

Localization of effective actions in OSFT - Applications and Future Developments

Alberto Merlano

In collaboration with: **Carlo Maccaferri**

Università di Torino, INFN Sezione di Torino and Arnold-Regge Center
Dipartimento di Fisica Teorica

February 11, 2018

Meeting on String Field Theory and String Phenomenology
2018, Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad.

Summary of the presentation

- Recap of the general results (see Carlo's talk, 1801.07607)
- Yang-Mills potential from $D(2n)$ branes system
- Yang-Mills instantons from $D3 - D(-1)$ branes system
- Future Directions

Summary of the presentation

- Recap of the general results (see Carlo's talk, 1801.07607)
- Yang-Mills potential from $D(2n)$ branes system
- Yang-Mills instantons from $D3 - D(-1)$ branes system
- Future Directions

Summary of the presentation

- Recap of the general results (see Carlo's talk, 1801.07607)
- Yang-Mills potential from $D(2n)$ branes system
- Yang-Mills instantons from $D3 - D(-1)$ branes system
- Future Directions

Main results (see Carlo's talk)

- From Berkovits OSFT, the effective action for a massless field Φ_A at the quartic level is

$$S_4(\Phi_A) = +\frac{1}{8}\text{Tr} [[\eta_0\Phi_A, Q_B\Phi_A] \xi_0 \frac{b_0}{L_0} [\eta_0\Phi_A, Q_B\Phi_A]] \\ - \frac{1}{24}\text{Tr} [[\eta_0\Phi_A, \Phi_A] [\Phi_A, Q_B\Phi_A]].$$

- For consistent and interesting string theory background we can always promote the natural worldsheet $\mathcal{N} = 1$ to $\mathcal{N} = 2$. (see Sen (1986), Banks and Dixon et al.(1987-88))
- So there is a R-symmetry current j in the matter sector. Assume that the string field is the sum of opposite charged string fields

$$\Phi_A = \Phi_A^{(+)} + \Phi_A^{(-)} \quad , \quad \Phi_A^{(\pm)} = c\gamma^{-1}\mathbb{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(\pm)}.$$

- The conservation of the R -charge implies that the effective action localizes in terms of unphysical "auxiliary fields" such as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_0[\Phi_A, Q_B\Phi_A] &= +A_\mu A_\nu c\gamma^{-1}\psi^\mu \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) \left[c\left(i\sqrt{2}\partial X^\nu\right) - \gamma\psi^\nu \right] \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) \\
 &\quad - A_\mu A_\nu \left[c\left(i\sqrt{2}\partial X^\nu\right) - \gamma\psi^\nu \right] \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) c\gamma^{-1}\psi^\mu \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\right) \Big|_0 \\
 &= -[A_\mu, A_\nu] c\psi^\mu\psi^\nu(0)|0\rangle.
 \end{aligned}$$

where known OPEs of the ghost/superghosts have been used

$$\gamma(z)\gamma^{-1}(-z) = 1 + O(2z),$$

$$c(z)c(-z) \sim -2z c\partial c(0) + \dots$$

- The general structure of the auxiliary fields appearing at the quartic order is

$$h^{(\pm\pm)} \equiv P_0[\Phi_A^{(\pm)}, Q_B \Phi_A^{(\pm)}] = -2c \mathbb{H}_1^{(\pm)}$$

$$\widehat{h}^{(\pm\pm)} \equiv P_0[\Phi_A^{(\pm)}, \eta_0 \Phi_A^{(\pm)}] = 2c \partial c \xi e^{-2\phi} \mathbb{H}_1^{(\pm)}$$

$$g^{(\pm\mp)} \equiv P_0[\eta_0 \Phi_A^{(\pm)}, Q_B \Phi_A^{(\mp)}] = \mp c \eta \mathbb{H}_0$$

$$\widehat{g}^{(\pm\mp)} \equiv P_0[\Phi_A^{(\pm)}, \Phi_A^{(\mp)}] = \mp c \partial c \xi \partial \xi e^{-2\phi} \mathbb{H}_0.$$

- The explicit form of the above string fields is given by the leading OPE between the matter superconformal primaries

$$\mathbb{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(\pm)}(z) \mathbb{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(\pm)}(-z) = \mathbb{H}_1^{(\pm)}(0) + \dots$$

$$\mathbb{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(\mp)}(z) \mathbb{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(\pm)}(-z) - \mathbb{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(\pm)}(z) \mathbb{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(\mp)}(-z) = \frac{1}{2z} \mathbb{H}_0 + \dots$$

The localized effective action

- The ghost/superghost CFT is universal and can be computed. Then we remain with

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{(4)}(\Phi_A) = \text{tr} \left[\langle \mathbb{H}_1^{(+)} | \mathbb{H}_1^{(-)} \rangle + \frac{1}{4} \langle \mathbb{H}_0 | \mathbb{H}_0 \rangle \right],$$

- This is the main result of 1801.07607: *Choose your string background; the effective action at the quartic level for the massless fields is given by the BPZ product of the matter part of the auxiliary field.*
- If not for this term, the effective action would be zero. This matter vertex depends on the chosen string background. So let us analyze two important examples.

Yang-Mills potential: the worldsheet theory

- The worldsheet theory of a system of N coincident $D(2n)$ euclidean branes contains the ψ^μ superconformal fields which we rearrange according to a $U(n) \in SO(2n)$ decomposition

$$\psi^j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\psi^{2j-1} + i\psi^{2j}) = e^{ih_j} \quad J_0\psi^j = +\psi^j,$$

$$\psi^{\bar{j}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\psi^{2j-1} - i\psi^{2j}) = e^{-ih_j} \quad J_0\psi^{\bar{j}} = -\psi^{\bar{j}}.$$

with $(j, \bar{j}) = 1, \dots, n$. The localizing current is given

$$J(z) = -i \sum_{j=1}^n \partial h_j(z).$$

Yang-Mills potential: the auxiliary fields

- The matter vertex is then given

$$\mathbb{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(+)}(z) = A_J \psi^J(z), \quad \mathbb{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}^{(-)}(z) = A_{\bar{J}} \psi^{\bar{J}}(z),$$

- The auxiliary fields are easily extracted from the leading term in the OPE

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{H}_1^{(+)}(z) &= \frac{1}{2} [A_i, A_j] \psi^{ij}(z), \\ \mathbb{H}_1^{(-)}(z) &= \frac{1}{2} [A_{\bar{i}}, A_{\bar{j}}] \psi^{\bar{i}\bar{j}}(z), \\ \mathbb{H}_0(z) &= [A_{\bar{J}}, A_J]. \end{aligned}$$

where $\psi^{ij}(z) \equiv: \psi^i \psi^j : (z)$. The effective action is then easily computed from

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}}^{(4)}(\Phi_A) = \text{tr} \left[\langle \mathbb{H}_1^{(+)} | \mathbb{H}_1^{(-)} \rangle + \frac{1}{4} \langle \mathbb{H}_0 | \mathbb{H}_0 \rangle \right]$$

Yang-Mills potential

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{(4)}(\Phi_A) = \text{tr} \left[-\frac{1}{2} [A_i, A_j] [A_{\bar{i}}, A_{\bar{j}}] + \frac{1}{4} [A_j, A_{\bar{j}}] [A_{\bar{i}}, A_i] \right].$$

- The $N \times N$ matrices $A_j, A_{\bar{j}}$ are related to the original A_μ 's by

$$A_j = \tau_j^\mu A_\mu \quad A_{\bar{j}} = \bar{\tau}_{\bar{j}}^\mu A_\mu,$$

where non-vanishing entries are

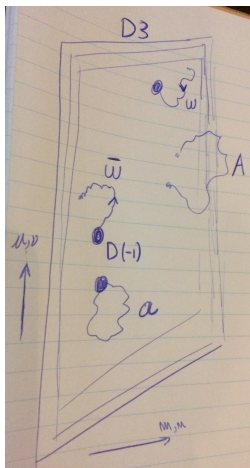
$$\tau_j^{2j-1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \bar{\tau}_{\bar{j}}^{2j-1} \quad \tau_j^{2j} = \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} = -\bar{\tau}_{\bar{j}}^{2j}.$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \tau_j^\mu \bar{\tau}_{\bar{j}}^\nu = \frac{1}{2} (\delta^{\mu\nu} - i\epsilon^{\mu\nu}).$$

- Thus, the Y-M potential is correctly reproduced

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{(4)} = -\frac{1}{8} \text{tr} [[A_\mu, A_\nu] [A^\mu, A^\nu]].$$

Y-M Instantons: the worldsheet theory of $D3-D(-1)$



The total massless string field is given by

$$\Phi_A(z) = c\gamma^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} A & \omega \\ \bar{\omega} & a \end{pmatrix} (z),$$

where

$$A(z) = A_\mu \psi^\mu(z) + \phi_p \psi^p(z),$$

$$\omega(z) = \omega_\alpha^{N \times k} \Delta S^\alpha(z),$$

$$\bar{\omega}(z) = \bar{\omega}_\alpha^{k \times N} \bar{\Delta} S^\alpha(z),$$

$$a(z) = a_\mu \psi^\mu(z) + \chi_p \psi^p(z).$$

- Greek indices μ label the directions along the D3 branes, roman indices p label the transverse directions while $SO(4)$ spinor indices α are $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ and $(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$.

Benefits of the Localization

- Certainly we can compute this effective action using the Berkovits quartic effective action, but for the instanton potential it requires 4–point functions of (excited) twist fields which are not even well known in the literature. The most challenging one is roughly given:

$$\mathrm{Tr} [[\eta_0 \Phi_A, Q_B \Phi_A] \xi_0 \frac{b_0}{L_0} [\eta_0 \Phi_A, Q_B \Phi_A]] \sim \langle \tau^\mu(z_1) \bar{\tau}^\nu(z_2) \Delta(z_3) \bar{\Delta}(z_4) \rangle.$$

- So it is easy to appreciate how localization avoids this problems reducing all the computation to a 2–point function.

Yang-Mills Instantons: Gauge Boson

- The worldsheet theory contains the ψ^μ superconformal fields which we rearrange as before

$$A = A^{(+)} + A^{(-)} + \phi^{(+)} + \phi^{(-)},$$

$$a = a^{(+)} + a^{(-)} + \chi^{(+)} + \chi^{(-)},$$

where using the same notation of previous example

$$A^{(+)} = A_j \psi^j \quad , \quad A^{(-)} = A_{\bar{j}} \psi^{\bar{j}},$$

$$\phi^{(+)} = \phi_m \psi^m \quad , \quad \phi^{(-)} = \phi_{\bar{m}} \psi^{\bar{m}},$$

The same also for a . Here $j = 1, 2$ and $\bar{j} = \bar{1}, \bar{2}$ indices denote respectively the fundamental and antifundamental representation of $SU(2) \subset SO(4)$, while $m = 1, 2, 3$ and $\bar{m} = \bar{1}, \bar{2}, \bar{3}$ indices denote respectively the fundamental and antifundamental representation of $SU(3) \subset SO(6)$.

Yang-Mills Instantons: Stretched strings

- The worldsheet theory contains also the composite ΔS^α and $\bar{\Delta} S^\alpha$ which are superconformal primaries of weight $\frac{1}{2}$. Spin fields are defined through bosonization by the scalars h_1, h_2

$$S^{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} = e^{\frac{i}{2}(h_1+h_2)} \quad , \quad S^{(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})} = e^{-\frac{i}{2}(h_1+h_2)}$$

$$J_0 S^{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} = +S^{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} \quad , \quad J_0 S^{(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})} = -S^{(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})}.$$

Finally we can decompose the off-diagonal part of $\mathbb{V}_{\frac{1}{2}}$ as

$$\omega = \omega^{(+)} + \omega^{(-)} \quad , \quad \bar{\omega} = \bar{\omega}^{(+)} + \bar{\omega}^{(-)}$$

where

$$\omega^{(+)} = \omega_1 \Delta S^{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} \quad , \quad \omega^{(-)} = \omega_2 \Delta S^{(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})}$$

$$\bar{\omega}^{(+)} = \bar{\omega}_1 \bar{\Delta} S^{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} \quad , \quad \bar{\omega}^{(-)} = \bar{\omega}_2 \bar{\Delta} S^{(-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})}.$$

Yang-Mills Instantons - Auxiliary fields

- The auxiliary fields $\mathbb{H}_0, \mathbb{H}_1^{(+)}, \mathbb{H}_1^{(-)}$ along the D3 branes are

$$\mathbb{H}_1^{(+D3)} = \begin{pmatrix} [A_1, A_2] + \omega_1 \bar{\omega}_1 & 0 \\ 0 & [a_1, a_2] - \bar{\omega}_1 \omega_1 \end{pmatrix} \psi_{12} |0\rangle,$$

$$\mathbb{H}_1^{(-D3)} = \begin{pmatrix} [A_{\bar{1}}, A_{\bar{2}}] + \omega_2 \bar{\omega}_2 & 0 \\ 0 & [a_{\bar{1}}, a_{\bar{2}}] - \bar{\omega}_2 \omega_2 \end{pmatrix} \psi_{\bar{1}\bar{2}} |0\rangle,$$

$$\mathbb{H}_0^{D3} = \begin{pmatrix} [A_J, A_J] - (\omega_1 \bar{\omega}_2 + \omega_2 \bar{\omega}_1) & 0 \\ 0 & [a_J, a_J] + (\bar{\omega}_1 \omega_2 + \bar{\omega}_2 \omega_1) \end{pmatrix} |0\rangle.$$

- Note the absence of off-diagonal terms due to the OPE

$$\psi^\mu(z) S^\alpha(w) \sim -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{(\gamma^\mu)^\alpha_{\dot{\beta}} S^{\dot{\beta}}(w)}{(z-w)^{\frac{1}{2}}}.$$

Yang-Mills Instantons - Covariant auxiliary fields

- At first sight maybe they do not look significant, but after algebraic manipulations involving the ladder t'Hooft symbols:

$$\eta_+^{\mu\nu} \equiv \eta_1^{\mu\nu} + i\eta_2^{\mu\nu} \quad , \quad \eta_-^{\mu\nu} \equiv \eta_1^{\mu\nu} - i\eta_2^{\mu\nu} ,$$

it is possible to see that they carry a SU(2) representation

$$\mathbb{H}_1^{(+D3)} = -\frac{i}{4} \eta_-^{\mu\nu} T_{\mu\nu} \psi_{12} |0\rangle, \quad , \quad \mathbb{H}_1^{(-D3)} = +\frac{i}{4} \eta_+^{\mu\nu} T_{\mu\nu} \psi_{\bar{1}\bar{2}} |0\rangle,$$

$$\mathbb{H}_0^{D3} = -\frac{i}{2} \eta_3^{\mu\nu} T_{\mu\nu} |0\rangle.$$

The covariant tensor $T^{\mu\nu}$ is given by

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} [A^\mu, A^\nu] + \frac{1}{2} \omega_\alpha (\gamma^{\mu\nu})^{\alpha\beta} \bar{\omega}_\beta & 0 \\ 0 & [a^\mu, a^\nu] - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\omega}_\alpha (\gamma^{\mu\nu})^{\alpha\beta} \omega_\beta \end{pmatrix} .$$

The ADHM constraint and the effective action

- On the D3-branes' worldvolume, we get the quartic potential given by a perfect square

$$S_{\mathcal{T}} = \text{tr} \left[\langle \mathbb{H}_1^{(+)\text{D}3} | \mathbb{H}_1^{(-)\text{D}3} \rangle + \frac{1}{4} \langle \mathbb{H}_0^{\text{D}3} | \mathbb{H}_0^{\text{D}3} \rangle \right] = -\frac{1}{16} \text{tr} [D_a D_a],$$

where the auxiliary field

$$D_a = \eta_a^{\mu\nu} T_{\mu\nu},$$

contains through its EOM the 3 ADHM constraints (on the $D(-1)$ slot).

$$\eta_a^{\mu\nu} T_{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \eta_a^{\mu\nu} \left[[a_\mu, a_\nu] - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\omega}_\alpha (\gamma_{\mu\nu})^{\alpha\beta} \omega_\beta \right] = 0$$

Yang-Mills Instantons transverse auxiliary fields

- The auxiliary fields in the transverse directions are less interesting and have more complicated structure:

$$\mathbb{H}_1^{(+)\mathcal{T}} = \left(\begin{array}{cccc} \frac{1}{2}[\phi_m, \phi_n] & \psi^{m n} + [A_j, \phi_m] & \psi^j m & (\phi_m \omega_1 - \bar{\omega}_1 \chi_m) \psi^m \Delta S^{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} \\ (\chi_m \bar{\omega}_1 - \bar{\omega}_1 \phi_m) & \psi^m \bar{\Delta} S^{(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})} & \frac{1}{2}[\chi_m, \chi_n] & \psi^{m n} + [a_j, \chi_m] \psi^j m \end{array} \right) |0\rangle,$$

$$\mathbb{H}_1^{(-)\mathcal{T}} = \mathbb{H}_1^{(+)\mathcal{T}} (m \rightarrow \bar{m}, 1 \rightarrow 2),$$

$$\mathbb{H}_0^{\mathcal{T}} = \left(\begin{array}{cc} [\phi_{\bar{m}}, \phi_m] & 0 \\ 0 & [\chi_{\bar{m}}, \chi_m] \end{array} \right) |0\rangle,$$

Yang-Mills Instantons effective action

- The complete effective action is

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{(4)}(\Phi_A) = \text{tr} \left[\langle \mathbb{H}_1^{(+)} | \mathbb{H}_1^{(-)} \rangle + \frac{1}{4} \langle \mathbb{H}_0 | \mathbb{H}_0 \rangle \right] =$$

- and plugging all the auxiliary fields, the action is given by

$$\begin{aligned} &= -\frac{1}{8} \text{tr} \left[[A_\mu, A_\nu]^2 + [a_\mu, a_\nu]^2 + [\phi_p, \phi_q]^2 + [\chi_p, \chi_q]^2 \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4} \text{tr} \left[[A_\mu, \phi_p]^2 + [a_\mu, \chi_p]^2 + \frac{1}{4} (\omega \gamma^{\mu\nu} \bar{\omega})^2 + \frac{1}{4} (\bar{\omega} \gamma^{\mu\nu} \omega)^2 \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4} \text{tr} \left[[A_\mu, A_\nu] \omega_\alpha \gamma^{\mu\nu} \bar{\omega}_\beta - [a_\mu, a_\nu] \bar{\omega}_\alpha \gamma^{\mu\nu} \omega_\beta \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\phi^2 \omega_\alpha \epsilon^{\alpha\beta} \bar{\omega}_\beta - \chi^2 \bar{\omega}_\alpha \epsilon^{\alpha\beta} \omega_\beta \right] - \text{tr} \left[\phi_p \omega_\alpha \chi^p \bar{\omega}_\beta \epsilon^{\alpha\beta} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

- The full effective action is correctly reproduced (see Lerda, Frau, Billo, Pesando and Liccardo 2002).

Yang-Mills Instantons effective action

- The complete effective action is

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{(4)}(\Phi_A) = \text{tr} \left[\langle \mathbb{H}_1^{(+)} | \mathbb{H}_1^{(-)} \rangle + \frac{1}{4} \langle \mathbb{H}_0 | \mathbb{H}_0 \rangle \right] =$$

- and plugging all the auxiliary fields, the action is given by

$$\begin{aligned} &= -\frac{1}{8} \text{tr} \left[[A_\mu, A_\nu]^2 + [a_\mu, a_\nu]^2 + [\phi_p, \phi_q]^2 + [\chi_p, \chi_q]^2 \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4} \text{tr} \left[[A_\mu, \phi_p]^2 + [a_\mu, \chi_p]^2 + \frac{1}{4} (\omega \gamma^{\mu\nu} \bar{\omega})^2 + \frac{1}{4} (\bar{\omega} \gamma^{\mu\nu} \omega)^2 \right] \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4} \text{tr} \left[[A_\mu, A_\nu] \omega_\alpha \gamma^{\mu\nu} \bar{\omega}_\beta - [a_\mu, a_\nu] \bar{\omega}_\alpha \gamma^{\mu\nu} \omega_\beta \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\phi^2 \omega_\alpha \epsilon^{\alpha\beta} \bar{\omega}_\beta - \chi^2 \bar{\omega}_\alpha \epsilon^{\alpha\beta} \omega_\beta \right] - \text{tr} \left[\phi_p \omega_\alpha \chi^p \bar{\omega}_\beta \epsilon^{\alpha\beta} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

- The full effective action is correctly reproduced (see Lerda, Frau, Billo, Pesando and Liccardo 2002).

Higher Orders - Some comments on the future directions

While the quintic order is trivially zero (by c -ghost counting for example), the sixth order is definitely more challenging for several reasons:

- The number of involved terms considerably grows.
- The contact term is identically zero (c -ghost counting) and there is a clear hierarchy of propagator terms but it is not likewise evident how to proceed "efficiently".
- The combinatorial nature of the vertices gets complicated due to presence of 1,2 or 3 propagators and ξ_0 in the amplitudes.

Higher Orders - Some comments on the future directions

- However from brute force computation one can observe that at any order g^n in the expansion $\Phi = g\Phi_A + \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} g^m R_m$ we have schematically that

$$\text{Tr} [R_m (EOM(R_{n-m}))], \quad \frac{n}{2} < m \leq n - 1$$

and then it is zero since we solve the equations of motion perturbatively. For $m = \frac{n}{2}$ we remain with only the kinetic term of $R_{\frac{n}{2}}$:

$$\text{Tr} \left[(\eta_0 R_{\frac{n}{2}})(Q_B R_{\frac{n}{2}}) \right]$$

- This fact reduces a lot the number of involved terms. We think this is a good starting point and we hope to report on these progress soon.

**Thank you for your
Attention!**