Higher-spin Lagrangians with transverse symmetry

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(with A. Campoleoni - to appear)



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Object

We propose a class of Lagrangians for bosons of arbitrary spin based on

Maxwell's operator

$$(M\varphi)_{\mu_1\cdots\mu_s} = \Box \varphi_{\mu_1\cdots\mu_s} - \partial_{(\mu_1} \partial^{\alpha} \varphi_{\alpha \mu_2\cdots\mu_s)}$$

Their distinctive feature is *transverse gauge invariance*:

$$\delta \varphi_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_s} = \partial_{(\mu_1} \Lambda_{\mu_2 \cdots \mu_s)}$$

s.t.

$$\partial^{\alpha} \Lambda_{\alpha \, \mu_2 \, \cdots \, \mu_{s-1}} = 0$$

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Motivations: simplicity

 $\delta \varphi_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_s} = \partial_{(\mu_1} \Lambda_{\mu_2 \cdots \mu_s)}$ 

$$\Box \varphi_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_s} = 0$$
  
$$\partial^a \varphi_{\alpha \mu_2 \cdots \mu_s} = 0$$
  
$$\varphi^{\alpha}{}_{\alpha \mu_3 \cdots \mu_s} = 0$$

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to go off-shell...

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$$\begin{array}{l} & & & & \\ \hline \varphi^{a} \varphi_{\alpha \mu_{2} \cdots \mu_{s}} = 0 \\ & & \\ \varphi^{\alpha} {}_{\alpha \mu_{3} \cdots \mu_{s}} = 0 \end{array}$$

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 $\Box \varphi_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_s} - \partial_{(\mu_1} \partial^{\alpha} \varphi_{\alpha \mu_2 \cdots \mu_s)}$ minimal building-block for any off-shell formulation

## Motivations: comparing interacting hsp theories

- → Higher-spin interactions are mainly understood for the class of *symmetric tensor*;
- → we would like to get some insight into more general classes of particles, (tensors with *mixed symmetry*) e.g. to better compare with String Theory.

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In (Anti)-de Sitter space-time free Lagrangians known only for special cases

➡ alternative view of cosmological constant (via Bianchi identity)

- $\blacktriangleright$  keeping  $g = const \Rightarrow transverse$  gauge symmetry for the linear theory
- $\blacktriangleright$  keeping  $h_{\mu\nu}$  traceful  $\Rightarrow$  scalar-tensor theory of gravity

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Plan

## § I. Lagrangians

## $\S II.$ Spectrum

## [SIII]. Comments & conclusions

# $\S I$ .

# Lagrangians

Symmetric tensors, flat bkg

Consider the Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} \,=\, \frac{1}{2}\,\varphi\,M\,\varphi$$

where the Maxwell operator is defined as:

$$M = \Box - \partial \partial \cdot$$

 $\text{Under} \quad \delta \, \varphi = \, \partial \, \Lambda \qquad \text{one finds, up to total derivatives} \quad \delta \, \mathcal{L} \, \sim \, \partial \cdot \partial \cdot \varphi \, \partial \cdot \Lambda$ 

simplest choice for gauge invariance:

 $\partial \cdot \Lambda \equiv 0$ 

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Under  $\delta \varphi = \partial \Lambda$  one finds, up to total derivatives  $\delta \mathcal{L} \sim \partial \cdot \partial \cdot \varphi \partial \cdot \Lambda$ simplest choice for gauge invariance:  $\partial \cdot \Lambda \equiv 0$   $\downarrow$  traceless  $\varphi$  and  $\Lambda$ : irreducible spin s Skvortsov-Vasiliev '07 traceful  $\varphi$  and  $\Lambda$ : reducible spin s: s, s-2, s-4, ...

### Notation:

### avoid space-time indices as far as possible

### here: only *family indices*



 $\varphi$  can be GL(D)-reducible, GL(D)-irreducible or O(D)-irreducible

According to our general scheme, we start with a simple trial Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \varphi \left( \Box - \partial^{i} \partial_{i} \right) \varphi \equiv \frac{1}{2} \varphi M \varphi$$

and compute the variation of the Maxwell operator:

$$\delta \left(\Box - \partial^{i} \partial_{i}\right) \varphi = -\frac{1}{2} \partial^{i} \partial^{j} \partial_{(i} \Lambda_{j)}$$

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Computation of d.o.f. from generalised light-cone gauge fixing

let us compare with irreducible case:

Transverse-invariant

Labastida

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**Lagrangians** 

$${\cal L}\,=\,{1\over 2}\,arphi\,M\,arphi$$

(N families)

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \varphi \left\{ \mathcal{F} - \frac{1}{2} \eta^{ij} T_{ij} \mathcal{F} + \frac{1}{36} \eta^{ij} \eta^{kl} \left( 2 T_{ij} T_{kl} - T_{i(k} T_{l)j} \right) \mathcal{F} \right\} \varphi$$
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**Equations of motion** 

$$\longrightarrow \quad M \varphi = (\Box - \partial^i \partial_i) \varphi$$

(Lagrangian equations)

$$\mathcal{F}\varphi = \{M + \partial^i \partial^j T_{ij}\}\varphi$$

(non-Lagrangian equations)

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**Equations of motion** 

$$\longrightarrow \quad M\varphi = (\Box - \partial^i \partial_i)\varphi$$

(Lagrangian equations)

 $\partial_{(i} \Lambda_{j)} = 0$ 

**Constraints** 

$$\mathcal{F}\varphi = \{M + \partial^i \partial^j T_{ij}\}\varphi$$

(non-Lagrangian equations)

$$\begin{cases} T_{(ij} \Lambda_{k)} = 0 \\ T_{(ij} T_{kl)} \varphi = 0 \end{cases}$$

Monday, May 28, 12

Our starting point

 $M \varphi \equiv (\Box - \nabla \nabla \cdot) \varphi$ , with

$$\begin{cases} \delta \varphi = \nabla \Lambda \,, \\ \nabla \cdot \Lambda = 0 \end{cases}$$

as usual, gauge invariance requires an additional term:

$$M_L \varphi \equiv M \varphi - \frac{1}{L^2} \{ [(s-2)(D+s-3) - s] \varphi - 2g \varphi' \}$$

the Lagrangian is simply

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \varphi M_L \varphi,$$

Míxed-symmetry tensors, AdS bkg

let us consider the two-family case, for simplicity

$$\varphi_{\mu_1\cdots\mu_s,\,\nu_1\cdots\nu_r} \equiv \varphi_{\mu_s,\,\nu_r} \qquad \qquad \delta \varphi_{\mu_s,\,\nu_r} = \nabla_{\mu} \Lambda_{\mu_{s-1},\,\nu_r} + \nabla_{\nu} \lambda_{\mu_s,\,\nu_{r-1}}$$

$$(M\varphi)_{\mu_s,\nu_r} \equiv \Box \varphi_{\mu_s,\nu_r} - \nabla_{\mu} \partial^{\alpha} \varphi_{\alpha\mu_{s-1},\nu_r} - \nabla_{\nu} \partial^{\alpha} \varphi_{\mu_s,\alpha\nu_{r-1}}$$

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the gauge variation of the ``Maxwell" tensor is

$$\begin{split} \delta \left( M \, \varphi \right)_{\mu_s, \, \nu_r} \, &= \, \frac{1}{L^2} \{ [(s-1)(D+s-3) - (D+2s-3)] \nabla_\mu \Lambda_{\mu_{s-1}, \nu_r} \\ &+ [(r-1)(D+r-3) - (D+2r-3)] \, \nabla_\nu \lambda_{\mu_s, \nu_{r-1}} \\ &+ \text{exchanges betw. families} \, + \, \mathcal{O}(tr, \, div) \} \end{split}$$

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impossible in general to compensate both terms:

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Reshetnyak '12, ...

Metsaev '95, '98 (talk SQS '97); Brink, Metsaev, Vasiliev '00

$$\bullet M \varphi \equiv \left( \Box - \nabla^{i} \nabla_{i} \right) \varphi$$

$$\bullet M \delta \varphi = -\frac{1}{L^{2}} \left\{ \left( D - 1 \right) \nabla^{i} \Lambda_{i} - \left( D - N - 3 \right) \nabla^{i} S^{j}{}_{i} \Lambda_{j} - \nabla^{i} S^{j}{}_{k} S^{k}{}_{i} \Lambda_{j} \right\}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \nabla^{i} \nabla^{j} \nabla_{(i} \Lambda_{j)} + \frac{1}{L^{2}} \left\{ 2 g^{ij} \nabla_{(i} \Lambda_{j)} + g^{ij} S^{k}{}_{i} \nabla_{[j} \Lambda_{k]} - 2 \nabla^{i} g^{jk} T_{ij} \Lambda_{k} \right\}$$

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At this stage we make some additional assumptions:

- 1) the field is GL(D)-irreducible:  $S^{i}{}_{j} \varphi = 0$  for i < j $\Rightarrow$
- the first line can be compensated by means of a ``mass'' term
- $\nabla_{(i} \Lambda_{j)} = 0 \implies \nabla_{i} \Lambda_{j} = 0$  (second line almost = 0)

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- $\nabla_{(i} \Lambda_{j)} = 0 \implies \nabla_{i} \Lambda_{j} = 0$  (second line almost = 0)
- 2) the field is *traceless*:  $T_{ij} \varphi = 0$

#### $\Rightarrow$

• the last term does not contribute to the Lagrangian
Míxed-symmetry tensors, AdS bkg

#### Our final result is

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \varphi \{ M - \frac{1}{L^2} \left[ (s_n - n - 1)(D + s_n - n - 2) - \sum_{k=1}^N s_k \right] \} \varphi$$

a Lagrangian for N-family mixed-symmetry fields on AdS

# $\S II$

# Spectrum

Monday, May 28, 12

## Hamíltonían analysís for symmetríc tensors

→ For For AdS bkg, symmetric tensors

Only first-class constraints

count # independent components of  $\Lambda$  and  $\Lambda$ 

Hamíltonían analysís for symmetríc tensors

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 AdS bkg, symmetric tensors

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count # independent components of  $\Lambda$  and  $\Lambda$ 

Systematically: decompose  $\Lambda_{\mu_1} \dots \mu_{s-1}$  in spatially-transverse parts and exploit the constraint; for a faster counting just observe:

 $\partial^{\alpha} \Lambda_{\alpha \, \mu_2 \, \cdots \, \mu_{s-1}} = 0 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \dot{\Lambda}_{0 \, \mu_2 \, \cdots \, \mu_{s-1}} = \vec{\nabla} \cdot \Lambda_{\mu_2 \, \cdots \, \mu_{s-1}}$ 

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 $\rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{count twice } \Lambda_{i_1} \cdots i_{s-1} : \text{their time derivatives are independent} \\ \text{count once } \Lambda_{0 \mu_2} \cdots \mu_{s-1} : \text{their time derivatives are not independent} \end{cases}$ 

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e.g. spin 2: 
$$\frac{D(D+1)}{2} - 2(D-1) - 1 = \frac{(D-1)(D-2)}{2}$$
$$h_{\mu\nu} \qquad \Lambda_i + \dot{\Lambda}_i \qquad \Lambda_0 \qquad graviton + scalar$$

#### Míxed-symmetry on AdS: BMV-pattern & gauge-per-gauge symmetry breaking $\varphi = \varphi_{\mu\mu,\nu}$

For simplicity, consider a {2, 1} field

s.t.  $\delta_0 \, \varphi_{\,\mu\,\mu,\,\nu} \,=\, \nabla_\mu \, \Lambda_{\,\mu,\,\nu} \,+\, \nabla_\nu \, \lambda_{\,\mu\mu} \,-\, \frac{1}{2} \, \nabla_\mu \, \lambda_{\,\mu\,\nu}$ 

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gauge-per-gauge invariance-breaking

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#### gauge-per-gauge invariance-breaking

In order to ``neutralize'' the effect of  $\theta_{\mu}$  on the initial {2,1} field we promote it to a gauge parameter for a new field:

Mixed-symmetry on AdS:  
BMV-pattern & gauge-per-gauge symmetry breaking  

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We want to find a Lagrangian for the BMV multiplet s.t.:

- → it is a smooth deformation of the corresponding flat, transverse-invariant Lagrangians, including possible deformations of transversality constraints
- → the overall gauge-invariance of the system is the same as its flat counterpart, including all gauge-per-gauge



BMV multiplet

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BMV multiplet

→ the overall gauge-invariance of the system is the same as its flat counterpart, including all gauge-per-gauge

Lagrangian 
$$\longrightarrow \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{1} \varphi^{(i)} \left( M - \frac{m_i}{L^2} \right) \varphi^{(i)} + \frac{c}{L} \varphi^{(1)} \widehat{\nabla} \cdot \varphi^{(0)}$$

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Lagrangian  $\longrightarrow \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=0}^{1} \varphi^{(i)} \left( M - \frac{m_i}{L^2} \right) \varphi^{(i)} + \frac{c}{L} \varphi^{(1)} \widehat{\nabla} \cdot \varphi^{(0)}$ Gauge transformations  $\longrightarrow \begin{cases} \delta \varphi^{(0)}_{\mu\mu\nu,\nu} = \nabla_{\mu} \Lambda_{\mu,\nu} + \nabla_{\nu} \lambda_{\mu\mu} - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_{\mu} \lambda_{\mu\nu} + \frac{\beta}{L} [\nabla_{\nu}, \nabla_{\mu}] \xi_{\mu} \\ \delta \varphi^{(1)}_{\mu\mu} = \nabla_{\mu} \xi_{\mu} + \frac{\alpha}{L} \lambda_{\mu\mu} \end{cases}$ 

We want to find a Lagrangian for the BMV multiplet s.t.:

→ it is a smooth deformation of the corresponding flat, transverse-invariant Lagrangians, including possible deformations of transversality constraints



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 $\delta \mathcal{L} = 0$  $\delta^2 \varphi^{(i)} = 0$  a unique solution exists, found for the two-family case {s, k}

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thus completing our argument

# $\S$ III

## **Comments & Conclusions**

Symmetric tensors: \_in the traceful case  $\rightarrow$  reducible spectrum: spin s, s-2, . . . \_via a suitable field redefinition the Lagrangian *diagonalises*:

$$\varphi = \phi_s + O_{s-2} \phi_{s-2} + O_{s-4} \phi_{s-4} \cdots + O_{s-2k} \phi_{s-2k} + \cdots$$

s.t.

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \varphi M \varphi = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^{\left[\frac{s}{2}\right]} \hat{b}_{k,s,D} \phi_{s-2k} M \phi_{s-2k}$$

where  $\phi'_{s-2k} \equiv 0 \rightarrow block-diagonal single-particle Lagrangians$ 

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 What happens in vertices?

Constrained gauge parameter  $\leftrightarrow$  partial gauge-fixing

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*Fronsdal/Labastída:* Minimal extensions

 $\mathcal{F} \longrightarrow \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{F} - 3\partial^3 \alpha$ 

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tensionless limit of free Open String Field theory action

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unconstrained counterpart of mixed, AdS Lagrangian?

Closeby dírections

#### $\rightarrow$ Reducible description of mixed-symmetry fields on (A)dS

#### → *Fermions*

#### → *Massive & partially massless reps.*

#### $\rightarrow$

(cubic) vertices & their relation to triplet interactions

