

# Generating formulation for HS gauge fields

(Howe duality, BRST, and many faces of HS dynamics)

Kostya Alkalaev

Tamm Theory Department, Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow

Alkalaev & Grigoriev  
1105.6111, 0910.2690

**Vienna, April 2012**

# Plan

## Review part:

- AdS spacetime symmetry algebra and its «particle» representations
- Various field-theoretical realizations

## Generating formulation:

- Algebraic tools: auxiliary variables & Howe duality (standard and twisted)
- Ambient space formulation: fields, BRST operator, and constraints
- Physical interpretation: Casimir operator, spins and masses
- Generating formulation: fields, BRST operator, and constraints
- Example: Maxwell theory
- Cohomological analysis: a relation to the unfolded formulation

## **AdS spacetime symmetry algebra and its «particle» representations**



(non)-unitary elementary particles  $\equiv$  highest weight irreps

**Anti-de Sitter spacetime AdS:**  $o(d-1, 2) = T^- \oplus T^0 \oplus T^+$

energy

spins

Maximal compact subalgebra  $T^0 = o(2) \oplus o(d-1) \subset o(d-1, 2)$

Creation and annihilation operators forming  $T^\pm$  act on the vacuum space which is an irrep of the maximal compact subalgebra.

Finite-dimensional irreps:

- All traces = 0
- Young symmetry

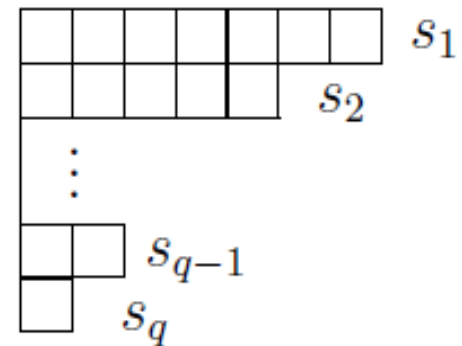
Spins  $\mathbf{s} = (s_1, \dots, s_q)$ ,  $q = \left\lfloor \frac{d-1}{2} \right\rfloor$

Energy  $E_0 \in \mathbb{R}$

**Unitarity region:**  $E_0 \geq E_0(\mathbf{s}) = s - p + d - 2$

Metsaev ('95)

$o(d-2)$  Young diagram



sym  $d = 2, 3, 4$   
mix  $d \geq 5$

singular vectors

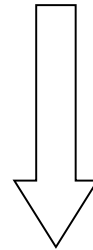
**Non-unitary region:** non-unitary massless,  
non-unitary partially-massless

# Brink-Metsaev-Vasiliev (BMV) decomposition for unitary massless fields

$$o(d-2) \subset o(d-1)$$

Massless Minkowski field

Massless anti-de Sitter field



cosmological constant

**$\Lambda = 0$  : massless AdS field = a number of flat massless fields**

Boulanger Iazeolla Sundell ('08)

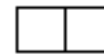
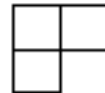
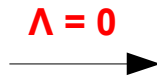
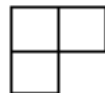
Alkalaev Grigoriev ('09)

AdS hook

flat hook

flat graviton

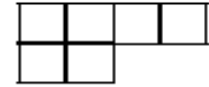
«Hook» field :



## **Field-theoretical realizations**

# Metric - like formulation for HS fields:

$$\phi^{(s_1, \dots, s_q)}$$



- Young symmetry
- Trace conditions

Minkowski fields

$$\delta \phi^{(s_1, \dots, s_q)} = \sum_{n=1}^q \partial \xi^{(s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}, \dots, s_q)}$$

Fronsdal ('78), Labastida ('88), Sagnotti Francia ('02)

AdS fields  
massless  
n=1, ..., q

$$\delta_n \phi^{(s_1, \dots, s_q)} = \nabla \xi^{(s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}, \dots, s_q)}$$

Fronsdal ('79), Metsaev ('95)

unitary theory

non-unitary theory

«hook» field: (2,1)

$$\delta_1 \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \\ \hline \end{array} = \nabla \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\delta_2 \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \\ \hline \end{array} = \nabla \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

AdS fields  
partially-massless  
n=1, ..., q

depth t

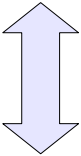
Deser, Nepomechie (84), Deser Waldron ('01) Skvortsov ('09)

$$\delta_{n,t} \phi^{(s_1, \dots, s_q)} = (\nabla)^t \xi^{(s_1, \dots, s_{n-t-1}, \dots, s_q)}$$

Cohomological reduction/resolution

light-cone fields

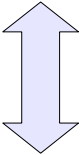
quartets



Kato Ogawa ('83)  
Aisaka Kazawa ('04)

metric-like fields

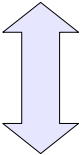
$\sigma$ -minus



Vasiliev (yyyy  $\geq$  '80)  
Alkalaev Shaynkman Vasiliev ('03)  
Skvortsov ('08 '09)  
Boulanger Iazeolla Sundell ('08)

unfolded fields

Q-operator



Barnich Grigoriev  
Semikhatov Tipunin('04)

parent fields



**Algebraic tools: auxiliary variables & Howe duality**

# Auxiliary variables

Two types of indices

$$A_I^A$$

running

$$A = 0, \dots, d \quad \text{and} \quad I = 0, \dots, n - 1$$

Polynomials

$$\Phi = \Phi(A)$$

Expansion coefficients are covariant tensors

$$\Phi(A) = \sum \Phi_{A_1 \dots A_{m_0}; \dots; C_1 \dots C_{m_{n-1}}} A_0^{A_1} \dots A_0^{A_{m_0}} \dots A_{n-1}^{C_1} \dots A_{n-1}^{C_{m_{n-1}}}$$

## Howe dual pair $\mathfrak{o}(d-1,2) - \mathfrak{sp}(2n)$

Orthogonal algebra  $\mathfrak{o}(d-1,2)$

$$J^{AB} = A_I^A \frac{\partial}{\partial A_{BI}} - A_I^B \frac{\partial}{\partial A_{AI}}$$

rotations

Symplectic algebra  $\mathfrak{sp}(2n)$

$$T_{IJ} = A_I^A A_{AJ}, \quad T_I^J = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ A_I^A, \frac{\partial}{\partial A_J^A} \right\}, \quad T^{IJ} = \frac{\partial}{\partial A_I^A} \frac{\partial}{\partial A_{AJ}}$$

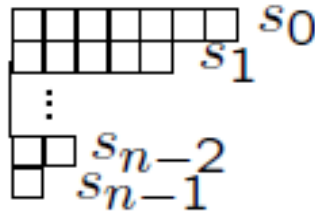
Trace creation

Young symmetrizer

Trace annihilation

Note that the algebras commute to each other  $[J, T] = 0!$

## Finite-dimensional irrep of $\mathfrak{o}(d-1,2)$ algebra



Howe duality



## Highest weight conditions of $\mathfrak{sp}(2n)$ algebra

$$T_I^I \phi = \left( s_I + \frac{d+1}{2} \right) \phi$$

spin weights

$$T^{IJ} \phi = 0, \quad T_I^J \phi = 0 \quad I < J$$

zeroth traces

Young symmetry

## Two types of constraints: from $sp(2n)$ to $sp(2n-2)$

Take a distinguished direction along  $A_0^A$  so that from now on we consider variables  $A_0^A$  and  $A_i^A$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n-1$  separately.

Then we identify stability subalgebra preserving the direction:

$$sp(2n-2) \subset sp(2n)$$

Introduce new notation:

$$N_i^j \equiv T_i^j = A_i^A \frac{\partial}{\partial A_j^A} \quad i \neq j \quad N_i = N_i^i \equiv T_i^i - \frac{d+1}{2} = A_i^A \frac{\partial}{\partial A_i^A}$$

These form  $gl(n-1)$  subalgebra. There are also

$$T_{ij} = A_i^A A_{jA} \quad T^{ij} = \frac{\partial}{\partial A_i^A} \frac{\partial}{\partial A_{jA}}$$

These complete the above set of elements to  $sp(2n-2)$  algebra.

There are two different realizations of  $sp(2n)$  generators involving

$$A_0^A \quad \text{and/or} \quad \partial / \partial A_0^A$$

Realization on the space of polynomials in  $A_i^A$  with coefficients in functions on  $R^{d+1}$ . In this case

$$A_0^A = X^A, \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial A_0^A} = \frac{\partial}{\partial X^A},$$

where  $X^A$  are Cartesian coordinates in  $R^{d+1}$

Generators that involve  $X^A$  and/or  $\partial/\partial X^A$  are denoted by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_i^\dagger &= A_i^A \frac{\partial}{\partial X^A}, & \bar{\mathcal{S}}^i &= X^A \frac{\partial}{\partial A_i^A}, \\ \mathcal{S}^i &= \frac{\partial}{\partial A_i^A} \frac{\partial}{\partial X_A}, & \square_X &= \frac{\partial}{\partial X^A} \frac{\partial}{\partial X_A}. \end{aligned}$$

This is the **standard realization**.

There exists a realization on the space of polynomials in  $A_i^A$  with coefficients in formal power series in variables  $Y^A$  such that

$$A_0^A = Y'^A = Y^A + V^A, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial A_0^A} = \frac{\partial}{\partial Y^A}$$

where  $V^A$  is some  $o(d-1,2)$  vector

$$V^A V_A = -1$$

compensator

Respective  $sp(2n)$  generators are realized by **inhomogeneous** differential operators. In this case:

$$S_i^\dagger = A_i^A \frac{\partial}{\partial Y^A}, \quad \bar{S}^i = (Y^A + V^A) \frac{\partial}{\partial A_i^A},$$

$$S^i = \frac{\partial}{\partial A_i^A} \frac{\partial}{\partial Y_A}, \quad \square_Y = \frac{\partial}{\partial Y^A} \frac{\partial}{\partial Y_A}.$$

This is the **twisted realization**. It is inequivalent to the standard one ( $V=0$ ) because in such a change  $Y' = Y+V$  is ill-defined in the space of formal power series.

# Ambient space formulation

Fronsdal ('79), Metsaev ('95)



# Ambient space functions

hyperboloid

ambient space

$$AdS_d \subset \mathbb{R}^{d-1,2}$$

Functions on the ambient space

$$\phi = \phi(X, A)$$

- $X^A, A = 0, \dots, d - 1, 2$  spacetime coordinates
- $A_i^A, i = 1, \dots, n - 1$  target space variables (standard auxiliary variables)

To describe fields on the hyperboloid some constraints and gauge equivalence are required. They are given by certain  $sp(2n)$  generators or their higher powers.

## Constraints and gauge symmetries

- General off-shell constraints

Young sym

spins

trace  $T^{ij}\phi = 0$ ,  $N_i^j\phi = 0 \quad i < j$ ,  $N_i\phi = s_i\phi$

- The radial dependence is fixed by

$$h\phi = 0, \quad h = N_X - w, \quad N_X = X^A \frac{\partial}{\partial X^A}$$

In proper coordinates the condition is solved by  $\phi = \phi_0(x, A) r^w$

- The equations of motion

wave equation

$$\square_X \phi = 0, \quad \mathcal{S}^i \phi = 0$$

Lorentz gauge

- Tangent constraints

$$\bar{\mathcal{S}}^{\hat{\alpha}} \phi = 0, \quad \hat{\alpha} = p + 1, \dots, n - 1$$

- Extra (polynomial) constraints

depth

$$(\bar{\mathcal{S}}^p)^t \phi = 0, \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, t_{\max}, \quad t_{\max} = s_p - s_{p+1}$$

## Gauge symmetry:

Let us fix integer number  $p \leq n - 1$  and introduce gauge parameters

$$\chi^\alpha = \chi^\alpha(X, A) \quad \alpha = 1, \dots, p$$

A gauge parameter version of the above constraints reads

$$N_i^j \chi^\alpha + \delta_i^\alpha \delta_\beta^j \chi^\beta = 0 \quad i < j \quad N_i \chi^\alpha + \delta_i^\alpha \chi^\alpha - s_i \chi^\alpha = 0$$

$$(N_X - w - 1) \chi^\alpha = 0$$

no Young symmetry for  
gauge parameters

A gauge equivalence is defined by

$$\phi \sim \phi + \mathcal{S}_\alpha^\dagger \chi^\alpha \quad \text{or} \quad \delta_\chi \phi = \mathcal{S}_\alpha^\dagger \chi^\alpha$$

The consistency of this gauge transformation law is guaranteed by  $\mathfrak{sp}(2n)$  algebra.

Functions on the ambient space are extended by Grassmann odd variables

$$\Psi = \Psi(X, A|b)$$

where  $b^\alpha$  are ghosts,  $\text{gh } b_\alpha = -1$ . BRST extended constraints:

$$(N_i^j + B_i^j)\Psi = 0 \quad i < j \quad (N_i + B_i)\chi = s_i\Psi \quad (N_X - B - w)\Psi = 0$$

where

$$B_i^j = \delta_i^\alpha \delta_\beta^j b_\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial b_\beta}, \quad B_\alpha = b_\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial b_\alpha}, \quad B = \sum_{\alpha=1}^p B_\alpha$$

Physical fields are ghost-number-zero elements

$$\Psi^{(0)} = \phi(X, A)$$

Gauge parameters are ghost-number-one elements

$$\Psi^{(-1)} = \chi(X, A|b) = \chi^\alpha(X, A)b_\alpha$$

Now, the gauge symmetry is given by

$$\delta\phi = Q_p\chi, \quad Q_p = S_\alpha^\dagger \frac{\partial}{\partial b_\alpha}, \quad S_\alpha^\dagger = A_\alpha^A \frac{\partial}{\partial X^A}$$

no ghost cubic terms

where  $Q_p$  is BRST operator,  $\text{gh } Q_p = 1$ .

## Comments:

- Equations of motion + off-shell constraints + gauge equivalence form an algebra generated by  $sp(2n)$  elements. In the massless unitary case this algebra is a **parabolic** subalgebra of  $sp(2n)$ .

- Consistency of the constraints and gauge equivalence requires

$$w = s_p - p - t$$

-- massless and partially-massless fields.

- Relaxing polynomial constraint  $(\bar{S}^p)^t \phi = 0$  makes  $w$  arbitrary

– massive fields. In this case the gauge symmetry can be shown to be purely algebraic so that there are no gauge fields at all.

## Physical interpretation of parameters

- Spins  $s_1 \geq s_2 \geq \dots \geq s_{n-1}$
- Radial weight  $w$ , integer parameter  $p$ , depth  $t$

To see which representation we are dealing with let  $\Phi(X, A)$ : represents an equivalence class of field configurations modulo the gauge equivalence relation generated by the introduced earlier BRST operator, i.e.

$$\Phi \sim \Phi + Q_p \chi \quad \text{with} \quad \chi = b_\alpha \chi^\alpha$$

To this end we explicitly evaluate the value of the quadratic Casimir operator

$$C_2 = -\frac{1}{2} J_{AB} J^{AB}, \quad J_{AB} = L_{AB} + M_{AB}$$

where

$$L_{AB} = X_A \frac{\partial}{\partial X^B} - X_B \frac{\partial}{\partial X^A}$$
$$M_{AB} = \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \left( A_{Ai} \frac{\partial}{\partial A_i^B} - A_{Bi} \frac{\partial}{\partial A_i^A} \right)$$

A direct calculation shows

$$C_2\Phi = \left( w(w + d - 1) + \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} s_l(s_l - 2l + d - 1) \right) \Phi - 2 \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} \mathcal{S}_l^\dagger \bar{\mathcal{S}}^l \Phi$$

Last term: summands  $\mathcal{S}_l^\dagger \bar{\mathcal{S}}^l$  with  $l > p$  vanish because of the constraints.

The remaining summands can be rewritten as

$$\sum_{\alpha=1}^p \mathcal{S}_\alpha^\dagger \bar{\mathcal{S}}^\alpha \Phi = \mathcal{Q}_p \chi, \quad \chi = b_\alpha \bar{\mathcal{S}}^\alpha \Phi.$$

It is easy to see that the gauge parameter  $\chi$  satisfies all the necessary constraints provided  $\Phi$  does. So the value of the second Casimir operator in the  $\mathcal{Q}_p$ -cohomology at zeroth degree is given by

$$C_2\Phi = \left( w(d - 1 + w) + \sum_{l=1}^{n-1} s_l(s_l - 2l + d - 1) \right) \Phi$$

The standard expression gives

$$E_0(E_0 - d + 1) = w(w + d - 1)$$

Fronsdal ('79), Metsaev ('95), Deser Waldron ('01), Skvortsov ('09)

we find

$$E_0 = w + d - 1 = (\text{special } w = s_p - p - t) = s_p - p - t + d - 1$$

## **Generating BRST formulation**



## Space of functions

Functions on the hyperboloid

$$\Phi = \Phi(x, Y, A | b, \theta)$$

- $x^m, m = 0, \dots, d - 1$  intrinsic AdS coordinates
- $Y^A, A_i^A, i = 1, \dots, n - 1$  target space variables (twisted Howe realization)
- $b^\alpha, \alpha = 1, \dots, p \leq n - 1$  target space ghosts,  $gh b_\alpha = -1$
- $\theta^m, m = 0, \dots, d - 1$  spacetimes ghosts,  $gh \theta^m = 1$

## Covariant background derivative

De Rham  
differential

BRST operator

$$\nabla = d + \frac{1}{2} \theta^m \omega_m^{AB} J_{AB}, \quad d = \theta^m \frac{\partial}{\partial x^m}$$

$$\nabla^2 = 0, \quad \text{gh } \nabla = 1$$

AdS background connection  $\omega_m^{AB}$  satisfies

zero-curvature  
condition

$$d\omega^{AB} + \omega^A_C \wedge \omega^{CB} = 0$$

Here  $V^A = \text{const}$ . Basis differential forms  $dx^m$  are replaced with extra

Grassmann odd ghost variables  $\theta^m$ ,  $m = 0, \dots, d-1$  because  $\nabla$  is

interpreted as a part of BRST operator.

## Operator $Q_p$ and off-shell constraints

BRST operator

$$Q_p = S_\alpha^\dagger \frac{\partial}{\partial b_\alpha}, \quad Q_p^2 = 0, \quad \text{gh } Q_p = 1$$

Off-shell constraints along with  $Q_p$  form some algebra

1) Massless and massive fields: constraints are **linear** in  $\text{sp}(2n)$  generators

2) Partially-massless fields: some of constraints are **polynomial** in  $\text{sp}(2n)$  generators. The respective polynomial order is proportional to the depth of partial masslessness.

*important  
remark:*

Anti-de Sitter algebra acts in the  $Q_p$  cohomology:

$$[J^{AB}, Q_p] = 0$$

## Total BRST operator: the generating formulation

BRST operator

$$\Omega = \nabla + Q_p, \quad \Omega^2 = 0,$$

$$\nabla^2 = Q_p^2 = 0, \quad [Q_p, \nabla] = 0$$

Plus appropriate off-shell (BRST extended) constraints.

BRST operator is a sum of the term associated to the spacetime isometry algebra and the term associated to the Howe dual symplectic algebra

Part of algebraic constraints can be consistently relaxed =  
infinitely reducible string-like system

## Field content and equations of motion

Ghost-number-zero field:  $\Phi^{(0)} = \phi_0 + \phi_1 + \dots + \phi_p$

where

$$\phi_k = \phi_{a_1 \dots a_k}^{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_k}(x, Y, A) b_{\alpha_1} \dots b_{\alpha_k} \theta^{a_1} \dots \theta^{a_k}$$

Ghost-number-one gauge parameters  $\xi^{(-1)} = \xi_1 + \xi_2 + \dots + \xi_p$

where

$$\xi_k = \xi_{i_1 \dots i_{k-1}}^{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_k}(x, A, Y) b_{\alpha_1} \dots b_{\alpha_k} \theta^{i_1} \dots \theta^{i_{k-1}}$$

(Fields and gauge parameters are identified as differential forms!)

Equations and symmetries for  $\Omega = \nabla + Q_p$  are

$$\Omega\Phi^{(0)} = 0 \quad \delta\Phi^{(0)} = \Omega\xi^{(-1)} \quad \delta\xi^{(-1)} = \Omega\xi^{(-2)}$$

In components

$$\nabla\phi_k + S_{\alpha}^{\dagger} \frac{\partial}{\partial b_{\alpha}} \phi_{k+1} = 0, \quad k = 0, \dots, p$$

## Algebraic constraints

$$T^{ij}\Psi = 0, \quad (N_i^j + B_i^j)\Psi = 0 \quad i < j, \quad (N_i + B_i)\Psi = s_i\Psi$$

and

$$\square_Y \Psi = 0, \quad S^i \Psi = 0$$

and

$$h\Psi = 0, \quad h = N_Y - B - w,$$
$$\bar{S}^{\hat{\alpha}} \Psi = 0, \quad \hat{\alpha} = p + 1, \dots, n - 1$$

Here we recall that

$$N_Y = (Y^A + V^A) \frac{\partial}{\partial Y^A} \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{S}^i = (Y^A + V^A) \frac{\partial}{\partial A_i^A}$$

For special values  $w = s_p - p - t$  one additionally imposes

$$(\bar{S}^p)^t \Psi = 0$$

# Generating theory on Minkowski space

Functions on Minkowski space

$$\phi = \phi(x, y, a | b, \theta)$$

- $x^m, m = 0, \dots, d - 1$  - Cartesian coordinates
- $y^a, a_i^a$  - auxiliary variables,  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1, a = 0, \dots, d - 1$
- $b^i$  - target space ghosts,  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1, gh b_i = -1$
- $\theta^a$  - spacetime ghosts  $a = 0, \dots, d - 1, gh \theta^a = 1$

BRST operator

$$\Omega = \nabla + Q, \quad \Omega^2 = 0$$

where

$$\nabla = \theta^a \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x^a} - \frac{\partial}{\partial y^a} \right) \quad Q = S_i^\dagger \frac{\partial}{\partial b^i} \quad S_i^\dagger = a_i^a \frac{\partial}{\partial y^a}$$

covariant derivative in  
Cartesian coordinates

$p = n - 1$

## Field content and equations of motion

Ghost-number-zero field:  $\phi^{(0)} = \phi_0 + \phi_1 + \dots + \phi_{n-1}$

where  $\phi_p = \phi_{a_1 \dots a_p}^{i_1 \dots i_p}(x, y, a) b_{i_1} \dots b_{i_p} \theta^{a_1} \dots \theta^{a_p}$

Ghost-number-one gauge parameters  $\xi^{(-1)} = \xi_1 + \xi_2 + \dots + \xi_{n-1}$

where  $\xi_p = \xi_{a_1 \dots a_{p-1}}^{i_1 \dots i_p}(x, a, y) b_{i_1} \dots b_{i_p} \theta^{a_1} \dots \theta^{a_{p-1}}$

Equations and symmetries for  $\Omega = \nabla + Q$  are

$$\Omega \phi^{(0)} = 0 \quad \delta \phi^{(0)} = \Omega \xi^{(-1)} \quad \delta \xi^{(-1)} = \Omega \xi^{(-2)}$$

In components

$$\nabla \phi_k + S_i^\dagger \frac{\partial}{\partial b_i} \phi_{k+1} = 0, \quad k = 0, \dots, n-1$$

Algebraic constraints

$$T^{IJ} \Psi = 0 \quad (N_i^j + B_i^j) \Psi = 0 \quad i < j \quad (N_i + B_i) \Psi = s_i \Psi$$



## Dynamically equivalent theories

Theory  $(\mathcal{H}, \Omega)$ :

- $\mathcal{H}$  – representation space of  $\Omega$ ,  $\Omega^2 = 0$ ;
- Equations of motion  $\Omega\Phi = 0$ , where  $\Phi \in \mathcal{H}$ .

$$\text{Triplet } \mathcal{H} = \mathcal{E} \oplus \mathcal{F} \oplus \mathcal{G}$$

- $\mathcal{E}$  – dynamical fields
- $\mathcal{F}$  – auxiliary fields
- $\mathcal{G}$  – Stueckelberg fields

Theory  $(\mathcal{E}, \hat{\Omega})$ :

- $\mathcal{E}$  – representation space of  $\hat{\Omega}$ ,  $\hat{\Omega}^2 = 0$ ;
- Equations of motion  $\hat{\Omega}\Psi = 0$ , where  $\Psi \in \mathcal{E}$ .

$$(\mathcal{H}, \Omega) \text{ equivalent } (\mathcal{E}, \hat{\Omega})$$

# Homological reduction

Additional grading

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_0 \oplus \mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \mathcal{H}_2 \oplus \dots$$

$$\Omega = \Omega_{-1} + \Omega_0 + \Omega_1 + \dots$$

Definition:

Stueckelberg

$$\mathcal{E} \oplus \mathcal{G} = \text{Ker} \Omega_{-1}, \quad \mathcal{G} = \text{Im} \Omega_{-1}, \quad \mathcal{E} = \frac{\text{Ker} \Omega_{-1}}{\text{Im} \Omega_{-1}}$$

dynamical

String theory: light cone DoF, quartets

Unfolded formulation: BRST operator  $\Omega_{-1} \cong \sigma_-$

Generating formulation: BRST operator  $\Omega_{-1} \cong Q_p$

$\mathbb{Q}_p$  - cohomology

**THEOREM:** The  $Q_p$  cohomology evaluated in the subspace singled out by off-shell constraints is non-empty only for

$$H^k(Q_p, \mathcal{H}_{\text{on-shell}}) = \begin{cases} \text{Weyl module ,} & k = 0 , \\ 0 , & k \neq 0, -p , \\ \text{Gauge module ,} & k = -p . \end{cases}$$

- $gh = 0$ : infinite-dimensional AdS Weyl module  $\mathcal{M}_0$   
(0-form gauge invariant combinations of potentials)
- $gh = -p$  finite-dimensional AdS gauge module  $\mathcal{M}_p$   
(p-form gauge potentials). For massive fields it is zero.

remark:

Boulanger Iazeolla Sundell ('08) Alkalaev Grigoriev ('09) Skvortsov ('09)

The form of AdS Weyl module for unitary massless mixed-symmetry confirms the Brink-Metsaev-Vasiliev decomposition

General (non-unitary) case:

$$\mathcal{M}_0 = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \bigoplus_{\{m\}_k} \mathcal{M}_{0,m,p}^{(k)} / \mathcal{Z}_{0,m,p}^{(k)}$$

some elements

Poincare Weyl modules

# Conclusions

- Uniform and concise description of AdS fields: massless, partially-massless, and massive
- Using Howe duality makes the constraint structure of the theory manifest:

AdS algebra  $\mathfrak{o}(d-1,2)$  – symplectic algebra  $\mathfrak{sp}(2n)$

- Cohomological reductions and resolutions. In particular, the unfolded fields appear as the cohomology of the nilpotent operator built from some  $\mathfrak{sp}(2n)$  generator.
- Off-shell formulations (non-dynamical) of non-linear HS theories. Vasiliev ('05), Grigoriev ('06)
- The study of cubic HS vertices within the ambient approach. Joung Lopez and Taronna ('12)
- Our main believe: the approach is important for understanding the searched-for geometry underlying HS interactions.