

MAXIMAL SUPERGRAVITIES AND M-THEORY DEGREES OF FREEDOM

Twistors, Strings and Scattering Amplitudes

London Mathematical Society Durham Symposium 2007

Bernard de Wit

Utrecht University



Maximal supergravities:

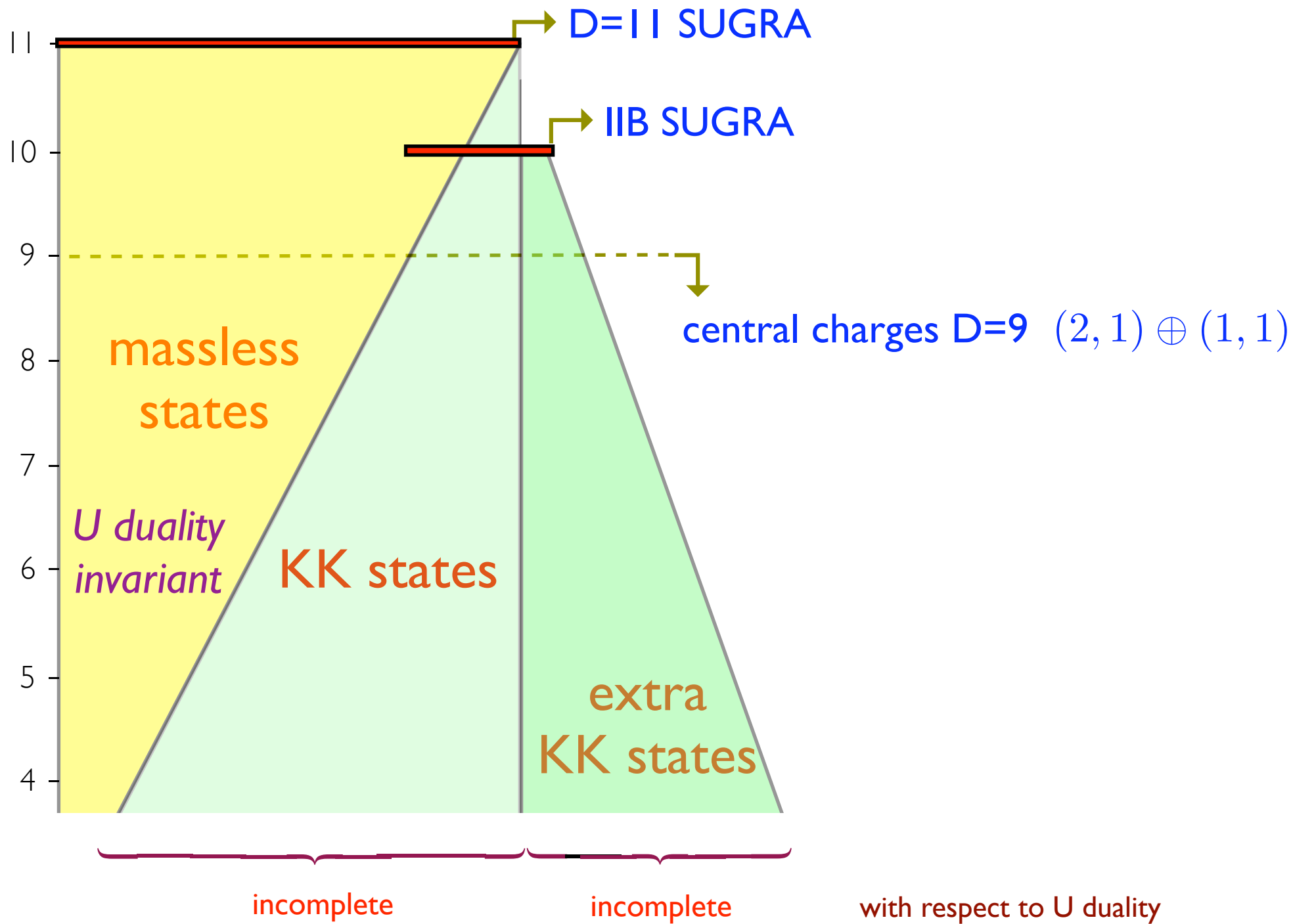
- ☞ are very nontrivial classical field theories
 - 32 supersymmetries
 - combine gravity, gauge fields with non-abelian extensions, scalar fields and a variety of antisymmetric tensor fields
 - non-trivial duality symmetries
 - improved short distance behaviour
- ☞ they could be well defined and consistent
- ☞ or are they (necessarily) part of a bigger theory ?



Definition of M-Theory

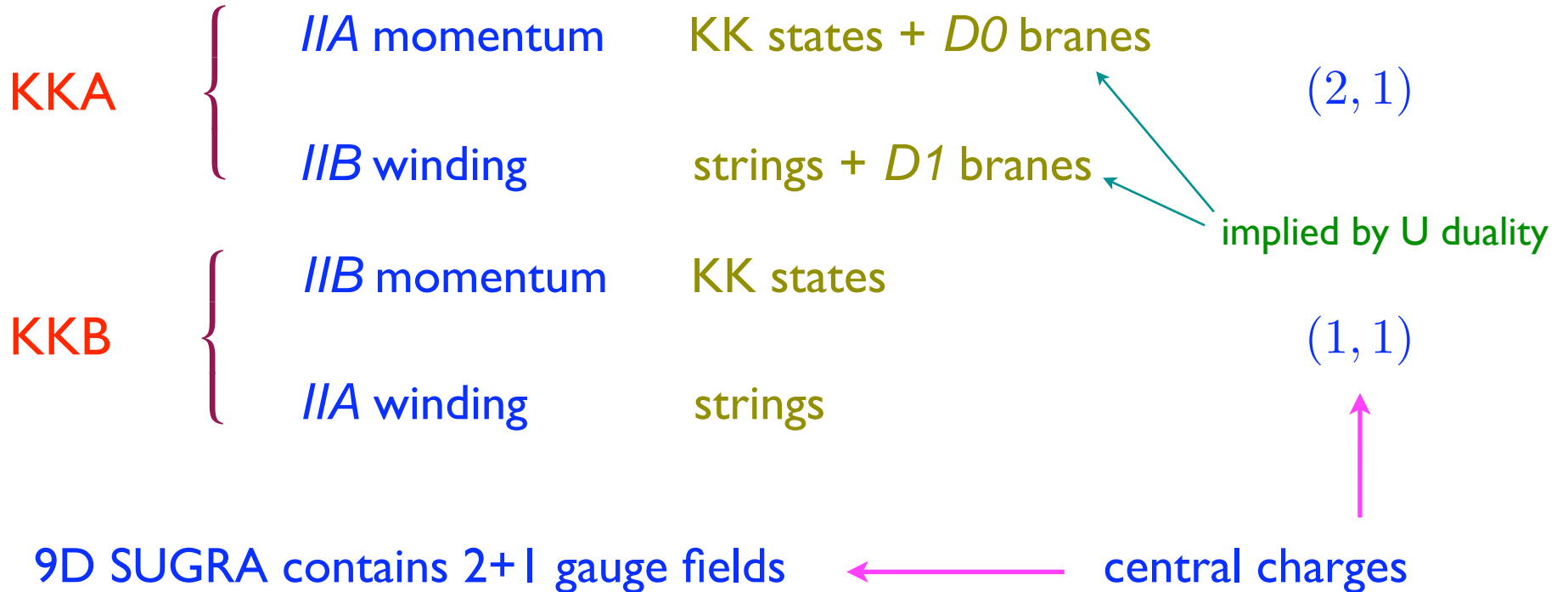
- ? 11-dimensional supergravity
- ? toroidal compactifications thereof with $E_{n(n)}(\mathbb{Z})$
- ? + Kaluza-Klein states (1/2-BPS)
- ? + branes + etcetera
- ? what about IIB theory
- ? Matrix theory
- ? Membrane theory

We start from the (effective) field theory perspective with 32 supersymmetries



11D - IIA - IIB PERSPECTIVE

(9 space-time dimensions)



Supergravity / supermembrane perspective ?

Schwarz, 1996

Aspinwall, 1996

Abou-Zeid, dW, Lüster, Nicolai, 1999-2001

11D - SUPERMEMBRANE PERSPECTIVE

KKA 11D momentum KK states (2, 1)

KKB Supermembrane wrapped on T^2 (1, 1)

DICHOTOMIC FIELD THEORY

9D SUGRA coupled to KK states of both
11D SUGRA and IIB SUGRA

indication of higher-dimensional origin (without full decompactification)

D=11

$\hat{G}_{\mu\nu}$

$\hat{A}_{\mu 9 10}$

$\hat{G}_{\mu 9}, \hat{G}_{\mu 10}$

$\hat{A}_{\mu\nu 9}, \hat{A}_{\mu\nu 10}$

$\hat{A}_{\mu\nu\rho}$

$\hat{G}_{9 10}, \hat{G}_{9 9}, \hat{G}_{10 10}$

IIA

$G_{\mu\nu}$

$C_{\mu 9}$

$G_{\mu 9}, C_{\mu}$

$C_{\mu\nu 9}, C_{\mu\nu}$

$C_{\mu\nu\rho}$

$\phi, G_{9 9}, C_9$

D=9

$g_{\mu\nu}$

B_{μ}

A_{μ}^{α}

$A_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha}$

$A_{\mu\nu\rho}$

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \phi^{\alpha} \\ \exp(\sigma) \end{array} \right.$

IIB

$G_{\mu\nu}$

$G_{\mu 9}$

$A_{\mu 9}^{\alpha}$

$A_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha}$

$A_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$

ϕ^{α}

$G_{9 9}$

SO(1,1)

0

-4

3

-1

2

0

7

$$M_{\text{BPS}}(q_1, q_2, p) = m_{\text{KKA}} e^{3\sigma/7} |q_{\alpha} \phi^{\alpha}| + m_{\text{KKB}} e^{-4\sigma/7} |p|$$

$$m_{\text{KKA}}^2 m_{\text{KKB}} \propto T_{\text{m}}$$

more generally:

SUPERSYMMETRY ANTI-COMMUTATOR

$$\{Q_\alpha, \bar{Q}_\beta\} = \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^M P_M + \frac{1}{2} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{MN} Z_{MN} + \frac{1}{5!} \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{MNPQR} Z_{MNPQR}$$

CENTRAL CHARGES (pointlike)

9	$SL(2) \times SO(1, 1)$	$SO(2)$	$(2, 1) \oplus (1, 1)$
8	$SL(3) \times SL(2)$	$U(2)$	$(3, 2)$
7	$E_{4(4)} \equiv SL(5)$	$USp(4)$	10
6	$E_{5(5)} \equiv SO(5, 5)$	$USp(4) \times USp(4)$	16 \rightarrow $(4, 4)$
5	$E_{6(6)}$	$USp(8)$	27 \oplus 1
4	$E_{7(7)}$	$SU(8)$	56 \rightarrow $28 \oplus \bar{28}$
3	$E_{8(8)}$	$SO(16)$	120
2	$E_{9(9)}$	$SO(16)$	1 \oplus 120 \oplus 135

compare to vector fields!

CENTRAL CHARGES (stringlike)

9	$SL(2) \times SO(1, 1)$	2
8	$SL(3) \times SL(2)$	(3, 1)
7	$SL(5)$	5
6	$SO(5, 5)$	$10 \oplus 1 \rightarrow (5, 1) \oplus (1, 5) \oplus (1, 1)$
5	$E_{6(6)}$	$\overline{27}$
4	$E_{7(7)}$	63
3	$E_{8(8)}$	135
2	$E_{9(9)}$	135

compare to tensor fields!

another perspective

GAUGINGS

class of deformations of maximal supergravities

gauging versus scalar-vector-tensor duality

first: 3 space-time dimensions

128 scalars and 128 spinors, but **no** vectors !

obtained by dualizing vectors in order to realize the symmetry $E_{8(8)}(\mathbb{R})$

solution:

introduce **248** vector gauge fields with Chern-Simons terms

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{CS}} \propto g \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} A_\mu^M \Theta_{MN} \left[\partial_\nu A_\rho^N - \frac{1}{3} g f_{PQ}{}^N A_\nu^P A_\rho^Q \right]$$

↑
EMBEDDING TENSOR

‘invisible’ at the level of the toroidal truncation

another example: 5 space-time dimensions

42 scalars and 27 vectors, and no tensors !

in order to realize the symmetry $E_{6(6)}^{\text{rigid}} \times \text{USp}(8)^{\text{local}}$.

introduce a local subgroup such as $E_{6(6)} \rightarrow \text{SO}(6)^{\text{local}} \times \text{SL}(2)$

inconsistent!

Günaydin, Romans, Warner, 1986

vectors decompose according to: $\overline{27} \rightarrow (\mathbf{15}, \mathbf{1}) + (\overline{\mathbf{6}}, \mathbf{2})$

charged vector fields \leftarrow
must be (re)converted to tensor fields !

gauge group encoded into the

EMBEDDING TENSOR Θ_M^α

\leftarrow treated as spurionic order parameter $\in E_{6(6)}$

\leftarrow probes new M-theory degrees of freedom

$$X_M = \Theta_M^\alpha t_\alpha$$

gauge group generators \leftarrow

\rightarrow $E_{6(6)}$ generators

The embedding tensor is subject to constraints !

- closure: $[X_M, X_N] = f_{MN}{}^P X_P$

$$\Theta_M{}^\beta \Theta_N{}^\gamma f_{\beta\gamma}{}^\alpha = f_{MN}{}^P \Theta_P{}^\alpha = -\Theta_M{}^\beta t_{\beta N}{}^P \Theta_P{}^\alpha$$

$\hookrightarrow X_{MN}{}^P \in E_{6(6)}$

$$[X_M, X_N] = -X_{MN}{}^P X_P$$

$X_{MN}{}^P$ contains the gauge group structure constants, but is **not** symmetric in lower indices, **unless** contracted with the embedding tensor !!!!

- supersymmetry: $\Theta_M{}^\alpha \in 351$

$$\longrightarrow 27 \times 78 = \cancel{27} + 351 + \cancel{1728}$$

$$(351 \times 351)_s = \cancel{27} + \cancel{1728} + 351' + 7722 + 17550 + 34398$$

(closure)

EMBEDDING TENSORS FOR $D = 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$

7	$SL(5)$	$10 \times 24 = 10 + 15 + 40 + 175$
6	$SO(5, 5)$	$16 \times 45 = 16 + 144 + 560$
5	$E_{6(6)}$	$27 \times 78 = 27 + 351 + 1728$
4	$E_{7(7)}$	$56 \times 133 = 56 + 912 + 6480$
3	$E_{8(8)}$	$248 \times 248 = 1 + 248 + 3875 + 27000 + 30380$

dW, Samtleben, Trigiante, 2002

- characterize **all** possible gaugings
- group-theoretical **classification**
- **universal** Lagrangians

applications in $D = 2, 3, 4, 5, 7$ space-time dimensions

in $D=4$, for $N = 2, 4, 8$ supergravities

in $D=3$, for $N = 1, \dots, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 16$ supergravities

de Vroome, dW, Herger, Nicolai, Samtleben, Schön, Trigiante, Weidner

digression:

consider the representations appearing in $(\mathbf{27} \times \mathbf{27})_s = (\overline{\mathbf{27}} + \mathbf{351}')$

$$X_{(MN)}{}^P = d_{I,MN} Z^{P,I} \quad d_{MNI} : E_{6(6)} \text{ invariant tensor(s)}$$

two possible representations can be associated with the new index $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \overline{\mathbf{27}} \\ \mathbf{351}' \end{array} \right.$

$$\overline{\mathbf{27}} \times (\mathbf{27} \times \mathbf{27})_s = \mathbf{351} + \mathbf{27} + \mathbf{27} + \overline{\mathbf{351}}' + \overline{\mathbf{1728}} + \overline{\mathbf{7722}}$$

$$\text{indeed: } (\overline{\mathbf{27}} \times \overline{\mathbf{27}})_a = \mathbf{351} \longrightarrow X_{(MN)}{}^P = d_{MNQ} Z^{PQ}$$

from the closure constraint:

$$Z^{MN} \Theta_N{}^\alpha = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad Z^{MN} X_N = 0 \quad \text{orthogonality}$$

$$X_{MN}{}^{[P} Z^{Q]N} = 0 \quad \text{gauge invariant tensor}$$

this structure is generic (at least, for the groups of interest)
and we will exploit it later !

rather than converting and tensors into vectors and reconverting some of them when a gauging is switched on, we introduce **both vectors and tensors** from the start, transforming into the representations $\overline{27}$ and 27 , respectively

$$\delta A_{\mu}^M = \partial_{\mu} \Lambda^M - g X_{[PQ]}^M \Lambda^P A_{\mu}^Q - g Z^{MN} \Xi_{\mu N}$$

extra gauge invariance

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu}^M = \partial_{\mu} A_{\nu}^M - \partial_{\nu} A_{\mu}^M + g X_{[NP]}^M A_{\mu}^N A_{\nu}^P$$

not fully covariant

introduce fully covariant field strength

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mu\nu}^M = \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu}^M + g Z^{MN} B_{\mu\nu N}$$

to compensate for lack of closure:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta B_{\mu\nu M} = & 2 \partial_{[\mu} \Xi_{\nu]N} - g X_{PN}^Q A_{[\mu}^P \Xi_{\nu]Q} + g Z^{MN} \Lambda^P X_{PN}^Q B_{\mu\nu Q} \\ & - g \left(2 d_{MPQ} \partial_{[\mu} A_{\nu]}^P - g X_{RM}^P d_{PQS} A_{[\mu}^R A_{\nu]}^S \right) \Lambda^Q \end{aligned}$$

because of the extra gauge invariance, the degrees of freedom remain **unchanged**

upon switching on the gauging there will be a balanced decomposition of **vector** and **tensor** fields

Universal invariant Lagrangian containing kinetic terms for the tensor fields combined with a Chern-Simons term for the vector fields

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{VT}} = \frac{1}{2} i \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau} \left\{ g Z^{MN} B_{\mu\nu M} \left[D_\rho B_{\sigma\tau N} + 4 d_{NPQ} A_\rho^P \left(\partial_\sigma A_\tau^Q + \frac{1}{3} g X_{[RS]}^Q A_\sigma^R A_\tau^S \right) \right] \right. \\ \left. - \frac{8}{3} d_{MNP} \left[A_\mu^M \partial_\nu A_\rho^N \partial_\sigma A_\tau^P \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \frac{3}{4} g X_{[QR]}^M A_\mu^N A_\nu^Q A_\rho^R \left(\partial_\sigma A_\tau^P + \frac{1}{5} g X_{[ST]}^P A_\sigma^S A_\tau^T \right) \right] \right\}$$

this term is present for **ALL** gaugings
there is no other restriction than the constraints on the embedding tensor

dW, Samtleben, Trigiante, 2005

Can this be generalized?

Non-abelian vector-tensor hierarchies

Generalize the combined gauge algebra

👉 algebra closes on $\Theta_M^\alpha A_\mu^M$ ↗ non-closure

$$\delta A_\mu^M = \partial_\mu \Lambda^M - g X_{[PQ]}^M \Lambda^P A_\mu^Q - g \overbrace{Z^{M,I} \Xi_{\mu I}}^{\text{non-closure}}$$

$$\delta B_{\mu\nu I} = 2 D_{[\mu} \Xi_{\nu]I} + \dots$$

👉 algebra closes on $Z^{M,I} B_{\mu\nu I}$ ↗ non-closure

$$\delta B_{\mu\nu I} = 2 D_{[\mu} \Xi_{\nu]I} + \dots - g \overbrace{Y_{IM}^J \Phi_{\mu\nu J}^M}^{\text{non-closure}}$$

with $Z^{M,I} Y_{IN}^J = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad Y_{IM}^J \equiv X_{MI}^J + 2 d_{I,MN} Z^{N,J}$

$$\delta S_{\mu\nu\rho I}^M = 3 D_{[\mu} \Phi_{\nu\rho]I}^M + \dots$$

👉 algebra closes on $Y_{IM}^J S_{\mu\nu\rho J}$

etcetera

dW, Samtleben, 2005

explicit results are complicated:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mu\nu\rho I} \equiv 3 \left[D_{[\mu} B_{\nu\rho] I} + 2 d_{I,MN} A_{[\mu}{}^M (\partial_{\nu} A_{\rho]}{}^N + \frac{1}{3} g X_{[PQ]}{}^N A_{\nu}{}^P A_{\rho]}{}^Q) \right] \\ + g Y_{IM}{}^J S_{\mu\nu\rho I}{}^M$$

$$\delta S_{\mu\nu\rho I}{}^M = g \Lambda^N X_{NI}{}^J S_{\mu\nu\rho J}{}^M - g \Lambda^N X_{NP}{}^M S_{\mu\nu\rho I}{}^P \\ + 3 D_{[\mu} \Phi_{\nu\rho] I}{}^M + 3 A_{[\mu}{}^M D_{\nu} \Xi_{\rho] I} + 3 \partial_{[\mu} A_{\nu]}{}^M \Xi_{\rho] I} \\ - 2g d_{I,NP} Z^{P,J} A_{[\mu}{}^M A_{\nu]}{}^N \Xi_{\rho] J} \\ + 4 d_{I,NP} \Lambda^{[M} A_{[\mu}{}^N] \partial_{\nu} A_{\rho]}{}^P + 2g X_{NI}{}^J d_{J,PQ} \Lambda^Q A_{[\mu}{}^M A_{\nu]}{}^N A_{\rho]}{}^P$$

Plumbing strategy: repair the lack of closure iteratively
by introducing tensor gauge fields of increasing rank

$$A_{\mu}{}^M \longrightarrow B_{\mu\nu}{}^I \longrightarrow S_{\mu\nu\rho I}{}^M \longrightarrow \text{etc} \\ \Lambda^M \qquad \Xi_{\mu I} \qquad \Phi_{\mu\nu I}{}^M$$

encoded by the embedding tensor !

Leads to :

rank \Rightarrow	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 SL(5)	10	5	$\bar{5}$	10	24	15 + 40
6 SO(5, 5)	16	10	$\overline{16}$	45	144	
5 E ₆₍₊₆₎	$\overline{27}$	27	78	351	27 + 1728	
4 E ₇₍₊₇₎	56	133	912	133 + 8165		
3 E ₈₍₊₈₎	248	3875	3875 + 147250			

Striking feature:

rank $D-2$: adjoint representation of the duality group

rank \Rightarrow	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 SL(5)	10	5	$\bar{5}$	10	24	15 + 40
6 SO(5, 5)	16	10	$\bar{16}$	45	144	
5 $E_{6(+6)}$	$\bar{27}$	27	78	351	27 + 1728	
4 $E_{7(+7)}$	56	133	912	133 + 8165		
3 $E_{8(+8)}$	248	3875	3875 + 147250			

Striking feature:

rank $D-1$: embedding tensor

rank \Rightarrow	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 SL(5)	10	5	$\bar{5}$	10	24	15 + 40
6 SO(5, 5)	16	10	$\bar{16}$	45	144	
5 $E_{6(+6)}$	$\bar{27}$	27	78	351	27 + 1728	
4 $E_{7(+7)}$	56	133	912	133 + 8165		
3 $E_{8(+8)}$	248	3875	3875 + 147250			

Striking feature:

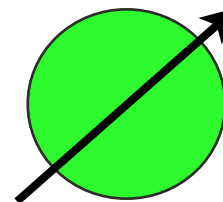
rank D : closure constraint on the embedding tensor

rank \Rightarrow	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 SL(5)	10	5	$\bar{5}$	10	24	15 + 40
6 SO(5, 5)	16	10	$\bar{16}$	45	144	
5 E ₆₍₊₆₎	$\bar{27}$	27	78	351	27 + 1728	
4 E ₇₍₊₇₎	56	133	912	133 + 8165		
3 E ₈₍₊₈₎	248	3875	3875 + 147250			

Perhaps most striking:

implicit connection between space-time Hodge duality
and the U-duality group

Probes new states in M-Theory!



\ominus dial

Implications:

		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	SL(5)	10	5	$\bar{5}$	10	24	15 + 40
6	SO(5, 5)	16	10	$\overline{16}$	45	144	
5	E ₆₍₊₆₎	$\overline{27}$	27	78	351	27 + 1728	
4	E ₇₍₊₇₎	56	133	912	133 + 8165		
3	E ₈₍₊₈₎	248	3875	3875 + 147250			

The table coincides substantially with results based on several rather different conceptual starting points:

- M(atrix)-Theory compactified on a torus: duality representations of states
- Correspondence between toroidal compactifications of M-Theory and del Pezzo surfaces
- **E11** decompositions

- Algebraic Aspects of Matrix Theory on T^d

Elitzur, Giveon, Kutasov, Rabinovici, 1997

Based on the correspondence between super-Yang-Mills on \tilde{T}^d and M-Theory on T^d , a rectangular torus with radii R_1, R_2, \dots, R_d in the infinite-momentum frame.

Invariance group consist of permutations of the R_i combined with the T-duality relations ($i \neq j \neq k$):

$$R_i \rightarrow \frac{l_p^3}{R_j R_k} \quad R_j \rightarrow \frac{l_p^3}{R_k R_i} \quad R_k \rightarrow \frac{l_p^3}{R_i R_j} \quad l_p^3 \rightarrow \frac{l_p^6}{R_i R_j R_k}$$

generate a group isomorphic with the Weyl group of $E_{d(d)}$

The explicit duality multiplets arise as representations of this group.

Example $d=3$:

3 KK states on T^d

$$M \sim \frac{1}{R_i}$$

3 2-brane states wrapped on T^d

$$M \sim \frac{R_j R_k}{l_p^3} \quad j \neq k$$

3 2-brane states wrapped on $T^d \times x^{11}$

$$M \sim \frac{R_{11} R_i}{l_p^3}$$

the dimensions of these two multiplets coincide with the multiplets presented previously for the scalar and vector central charges.

for higher d the multiplets are sometimes incomplete, because they are not generated as a single orbit by the Weyl group.

pointlike

stringlike

- 8 $SL(3) \times SL(2)$
- 7 $E_{4(4)} \equiv SL(5)$
- 6 $E_{5(5)} \equiv SO(5, 5)$
- 5 $E_{6(6)}$
- 4 $E_{7(7)}$
- 3 $E_{8(8)}$
- 2 $E_{9(9)}$

6	6	3	3
10	10	5	5
16	16	10 + 1	10
27 + 1	27	27	27
56	56	63	126 + 7
120	240 + 8	135	2160 + 1715
256	∞	135	∞

↑
central charge

↑
matrix theory

↑
central charge

↑
matrix theory

↕
gauging

↕
gauging

- **A Mysterious Duality**

Iqbal, Neitzke, Vafa, 2001

This cannot be a coincidence!

It is important to uncover the physical interpretation of these duality relations. One possibility is that the del Pezzo surface is the moduli space of some probe in M-Theory. It must be a U-duality invariant probe

Such probe is the gauging encoded in the embedding tensor!

- ***E11* decomposition**

Based on the conjecture that *E11* is the underlying symmetry of M-Theory. Decomposing the relevant *E11* representation to dimensions $D < 11$ yields representations that substantially overlap with those generated for the gaugings.

West et. al., 2001-2007

Bergshoeff et. al., 2005-2007

Conclusions

- ◆ Gaugings probe new degrees of freedom of M-Theory
- ◆ Maximal supergravity theories contain subtle information about M-Theory. This may be interpreted as an indication that supergravity needs to be extended towards string/M-theory. This is also indicated by comparing degrees of freedom originating from the maximal theories in various dimensions.
- ◆ There are unexpected connections with other results derived on the basis of rather different concepts
- ◆ More work needs to be done on clarifying these connections
- ◆ The group-theoretical properties of the tensor classification (in particular the global structure of the table) needs to be clarified

