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Field Equations from Homotopy Algebras of CFT

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with

Applications to Mathematical Physics

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- Motivation
- Reminder of Lian-Zuckerman (LZ) homotopy algebras
- Relation of LZ constructions to perturbed CFTs and σ -models
- Examples:
 - Einstein equations
 - Yang-Mills equations
 - Kodaira-Spencer equations via chiral de Rham complex
- Conclusions

Motivation

String theory:

2d Conformal Field Theory —>
D-dimensional Quantum Field Theory

Linear classical field equations (Maxwell, Linearized Einstein) and their symmetries:

$$Q\Phi = 0, \quad \Phi \longrightarrow \Phi + Q\lambda$$

Q is a semi-infinite cohomology operator for the Virasoro algebra.

What about nonlinear equations?

String Field Theory:

$$Q\Phi + \sum_n \mu_n(\Phi, \dots, \Phi) = 0$$
$$Q, \mu_n : A_\infty / L_\infty$$

The description of μ_n is too complicated.
Something more explicit?

Natural mathematical tool to study 2d CFT: VOA (vertex operator algebra)

B.H. Lian, G.J. Zuckerman

”New Perspectives on the
BRST-algebraic Structure of
String Theory”

Commun.Math.Phys.154 (1993)
613

LZ homotopy algebra (reminder)

Let V be the VOA. $T(z)$ is a Virasoro element

Semi-infinite complex : $C^* = V \otimes \Lambda$

Λ - VOA of “conformal ghosts”:

$$b(z)c(w) \sim \frac{1}{z-w}$$

$$Q = \oint dz c(z)T(z) + :c\partial cb:(z)$$

semi-infinite cohomology (BRST) operator.

Let $a(z)$ be a vertex operator for $a \in V \otimes \Lambda$

Operations:

$$\mu(a_1, a_2) \equiv P_0 a_1(\varepsilon) a_2$$

$$\{a_1, a_2\} \equiv (-1)^{|a_1|} \oint dz (b_{-1} a_1)(z) a_2$$

where P_0 is the projection on ε - independent component.

Proposition 1

- (i) $\mu(a_1, a_2) - (-1)^{|a_1||a_2|} \mu(a_2, a_1) =$
 $Qm(a_1, a_2) + m(Qa_1, a_2) + (-1)^{|a_1|} m(a_1, Qa_2)$
- (ii) $\mu(\mu(a_1, a_2), a_3) - \mu(a_1, \mu(a_2, a_3)) =$
 $Qn(a_1, a_2, a_3) + n(Qa_1, a_2, a_3) + (-1)^{|a_1|} n(a_1, Qa_2, a_3)$
 $+ (-1)^{|a_1|+|a_2|} n(a_1, a_2, Qa_3),$

Lemma

$$(-1)^{|a_2|} \{a_1, a_2\} = b_0 \mu(a_1, a_2) - \mu(b_0 a_1, a_2) - (-1)^{|a_2|} \mu(a_1, b_0 a_2)$$

Proposition 2

- (i) $\{a_1, a_2\} + (-1)^{(|a_1|-1)(|a_2|-1)} \{a_2, a_1\} =$
 $(-1)^{|a_1|-1} (Qm'(a_1, a_2) + m'(Qa_1, a_2)$
 $- (-1)^{|a_2|} m'(a_1, Qa_2))$
- (ii) $\{\{a_1, a_2\}, a_3\} - \{a_1, \{a_2, a_3\}\}$
 $+ (-1)^{(|a_1|-1)(|a_2|-1)} \{a_2, \{a_1, a_3\}\} = 0$
- (iii) $\{a_1, \mu(a_2, a_3)\} = \mu(\{a_1, a_2\}, a_3)$
 $+ (-1)^{(|a_1|-1)||a_2|} \mu(a_2, \{a_1, a_3\})$
- (iv) $\{\mu(a_1, a_2), a_3\} - \mu(a_1, \{a_2, a_3\})$
 $- (-1)^{|(a_3|-1)|a_2|} \mu(\{a_1, a_3\}, a_2) =$
 $(-1)^{|a_1|+|a_2|-1} (Qn''(a_1, a_2, a_3) - n''(Qa_1, a_2, a_3) -$
 $- (-1)^{|a_2|} n''(a_1, Qa_2, a_3) - (-1)^{|a_1|+|a_2|} n''(a_1, a_2, Qa_3))$

Therefore $V \otimes \Lambda$ carry a structure of homotopy Gerstenhaber algebra.

One can generalize further:

$$\begin{aligned} C^* &= C^* \otimes \bar{C}^* \\ \mu^{\text{ext}}(a_1, a_2) &= P_0 a_1(\epsilon) a_2, \quad \epsilon \notin \mathbb{R} \\ \{a_1, a_2\}^{\text{ext}} &= P_0 \oint_{C_{\varepsilon,0}} a_1^{(1)} a_2, \end{aligned}$$

where $a^{(1)} = dz(b_{-1}a)(z) + d\bar{z}(\bar{b}_{-1}a)(z)$.

$\mu^{\text{ext}}, \{ \cdot, \cdot \}^{\text{ext}}$ also satisfy the relations of homotopy Gerstenhaber algebra w.r.t. operator $Q = Q + \bar{Q}$

Conjecture (L-Z) Operations $\mu, \{ \cdot, \cdot \}$ and $\mu^{\text{ext}}, \{ \cdot, \cdot \}^{\text{ext}}$ can be extended to the structure of G_∞ algebra.

Attempts to prove:

Kimura, Voronov, Zuckerman

“Homotopy Gerstenhaber algebra and topological field theory”

q-alg/9602009

Galvez, Gorbounov, Tonks

“Homotopy Gerstenhaber Structures and Vertex Algebras”

math/0611231

What is the physical meaning of the associated Maurer-Cartan equations?

$$Q\Phi + \mu(\Phi, \Phi) + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \mu_n(\Phi, \dots, \Phi) = 0$$
$$Q\Psi + \frac{1}{2}\{\Psi, \Psi\} + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}\{\Psi, \dots, \Psi\}_n = 0$$

We will show that

- a) they lead to nonlinear field equations and their symmetries
- b) can give rise to an “algebraic” definition of β -function for the perturbed CFT (σ -models in particular)

Perturbed CFTs

VOA \longrightarrow **CFT with some action** S_0 .

Perturbations: $S_0 \longrightarrow S = S_0 + V$

$$V = \int_{\Sigma} \Phi^{(2)}, \quad \Phi^{(2)} = dz \wedge d\bar{z} A(z), \quad A \in C^* \otimes \bar{C}^*$$

In general, the perturbed theory is not a CFT.
Renormalization theory gives the condition for the theory to be conformal:

$$\beta(\Phi) = 0$$

Expand: $\Phi^{(2)} = t\Phi_1^{(2)} + t^2\Phi_2^{(2)} + \dots$

$$\beta_1(V) = 0 \iff Q\Phi_1^{(0)} = 0$$

$$\beta_2(V) = 0 \iff Q\Phi_2^{(0)} + \frac{1}{4\pi i} P_0 \oint_{C_{\varepsilon,0}} \Phi_1^{(1)} \Phi_1^{(0)} = 0$$

where $\Phi_i^{(2)} = dz \wedge d\bar{z} [b_{-1}, [\bar{b}_{-1}, \Phi_i^{(0)}]]$

A. Sen (89,90);

A.M.Z.

“BRST, Generalized Maurer-Cartan Equations and CFT”,
Nucl.Phys.B 794 (2006) 370,
 “Formal Maurer-Cartan Structures: From CFT to Classical Field Equations”,
JHEP0709:098(2007)

Therefore one can replace $\beta(\Phi)$ by

$$\hat{\beta}(\Phi) = Q\Phi + \frac{1}{2}\{\Phi, \Phi\} + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!}\{\Phi, \dots, \Phi\}_n$$

where $\Phi^{(2)} = dz \wedge d\bar{z}[b_{-1}, [\bar{b}_{-1}, \Phi]]$

One can think of $\hat{\beta}(\Phi)$ as an “algebraic” definition of β -function.

The same applies to β -functions for the theories with boundary perturbations:

$$S_0 \longrightarrow S = S_0 + \int_{\partial\Sigma} \Phi^{(1)}$$

In this case ”algebraic” β -function is:

$$\beta(\Phi) = Q\Phi + \mu(\Phi, \Phi) + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} \mu_n(\Phi, \dots, \Phi)$$

where $\Phi^{(1)} = dz[b_{-1}, \Phi] + d\bar{z}[\bar{b}_{-1}, \Phi]$

σ-models

$$S = \frac{1}{2\pi h} \int_{\Sigma} d^2 z (G_{\mu\nu}(X) + B_{\mu\nu}(X)) \partial X^\mu \bar{\partial} X^\nu \\ + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int R^{(2)} \phi(X) + \int_{\partial\Sigma} A_\mu(X) dX^\mu \\ \beta(G, B, \phi, A) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} h^n \beta_n(G, B, \phi, A)$$

$\beta_1 = 0 \iff$ Einstein-Yang-Mills equations
 $\beta_n = 0$ ($n > 1$) gives equations with higher derivatives

Complications:

i) $S = S_0 + V$ destroys the geometric background:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + t g_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + t^2 g_{\mu\nu}^{(2)} + \dots$$

ii)

$$S_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi h} \int_{\Sigma} d^2 z \eta_{\mu\nu} \partial X^\mu \bar{\partial} X^\nu$$

$$X^\mu(z) X^\nu(w) \sim h \eta^{\mu\nu} \ln |z - w|^2$$

logarithmic VOA

Nevertheless, if we neglect logarithms Maurer-Cartan equation

$$Q\Phi + \frac{1}{2}\{\Phi, \Phi\} + \dots = 0, \quad \Phi(G, B, \Phi)$$

reproduces Einstein equations ($H = dB$):

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\mu\nu} &= -\frac{1}{4}H_{\mu\lambda\rho}H_{\nu}^{\lambda\rho} + 2\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu}\phi, \\ \nabla_{\mu}H^{\mu\nu\rho} - 2(\nabla_{\lambda}\phi)H^{\lambda\nu\rho} &= 0, \\ 4(\nabla_{\mu}\phi)^2 - 4\nabla_{\mu}\nabla^{\mu}\phi + R + \frac{1}{12}H_{\mu\nu\rho}H^{\mu\nu\rho} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

and their symmetries up to the second order in t .

A.M.Z.

“Formal Maurer-Cartan Structures:
from CFT to Classical Field Equations”
JHEP0712:098(2007)

We need another formulation:

$$\begin{aligned} S = & \frac{1}{2\pi h} \int_{\Sigma} d^2z (p_i \bar{\partial} X^i + p_{\bar{i}} \partial X^{\bar{i}} - \\ & (g^{i\bar{j}} p_i p_{\bar{j}} + \mu_{\bar{j}}^i p_i \bar{\partial} X^{\bar{j}} + \\ & \mu_{\bar{j}}^{\bar{i}} p_{\bar{i}} \partial X^j + b_{i\bar{j}} \partial X^i \bar{\partial} X^{\bar{j}})) + \int_{\Sigma} R^{(2)} \hat{\phi} \end{aligned}$$

A.S. Losev, A.V. Marshakov, A.M.Z.
“On first order formalism in string theory”
Phys.Lett.B 633(2006)375

Complication: $g, b, \mu, \bar{\mu}, \hat{\phi} \longrightarrow G, B, \phi$ nonlinear transformation:

$$\begin{aligned}
G_{s\bar{k}} &= g_{i\bar{j}} \bar{\mu}_s^{\bar{i}} \mu_{\bar{k}}^j + g_{s\bar{k}} - b_{s\bar{k}}, \\
B_{s\bar{k}} &= g_{i\bar{j}} \bar{\mu}_s^{\bar{i}} \mu_{\bar{k}}^j - g_{s\bar{k}} - b_{s\bar{k}} \\
G_{s\bar{i}} &= -g_{i\bar{j}} \bar{\mu}_s^{\bar{j}} - g_{s\bar{j}} \bar{\mu}_i^j, \\
G_{\bar{s}\bar{i}} &= -g_{\bar{s}j} \mu_{\bar{i}}^j - g_{i\bar{j}} \mu_{\bar{s}}^j \\
B_{s\bar{i}} &= g_{s\bar{j}} \bar{\mu}_i^{\bar{j}} - g_{i\bar{j}} \bar{\mu}_s^{\bar{j}}, \\
B_{\bar{s}\bar{i}} &= g_{i\bar{j}} \mu_{\bar{s}}^j - g_{\bar{s}j} \mu_{\bar{i}}^j, \\
\phi &= \log \sqrt{g} + \hat{\phi}.
\end{aligned}$$

Advantage:

$$S_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi h} \int_{\Sigma} d^2 z (p_i \bar{\partial} X^i + p_{\bar{i}} \partial X^{\bar{i}})$$

VOA:

$$X^i(z) p_j(w) \sim \frac{h \delta_j^i}{z - w}, \quad X^{\bar{i}}(z) p_{\bar{j}}(w) \sim \frac{h \delta_{\bar{j}}^{\bar{i}}}{\bar{z} - \bar{w}}$$

When $\mu, \bar{\mu}, b = 0$

$$G_{i\bar{j}} = -B_{i\bar{j}} = g_{i\bar{j}}, \quad \phi = \hat{\phi} + \log \sqrt{g}$$

Resulting Einstein equations appear to be bilinear in $g^{i\bar{j}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_i \partial_{\bar{k}} \Phi_0 &= 0, & \partial_{\bar{p}} d_{\bar{l}}^{\Phi_0} g^{\bar{l}k} &= 0, & \partial_p d_l^{\Phi_0} g^{\bar{k}l} &= 0, \\ 2g^{r\bar{l}} \partial_r \partial_{\bar{l}} g^{i\bar{k}} - 2\partial_r g^{i\bar{p}} \partial_{\bar{p}} g^{r\bar{k}} - g^{i\bar{l}} \partial_{\bar{l}} d_s^{\Phi_0} g^{s\bar{k}} - \\ g^{r\bar{k}} \partial_r d_{\bar{j}}^{\Phi_0} g^{\bar{j}i} + \partial_r g^{i\bar{k}} d_{\bar{j}}^{\Phi_0} g^{\bar{j}r} + \partial_{\bar{p}} g^{\bar{k}i} d_n^{\Phi_0} g^{n\bar{p}} &= 0, \end{aligned}$$

where $d_i^{\Phi_0} g^{i\bar{j}} \equiv \partial_i g^{i\bar{j}} - 2\partial_i \Phi_0 g^{i\bar{j}}$ and $d_{\bar{i}}^{\Phi_0} g^{\bar{i}j} \equiv \partial_{\bar{i}} g^{j\bar{i}} - 2\partial_{\bar{i}} \Phi_0 g^{j\bar{i}}$.

They are equivalent to:

$$Q\Phi + \frac{1}{2}\{\Phi, \Phi\} = 0, \quad [b_{-1}, [\bar{b}_{-1}, \Phi]] = g^{i\bar{j}} p_i p_{\bar{j}}$$

at the order h^1 .

Symmetries (holomorphic):

$$\Phi \longrightarrow \Phi + Q\Lambda + \{\Phi, \Lambda\} + \{\Lambda, \Phi\}$$

A.M.Z.

“Perturbed β - γ Systems
and Complex Geometry”,
Nucl.Phys.B 759(2006) 370

Yang-Mills equations

$$*d_A *F = 0, \quad F = dA + A \wedge A$$

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega^0 \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^1 \xrightarrow{d*} \Omega^{D-1} \xrightarrow{d} \Omega^D \rightarrow 0$$

Yang-Mills C_∞ algebra:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}^0 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Q}_\eta} \mathcal{F}^1 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Q}_\eta} \mathcal{F}^2 \xrightarrow{\mathcal{Q}_\eta} \mathcal{F}^3 \rightarrow 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\cdot, \cdot) &: \mathcal{F}^i \otimes \mathcal{F}^j \rightarrow \mathcal{F}^{i+j} \\ (\cdot, \cdot, \cdot) &: \mathcal{F}^i \otimes \mathcal{F}^j \otimes \mathcal{F}^k \rightarrow \mathcal{F}^{i+j+k-1} \end{aligned}$$

f_1	v	\mathbf{A}	\mathbf{V}	a
f_2				
w	vw	$\mathbf{A}w$	$\mathbf{V}w$	aw
\mathbf{B}	$v\mathbf{B}$	(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B})	$\mathbf{B} \wedge \mathbf{V}$	$\mathbf{0}$
\mathbf{W}	$v\mathbf{W}$	$\mathbf{A} \wedge \mathbf{W}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$
b	vb	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$	$\mathbf{0}$

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) &= (\mathbf{A} \wedge *d\mathbf{B}) - (\mathbf{B} \wedge *d\mathbf{A}) + d * (\mathbf{A} \wedge \mathbf{B}) \\ (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{C}) &= \mathbf{A} \wedge *(\mathbf{B} \wedge \mathbf{C}) - \mathbf{C} \wedge *(\mathbf{A} \wedge \mathbf{B}) \end{aligned}$$

$$*d_A *F = 0 \iff \mathcal{Q}_\eta \mathbf{A} + (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A}) + (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A}) = 0$$

See e.g. [A.M.Z.](#)

“BV Yang-Mills as a Homotopy Chern-Simons via SFT”, Int.J.Mod.Phys.A 24 (2009) 1309;
 “Conformal Field Theory and Algebraic Structure of Gauge Theory”, arXiv:0812.1840

This algebra can be obtained from

$$S = \frac{1}{2\pi h} \int_D d^2z \partial X^\mu \bar{\partial} X^\nu \eta_{\mu\nu} + \int_{\partial D} A_\mu(X) dX^\mu$$

Complex $(\mathcal{F}^*, \mathcal{Q}_\eta)$ is a subcomplex in the BRST complex (C^*, Q_η) of open string. LZ operations μ, ν reproduce operations (\cdot, \cdot) and (\cdot, \cdot, \cdot) at the level h^0 .

In order to get rid of logarithms we need introduce first order formulation:

$$\begin{aligned} S = & \frac{1}{2\pi h} \int_{H^+} d^2z (p_\mu \bar{\partial} X^\mu + \bar{p}_\mu \partial \bar{X}^\mu - \eta^{\mu\nu} p_\mu \bar{p}_\nu) + \\ & \int_{\mathbb{R}} dz (\mathcal{A}_\mu(X) \partial X^\mu + \mathcal{B}^\mu(X) p_\mu) \end{aligned}$$

Boundary conditions:

$$p_\mu|_{\mathbb{R}} = \bar{p}_\mu|_{\mathbb{R}}, \quad X^\mu|_{\mathbb{R}} = \bar{X}^\mu|_{\mathbb{R}}$$

VOA:

$$X^\mu(z) p_\nu(w) \sim \frac{h \delta_\nu^\mu}{z - w}$$

Gaussian integration:

$$F : \quad \mathcal{A}_\mu(X) \partial X^\mu + \mathcal{B}^\mu(X) p_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu(X) dX^\mu,$$

where $A_\mu(X) = \mathcal{A}_\mu(X) + \eta_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{B}^\nu(X)$

Extended BRST operator of open string:

$$\hat{Q}_\eta = Q_{X,p} + \eta^{\alpha\beta} \mu(a_\alpha, \{a_\beta, \cdot\}), \quad F\hat{Q}_\eta = Q_\eta F$$

where $Q_{X,p}$ is a BRST operator for X - p VOA, and $a_\alpha = cp_\alpha$.

It is possible to deform μ w.r.t. $\eta^{\alpha\beta}$ in such a way that the new operation μ^η will be homotopy commutative and associative w.r.t. \hat{Q}_η . The complex $(\mathcal{F}^*, \mathcal{Q}_\eta)$ lies in the kernel of L_0 (0th Virasoro mode of X - p VOA):

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_u &= u(X), & \phi'_A &= cA_\mu(X)\partial X^\mu, \\ \phi''_B &= c : B^\mu(X)p_\mu :, & & \\ \phi_a &= \partial ca(X), & \psi'_V &= c\partial cV_\mu(X)\partial X^\mu, \\ \psi''_W &= c\partial c : W^\mu(X)p_\mu : \\ \psi_b &= c\partial^2 cb(X), & \chi_v &= c\partial c\partial^2 cv(X). \end{aligned}$$

Combining deformed μ^η, n^η we find that they reproduce YM C_∞ algebra on $(\mathcal{F}^*, \mathcal{Q}_\eta)$.

Relation to Courant/Dorfman algebroid:

$$\{\phi'_A + \phi''_B, \phi'_A + \phi''_B\} = h(\phi'_{L_B \bar{A} - \text{di}_{\bar{B}} A} + \phi''_{[B, \bar{B}]_{Lie}})$$

A.M.Z.

“ β - γ systems and the deformations of BRST operator”, to appear

Chiral de Rham complex and Kodaira-Spencer Theory

VOA (V):

$$X^i(z)p_j(w) \sim \frac{1}{z-w}, \quad \psi^i(z)\chi_j(w) \sim \frac{1}{z-w}$$

Chiral de Rham cohomology operator:

$$Q = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint \psi^i p_i$$

Bilinear operation $\{a, b\} = \frac{(-1)^{|a|}}{2\pi i} \oint dz [Q, a](z)b$ satisfies Gerstenhaber algebra together with μ . $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ reproduces Schouten bracket on the operators $f^{i_1 \dots i_n}(x)\chi_{i_1} \dots \chi_{i_n}$

F. Malikov

“Lagrangian approach to Sheaves on Vertex Algebras”

Comm.Math.Phys. 278(2008) 487

Introducing antichiral part (\bar{V}):

$$X^{\bar{i}}(\bar{z})p_{\bar{j}}(\bar{w}) \sim \frac{1}{\bar{z}-\bar{w}}, \quad \psi^{\bar{i}}(\bar{z})\chi_{\bar{j}}(\bar{w}) \sim \frac{1}{\bar{z}-\bar{w}}$$

Let us consider elements of the form

$$\xi_{j_1 \dots j_n}^{i_1 \dots i_n}(X, \bar{X})\chi_{i_1} \dots \chi_{i_n}\psi^{\bar{j}_1} \dots \psi^{\bar{j}_n} \in V \otimes \bar{V}$$

Then

$\bar{Q}\mu + \{\mu, \mu\} = 0$, $\mu = \mu_{\bar{j}}^i(X, \bar{X})\chi_i\psi^{\bar{j}}$ coincides with Kodaira-Spencer equation.

Actually, most of Barannikov-Kontsevich formulas

S. Barannikov, M. Kontsevich

“Frobenius Manifolds and Formality of Lie algebras of Polyvector Fields”,
alg-geom/9710032

may be reproduced on VOA language.

Conclusions

- Physical interpretation of “higher homotopies” in Lian-Zuckerman construction.
- Construction of the field theory equations (Einstein, YM, Kodaira-Spencer) via the deformation theory of semi-infinite cohomology operator for certain VOAs.
- Algebraic approach to the study of β -function in σ -models.
- Relation of Courant/Dorfman algebroid and Yang-Mills C_∞ -algebra.