



# Exploring M theory symmetries through D=11 supergravity

Based on S.V. JHEP03 (2007) 010

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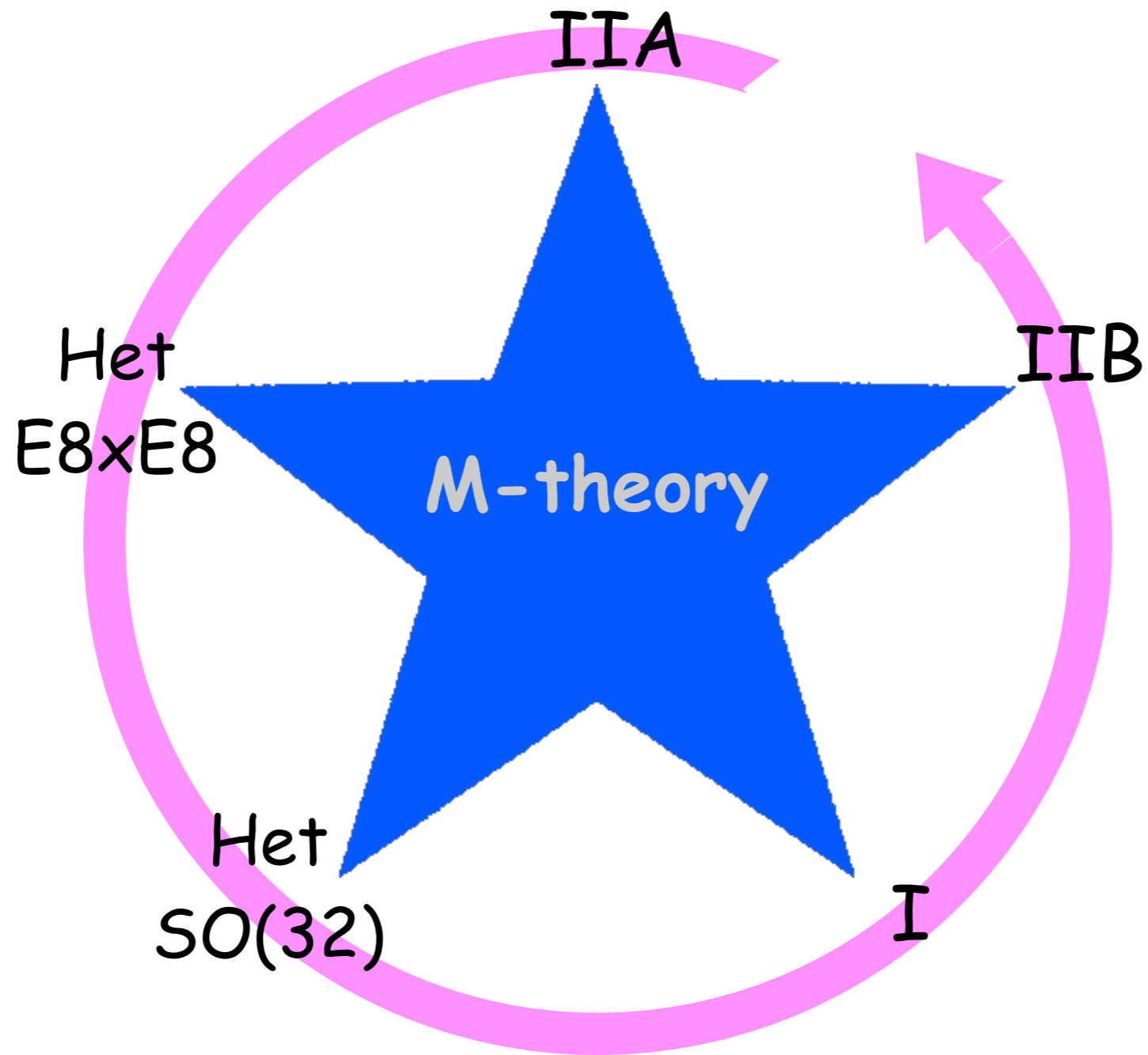


# Outline

- Goal: to infer some properties of M-Theory through the study of 11-dim SUGRA.
  - Symmetries
  - Extended objects
- Review of the relevant aspects of String Theory
  - U-duality
  - D-branes
- 11-dim SUGRA Free Differential Algebra
- Conclusions

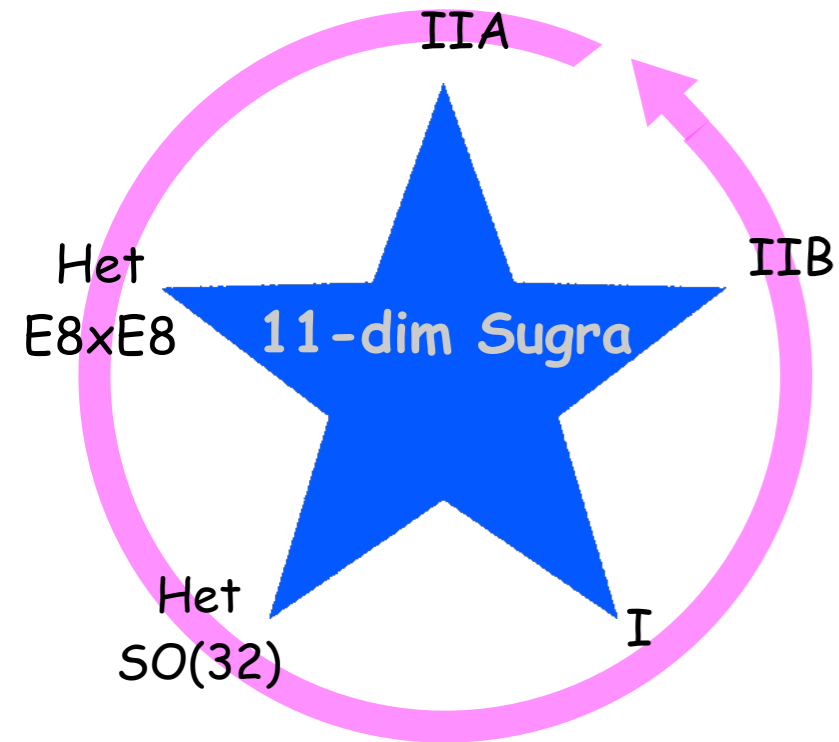
# String dualities

M-Theory is a more fundamental unifying theory



S and T duality relate different String Theories

# U-Duality



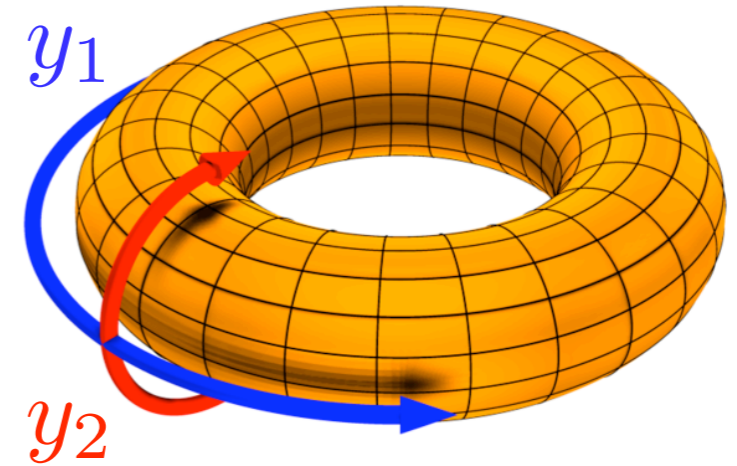
- 11-dim Sugra (M-Theory) is proposed as unifying theory
- In the Supergravity limit, type IIA arises from compactification of 11-dim Sugra on a circle
- 10-dim S and T duality are unified in lower dimensions

# Spontaneous Compactification

- Expand in Fourier series along the compact directions

$$\{X\} \rightarrow \{x, y\}; \quad \Phi(X) = \Phi(x, y)$$

$$\Phi(x, y) = \sum_n \Phi_n(x) e^{i \frac{y}{R} n}$$



- Integrate out the massive modes

$$\square_D \Phi(x, y) = 0$$

$$\square_{D-1} \Phi_n(x) - m_n^2 \Phi(x)_n = 0 \quad m_n = \frac{n}{R}$$

- The process generates more scalars and vectors

$$A(X)_M dX^M = A(x, y)_\mu dx^\mu + A(x, y)_y dy$$

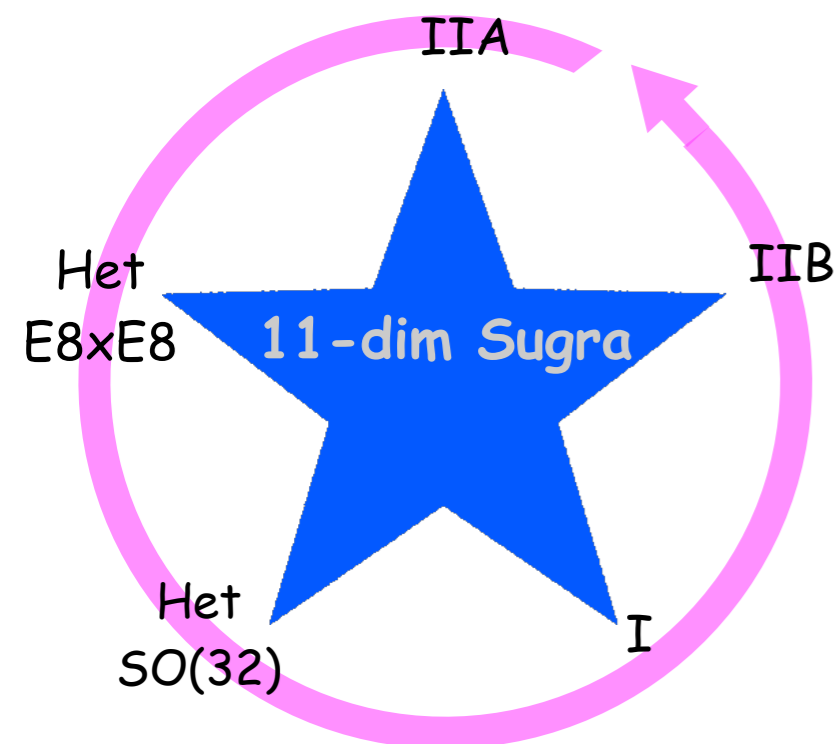
$$A(X)_M \quad \longrightarrow \quad A(x)_\mu \quad + \quad A(x)_y$$

10 dim Supergravity

$g_{\mu\nu}$     $B_{\mu\nu}$     $\Phi$

$C_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_p}$

# U-Duality



- 11-dim Sugra is the low energy limit of M-Theory
- In the Supergravity limit, type IIA arises from compactification of 11-dim Sugra on a circle
- S and T duality are "unified" in lower dimensions

$$D \leq 5 \quad \mathcal{L} = R + \mathcal{N}_{\Lambda\Sigma} \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu}^{\Lambda} \mathcal{F}^{\Sigma\mu\nu} + g_{ij} \partial_{\mu} \phi^i \partial^{\mu} \phi^j$$

S and T Duality unify in U-Duality which is a manifest symmetry of supergravities in low dimensions.

Lower dimensional theories have bigger U-Duality group.

Are symmetries unified in lower or higher dimensions?

# Proposals

In spite of the fact that 11-dim SUGRA action is manifestly invariant under the Super Poincaré group, it is conjectured that it encodes the symmetries of the lower dimensional U-duality groups.

- 11-dim SUGRA is a non linear realisation of a bigger group ( $E_{10}$  or  $E_{11}$ )

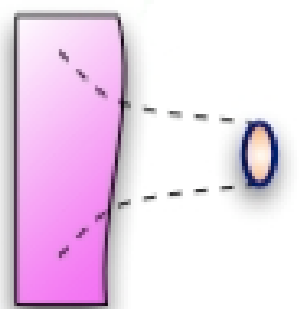
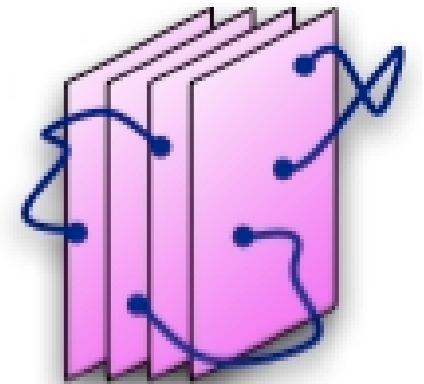
Cremmer, Julia, Lu, Pope, West, Damour, Kleinschmidt, Nicolai (1998)

- 11-dim SUGRA encodes a bigger group into its FDA

D'Auria, Fre (1982) S.V. (2006)

# Extended objects

- When strings are introduced, other extended objects (D-branes) naturally enter the game.
- D-branes are gravity sources and appear as massive extended objects in the classical solutions of 10-dim SUGRA
- There exist M-brane solution also in 11-dim SUGRA
- String Theory and M-theory as theories of extended objects





# Extended objects

## 11-dim SUGRA

$(g_{\mu\nu}, \psi_\mu, C_{\mu\nu\rho})$

$$[P_a, P_b] = 0 \quad [Q_\alpha, M_{ab}] = \gamma_{ab\alpha}{}^\beta Q_\beta \quad [Q_\alpha, P_b] = 0$$

$$[M_{ab}, M_{cd}] = \eta_{ac}M_{bd} - \eta_{bc}M_{ad} + \dots \quad [M_{ab}, P_c] = \eta_{c[a}P_{b]}$$

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = iP_a\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a \quad \text{11-dim Super Poincaré Group}$$

## 11-dim SUGRA + M-branes

de Azcarraga, Gauntlett,  
Izquierdo, Townsend (1989)

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = iP_a\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a + Z_{ab}\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{ab} + iZ_{a_1\dots a_5}\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{a_1\dots a_5}$$

Central extension of the 11-dim Super Poincaré Group

## The M-Algebra

Sezgin (1996)

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = iP_a\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a + Z_{ab}\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{ab} + iZ_{a_1\dots a_5}\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{a_1\dots a_5}$$

$$[Q_\alpha, P_b] \neq 0 \quad [Q_\alpha, Z_{ab}] \neq 0 \quad \dots$$

$$[P_a, P_b] \neq 0 \quad \dots \quad \dots$$

# Our first results

The Minimal (zero field strengths) FDA  
of 11-dim Supergravity  
encodes M-Algebra symmetries

The FDA  
of 11-dim Supergravity  
encodes at least the lowest level of  $E_{11}$

# Free Differential Algebras

Commutators  $\mathcal{T}\mathcal{G}$

$$[T_A, T_B] = C_{AB}^C T_C$$

$$\mu^A(T_B) = \delta_B^A$$

$$[T_{[A}, [T_B, T_C]\}] = 0$$

Jacobi identities

$$C_{B[C}^A C_{DE]}^B = 0$$

Maurer-Cartan eqns  $\mathcal{T}^*\mathcal{G}$

$$d\mu^A - \frac{1}{2} C_{CB}^A \mu^B \wedge \mu^C = 0$$

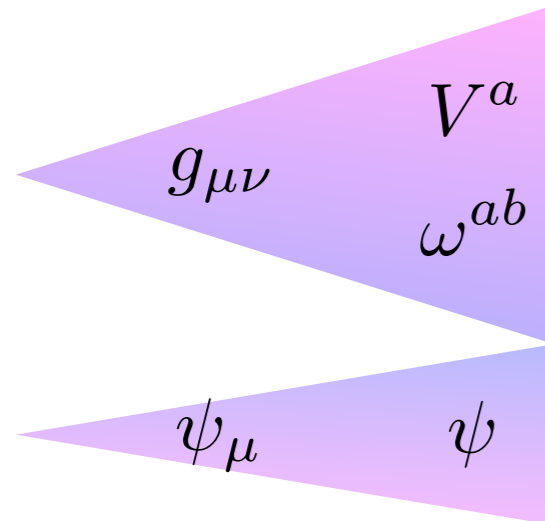
$$d \left( d\mu^A - \frac{1}{2} C_{CB}^A \mu^B \wedge \mu^C = 0 \right)$$

For the construction of sugra with the geometric approach we associate to every generator a 1-form potential of the theory:  $\mu^A \rightarrow \mathcal{A}^A$

# 11-dim Supergravity

11-dim Supermultiplet

$$(g_{\mu\nu}, \psi_\mu, C_{\mu\nu\rho}) \quad \mu, \nu, \rho = 0, \dots, 10$$



$$V^a P_b = \delta_b^a$$

$$\omega^{ab} M_{cd} = \delta_{cd}^{ab}$$

$$\psi^\alpha Q_\beta = \delta_\beta^\alpha$$

$$(V^a, \omega^{ab}, \psi) \in T^*\mathcal{G}$$

$\mathcal{G} =$  super-Poincaré in D=11

$$T^a \equiv DV^a - \frac{i}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^a \psi = 0$$

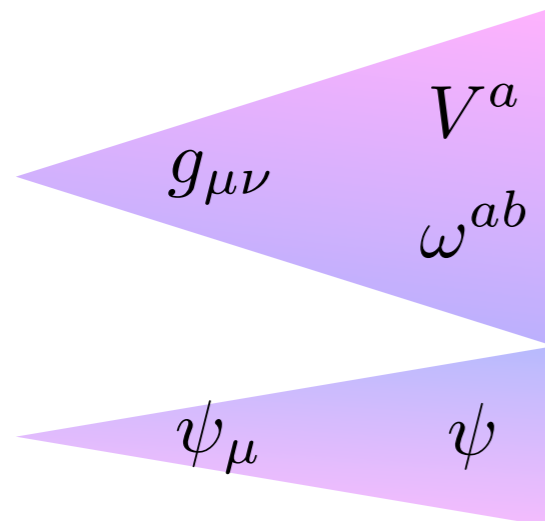
$$\mathcal{R}^{ab} \equiv d\omega^{ab} - \omega^a_c \omega^{cb} = 0$$

$$\rho \equiv D\psi = 0$$

# 11-dim Supergravity

11-dim Supermultiplet

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$d$



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# Minimal FDA

algebra

$$d\mu^A - \frac{1}{2}C_{CB}^A \mu^B \wedge \mu^C = 0$$

$$d \left( d\mu^A - \frac{1}{2}C_{CB}^A \mu^B \wedge \mu^C = 0 \right)$$

$\mu^A$  1-forms

FDA

$$d\pi^I + C_{J_1 \dots J_n}^I \pi^{J_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \pi^{J_n} = 0$$

$$d \left( d\pi^I + C_{J_1 \dots J_n}^I \pi^{J_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \pi^{J_n} \right) = 0$$

$\pi^i$  p-forms

# **non** Minimal FDA

algebra

$$d\mu^A - \frac{1}{2}C_{CB}^A \mu^B \wedge \mu^C = 0$$

$$d \left( d\mu^A - \frac{1}{2}C_{CB}^A \mu^B \wedge \mu^C = 0 \right)$$

$\mu^A$  1-forms

FDA

$$d\pi^I + C_{J_1 \dots J_n}^I \pi^{J_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \pi^{J_n} = F^I \quad d \left( d\pi^I + C_{J_1 \dots J_n}^I \pi^{J_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \pi^{J_n} \right) = dF^I$$

contractible  
generators  
(field strengths)



Bianchi identities



# **non** Minimal FDA

algebra

$$d\mu^A - \frac{1}{2}C_{CB}^A \mu^B \wedge \mu^C = 0$$

$$d \left( d\mu^A - \frac{1}{2}C_{CB}^A \mu^B \wedge \mu^C = 0 \right)$$

$\mu^A$  1-forms

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contractible  
generators  
(field strengths)



Bianchi identities



$$dC - \frac{1}{2}\bar{\psi}\gamma_{ab}\psi V^a V^b = 0$$

$$\bar{\psi}\gamma^{ab}\psi\bar{\psi}\gamma_a\psi = 0$$



# Minimal FDA

$$dV^a - \frac{i}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^a \psi = 0$$

$$d\psi = 0$$

symmetries of the solution  $\mathcal{R}^{ab} = F = \rho = 0$   
(plus  $SO(1, 10)$  )

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a P_a \quad \{Q_\alpha, P_a\} = 0 \quad [P_a, P_b] = 0$$

$$dC - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma_{ab} \psi V^a V^b = 0$$



Does this equation  
encode more symmetries?

**Yes**

Frè, D'Auria  
Nucl.Phys.B201:1982

# Group reduction of a Minimal FDA

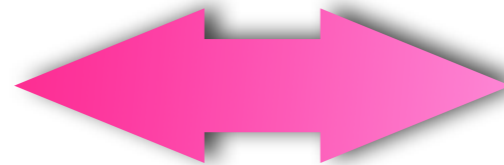
$$dC - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma_{ab} \psi V^a V^b = 0 \quad \{V^a, \psi\} \in T^* \mathcal{G}_0$$

$$C = K_{ijk} \sigma^i \sigma^j \sigma^k \quad \{V^a, \psi\} \subset \{\sigma^i\} \in T^* \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_0 \quad \mathcal{G}_0 \subset \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_0$$

constants 

If  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_0$  is a group manifold, then

$$d\sigma^i - \frac{1}{2} c^i_{kj} \sigma^j \wedge \sigma^k = 0$$



$$dV^a - \frac{i}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^a \psi = 0$$

$$d\psi = 0$$

$$dC - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma_{ab} \psi V^a V^b = 0$$

closed under d-differentiation

closed under d-differentiation

# Group reduction of a Minimal FDA

? which is the algebra  $d\sigma^i - \frac{1}{2}c^i_{jk}\sigma^j \wedge \sigma^k = 0$

There is not a "turn of the crank" procedure to determine the algebra

- Frè, D'Auria Nucl.Phys. B201:1982
- Bandos, de Azcarraga, Izquierdo, Picon, Varela Phys. Lett.B 596 (2004)
- Castellani, arXiv:hep-th/0508213

? It is possible to find "the most general solution"?  
In case, which is it?

Sezgin's M-Algebra is the biggest extension of the Super Poincaré Algebra  
If this is a solution, then it is the most general solution

# The M-Algebra

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a P_a + i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a Z_a + \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{ab} Z_{ab} + i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{a_1\dots a_5} Z_{a_1\dots a_5}$$

$$[Q_\alpha, P_a] = i\gamma_{a\alpha\beta} \Sigma^\beta + \gamma_{ab\alpha\beta} \Sigma^{b\beta} + \gamma_{ab_1\dots b_4\alpha\beta} \Sigma^{b_1\dots b_4\beta}$$

$$[Q_\alpha, Z^a] = -i(1 - \lambda - \tau) \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a \Sigma^\beta$$

$$[Q_\alpha, Z^{ab}] = \frac{\lambda}{10} \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{ab} \Sigma^\beta + i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a \Sigma^{b\beta} - 6i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{cd} \Sigma^{abcd\beta}$$

$$[Q_\alpha, Z^{a_1\dots a_5}] = i\frac{\tau}{720} \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{a_1\dots a_5} \Sigma^\beta + \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{a_5} \Sigma^{\alpha_1\dots\alpha_4\beta}$$

$$[P_a, P_b] = 0$$

# The M-Algebra

M2- and M5-brane  
central charges

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a P_a + i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a Z_a + \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{ab} Z_{ab} + i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{a_1\dots a_5} Z_{a_1\dots a_5}$$

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# The M-Algebra

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$$(Z_{a_1\dots a_p}, \Sigma^{\alpha a_1\dots a_{p-1}}) \quad p = 1, 2, 5$$

# The M-Algebra

M2- and M5-brane  
central charges

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a P_a + i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a Z_a + \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{ab} Z_{ab} + i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{a_1\dots a_5} Z_{a_1\dots a_5}$$

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$$[P_a, P_b] \neq 0$$

is not compatible with a flat background

# Solutions (S.V. JHEP03 (2007) 010)

$$C = C(P^a, B^{a_1 \dots a_p}, \psi, \eta^{a_1 \dots a_{p-1}}) \quad dC - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma_{ab} \psi V^a V^b = 0$$

- $p = 1$  No  $\longrightarrow$  it is impossible to satisfy the FDA
  - $p = 2$  Yes
  - $p = 5$  No
  - $p = 1, 2$  Yes
  - $p = 1, 5$  No
  - $p = 2, 5$  Yes
  - $p = 1, 2, 5$  Yes
- non closure of the M-Algebra  
No M5 without M2



# Summary (1)

We started from a theory with "physical" fields

$$V_{\mu}^a, \psi_{\mu}, C_{\mu\nu\rho}$$

whose vacuum was invariant under the Super Poincaré Group



We ended with a theory with "auxiliary" fields

$$V_{\mu}^a, \psi_{\mu}, B_{\mu}^a, B_{\mu}^{ab}, B_{\mu}^{a_1 \dots a_5}, \eta_{\mu}, \eta_{\mu}^a, \eta_{\mu}^{a_1 \dots a_4}$$

whose vacuum is invariant under the "flat" M-Algebra

# Non-Minimal FDA

$$d\pi^i + \frac{1}{2}c_{jk}^i \pi^j \wedge \pi^k = F^i \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \text{Field strengths definition}$$

$$c_{jk}^i (F^j - \frac{1}{2}c_{lm}^j \pi^l \wedge \pi^m) \wedge \pi^k = dF^i \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \text{Bianchi identities}$$

minimal generators  $\pi^i$



vector potentials

contractible generators  $F^i$



field strengths

Frè, Class. Quant. Grav. 1 (1984)



Is it possible to further enlarge the group  $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_0$  in order to find an expansion  $F^i = K_{j_1 \dots j_n}^i \tilde{\sigma}^{j_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \tilde{\sigma}^{j_n}$  which satisfies the FDA?

# The simplest example

$$d \quad 0 = DV^a - \frac{i}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^a \psi$$

no torsion

$$\uparrow \quad 0 = d\omega^{ab} - \omega^{ac} \omega_c^b$$

flat space-time

$$D \quad 0 = D\psi$$

flat space-time

$$F = dC - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma_{ab} \psi V^a V^b$$

the FDA is consistent with any of the contractible generators set to zero

Keep the same parametrisation for  $C$   
and modify the underlying algebra

The "flat" M-Algebra is already the most general

# The external automorphism group

$$C = C(P, B^{(p)}, \psi, \eta^{(p-1)})$$

$$dC - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma_{ab} \psi V^a V^b = 0$$

$$F = dC - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma_{ab} \psi V^a V^b$$

$$dB^{(p)} + \bar{\psi} \gamma^{(p)} \psi = 0$$

$$dB^{(p+q)} + A^{(q)} B^{(p)} + \bar{\psi} \gamma^{(p+q)} \psi = 0$$

$$R_{(r)} A^{(q)} = \delta_{(r)}^{(q)}$$

$$[R_{(r)}, Z_{(p)}] = Z_{(p+r)}$$

$$[R_{(r)}, R_{(s)}] = R_{(r+s)}$$

# The external automorphism group

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Group generators  
=  
fields

Automorphism  
generators  
=  
connections

$$R_{(r)} A^{(q)} = \delta_{(r)}^{(q)}$$

$$[R_{(r)}, Z_{(p)}] = Z_{(p+r)}$$

$$[R_{(r)}, R_{(s)}] = R_{(r+s)}$$

$$r = 0$$
$$\text{SO}(1, 10)$$

lowest levels of  $E_{11}$

# Summary

## The "flat" M-Algebra

$$[P_a, P_b] = 0$$

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a P_a + \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{(p)} Z_{(p)}$$

$$[Q_\alpha, P_a] = \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\ddot{\beta}} \Sigma_{(p-1)}$$

$$[Q_\alpha, Z_{(p)}] = \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\ddot{\beta}} \Sigma_{(p-1)}$$

fields

## The lowest E<sub>11</sub> levels

$$[R_{(r)}, Z_{(p)}] = Z_{(p+r)}$$

$$[R_{(r)}, R_{(s)}] = R_{(r+s)}$$

connections

# Summary

## The "flat" M-Algebra

$$[P_a, P_b] = 0$$

$$\{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = i\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a P_a + \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{(p)} Z_{(p)}$$

$$[Q_\alpha, P_a] = \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\dots} \Sigma_{(p-1)}$$

$$[Q_\alpha, Z_{(p)}] = \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^{\dots} \Sigma_{(p-1)}$$

fields



M-Algebra generators can be interpreted as E<sub>11</sub> generators

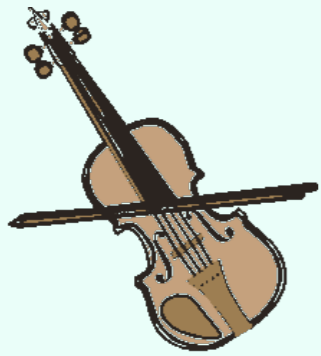
## The lowest E<sub>11</sub> levels

$$[R_{(r)}, Z_{(p)}] = Z_{(p+r)}$$

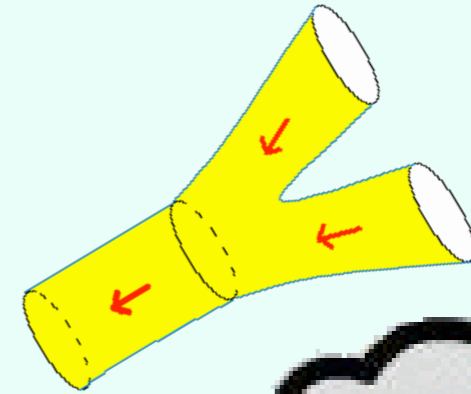
$$[R_{(r)}, R_{(s)}] = R_{(r+s)}$$

$R_{(r)}$  rotates one into another the brane charges and was shown (West) to be as well a symmetry of the system. Here we show that the D=11 action enjoys such a symmetry and that the brane charges are "hidden" in the structure of the 3-form.

Thank you!



# String Theory



Our 4 dimensional World