) \wedge \star (d\theta - A) \right\}$$

- The Σ_2 integral can be written as

Witten'96

$$\Psi_{\text{eff}}[\Sigma_2] = \exp \left\{ i \int_{\Sigma_2} B \right\} \int [Da] \exp \left\{ -ik \int_{\Sigma_2 \times \mathbb{R}^+} a \wedge da \right\}, \quad a|_{t=0} = A$$

- Varying $\Psi[\Sigma_2]$ w.r.t. the surface along X :

$$\delta_X \Psi_{\text{eff}}[\Sigma_2] = i \Psi_{\text{eff}}[\Sigma_2] \int_{\Sigma_2} P [\iota_X (dB - A \wedge dA)]$$

An action for Maxwell-CS

- Maurer-Cartan 1-form

$$\omega_X(\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2) = \int_{\Sigma_1} P [\iota_X dA] + \epsilon_p \int_{\Sigma_2} P [\iota_X (dB - A \wedge dA)]$$

- Maurer-Cartan equation
 - ▶ Fixed gauge transformations $\Rightarrow$ Field strengths $\Rightarrow$ Bianchi's
 - ▶ Bianchi's + duality relations = EOMs
- Effective action
 - ▶ Democratic action + duality relations

$$S[\Psi] = \mathcal{N} \int [D\Sigma_1][D\Sigma_2] \omega(\Sigma_{1,2}) \wedge \star \omega(\Sigma_{1,2})$$

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Supergravity (bosonic sector)

- 11D Supergravity
 - ▶ M2 branes ending on M5 branes
 - ▶ CS coefficient entirely fixed by SUSY
 - ▶ CS origin: anomaly inflow arising from the self-dual 2-form in the M5
- Type II
 - ▶ H flux induced by NS5
 - ▶ Freed-Witten & Hanany-Witten
 - ▶ IIA CS origin: anomaly inflow arising from the self-dual 2-form in the NS5
 - ▶ IIB CS origin: anomaly inflow arising from the self-dual 2-form in the KKM?

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Conclusions

1. Higher form and higher group symmetries in supergravity
2. Spontaneous symmetry breaking of higher form symmetries
3. EFT for Goldstone modes and the coset construction (Maurer-Cartan)
4. Loop space and area derivative
 - ▶ Maxwell as the EFT of Goldstone modes for SSB of 1-form symmetry
5. Generalization to higher p -forms
 - ▶ Generalized electromagnetism with no higher group
 - ▶ Coset $\Psi[\Sigma_p]$

Conclusions

6. Maxwell-CS

- ▶ We have built a coset $\Psi[\Sigma_1, \Sigma_2]$ with good properties
- ▶ Manifolds with boundaries enter the game
- ▶ Charged objects restricted by Freed-Witten anomalies
- ▶ Hanany-Witten: branes ending on branes
- ▶ Noninvertibility still around ($\int [D\theta]$)
- ▶ Effective description
 - ▶ Maurer-Cartan eq + duality relations = EOMs
 - ▶ Maurer-Cartan components + duality relations = EOMs

7. 11D SUGRA: straightforward extension of Maxwell-CS

8. Type II

- ▶ D-branes: Maurer-Cartan eq's for RR fields
- ▶ NS5: Necessary for the EOM of B_2

Prospects

- Finish the paper!
- Other applications: Axion-Maxwell (type IIA analogue)
- Loop space: Hodge operator and other formal problems?
- Supersymmetry? Goldstinos?
- How are they related? CS = higher group = Witten effect?
- Green-Schwarz mechanism in this set-up? Orientifolds?
- Spacetime symmetries and Goldstone modes
- Higher derivatives? No assumption taken until duality relation

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Thanks!

