

Lecture 8

1 Introduction for D-brane

Physical problem of the oriented closed superstring theories (IIA, IIB) is a lack of gauge fields. On the other hand, we already know a gauge field appears from open string. Let us look into an open string further, then, we will see that open string needs an object, so called D-brane.

Note that closed superstring theories are consistent by itself. However, only open string theory is inconsistent, and it needs closed string as well (see Fig. 1).

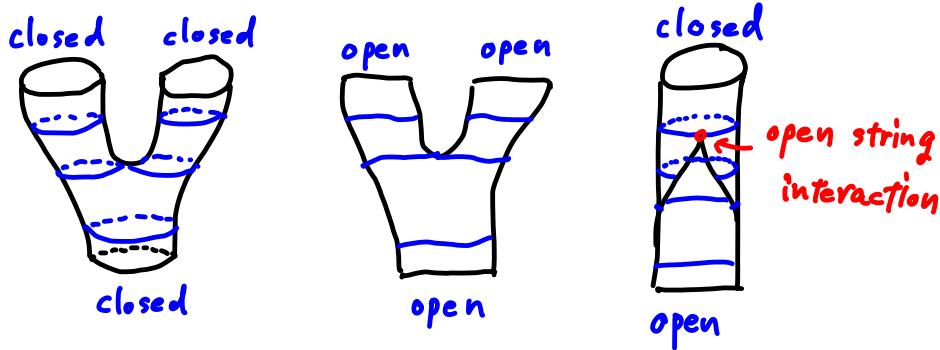


Fig. 1: Open string interaction induces closed string

1.1 Boundary conditions & D-brane

Let us consider an open string action.

$$S_E = \frac{1}{4\pi\alpha'} \int_{\sigma=0}^{\sigma=\pi} dt d\sigma (\partial_t X \cdot \partial_t X + \partial_\sigma X \cdot \partial_\sigma X) , \quad (1)$$

where the subscript E shows the world-sheet(WS) is Euclidean. The variation principle leads

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = \delta S &= \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int_{\sigma=0}^{\sigma=\pi} dt d\sigma (\partial_t X \cdot \partial_t \delta X + \partial_\sigma X \cdot \partial_\sigma \delta X) \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int_{\sigma=0}^{\sigma=\pi} dt d\sigma [-\delta X \cdot (\partial_t \partial_t X + \partial_\sigma \partial_\sigma X) + \partial_t (\partial_t X \cdot \delta X) + \partial_\sigma (\partial_\sigma X \cdot \delta X)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int dt [\partial_\sigma X \cdot \delta X]_{\sigma=0}^{\sigma=\pi} . \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

At the last equality we used E.O.M and $\delta X(t = \pm\infty) = 0$. The equation compels us to impose one of either boundary conditions:

$\partial_\sigma X^\mu _{\text{bdy}} = 0$	Neumann condition
$\delta X^\mu _{\text{bdy}} = 0$ or $X^\mu = c^\mu$ (const)	Dirichlet condition

(3)

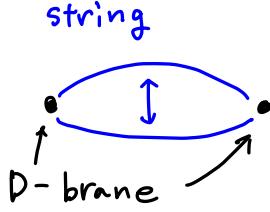


Fig. 2: D-brane must exist at the ends of open string so that momentum can escape from string.

From the homework 1 we saw that the solution for Dirichlet boundary condition express a momentum NON-conservation (see Fig. 2). It implies that there must be something into which the momentum goes. We call this object **D-brane**, where the D stands for Dirichlet and brane comes from membrane. D-brane is a dynamical object as it should receive the momentum, hence, it has action and interactions with string. On the other hand, in order to stay at a specific point $X^\mu = c^\mu$ D-brane must be infinitely heavy compared to string.

One can impose a certain number of Neumann condition and the rest is Dirichlet, let us set:

$$\text{Neumann condition on } X^a \quad (a = 0, 1, \dots, p) \quad (4)$$

$$\text{Dirichlet condition on } X^I \quad (I = p+1, \dots, D-1) \quad (5)$$

The corresponding D-brane is called Dp -brane (e.g. $D3$ -brane). **D p -brane** is a spacially p -dim object and space-timely $(p+1)$ -dim object. Now we can visualize a configuration of D-brane and string as in Fig. 3.

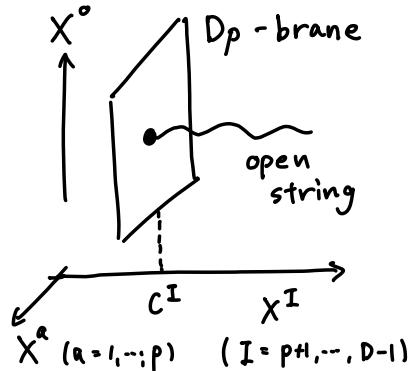


Fig. 3: Visualization of Dp -brane and open string.

1.2 Chan-Paton factor

We can consider not only a D-brane but many D-branes, and a string now have an option on which D-brane a string ends. Let us label this option i ($i = 1, \dots, n$), which is called **Chan-Paton factor**. As an open string has two end points a string state has two Chan-Paton degree:

$$|N; k\rangle \rightarrow |N; k; ij\rangle . \quad (6)$$

Now we have n^2 massless vector states in both bosonic- or super-string theory. As usual we use $n \times n$ Hermite matrices T^a normalized to

$$\text{tr}(T^a T^b) = \delta^{ab} , \quad (7)$$

which is a complete set for the end points:

$$|N; k; a\rangle = T_{ij}^a |N; k; ij\rangle . \quad (8)$$

You will find this is $U(n)$ gauge fields if you compute a three point amplitude.

Note that in order to realize $U(n)$ gauge group the D-branes must coincide at a point. Otherwise, the gauge group is broken by Higgs mechanism (see Fig. 4).

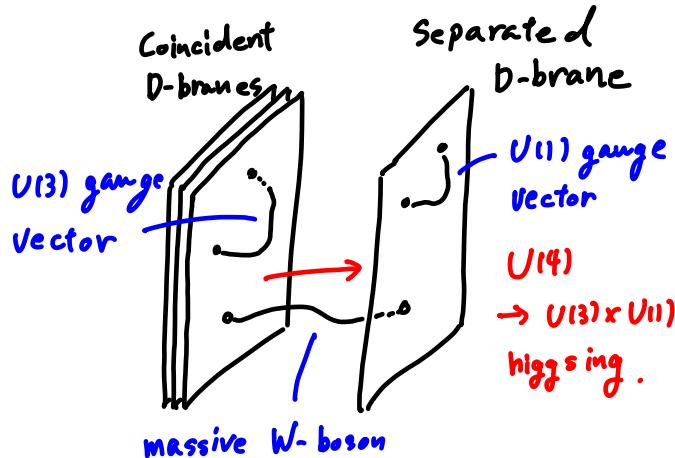


Fig. 4: Many D-branes and Chan-Paton factors. $U(n)$ gauge group and Higgs mechanism.

We will see, in next lectures, that other type of gauge groups (SO or Sp) can be realized in string theory.

1.3 D-brane in IIA/IIB superstring theory

In the previous lecture note we saw that IIA/IIB superstring theory has RR fields, which are anti-symmetric tensors and are analogy of gauge fields. Furthermore, again from an analogy of electro-magnetic dynamics, there are objects which electrically/magnetically coupled to the gauge fields like an electron/monopole. It is known that for RR fields such objects are D-branes. In order to justify the statement we need more elaborated tools. Here we simply see that which D_p -branes couple to RR fields in IIA/IIB.

Let us start with an electron/monopole in 4-dim spacetime. Electron is expressed by a source $J^\mu = (\rho, \mathbf{j}) = (q\delta^3(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}(t)), \partial_t \mathbf{r}(t)\rho)$ and its coupling to gauge field is written by

$$S_J = q \int A_\mu J^\mu d^4x = q \int_C A_\mu dx^\mu = q \int_C A , \quad (9)$$

where q is an electric charge, C is a worldline of the electron, and A is understood as 1-form. Similarly, D_p -brane ($p \leq 3$) couples to $(p+1)$ -tensor RR field as follows.

$$S_{Dp} = \int_{M_{p+1}} C_{p+1} , \quad (10)$$

where C_{p+1} is a $(p+1)$ -form RR gauge potential and M_{p+1} is a world-membrane of D p -brane. Note that an exterior derivative of the potential gives its field strength $G_{p+1} = dC_p$. For example of D3-brane is:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{D3} &= \int_{M_4} C_4 = \frac{1}{4!} \int_{M_4} C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} dX^\mu \wedge dX^\nu \wedge dX^\rho \wedge dX^\sigma \\ &= \frac{1}{4!} \int_{M_4} C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \epsilon^{abcd} \frac{\partial X^\mu}{d\sigma^a} \frac{\partial X^\nu}{d\sigma^b} \frac{\partial X^\rho}{d\sigma^c} \frac{\partial X^\sigma}{d\sigma^d} d^4\sigma , \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where σ^a is a world-sheet coordinate of D3-brane and X^μ is an embedding of D3-brane into space-time. The reason why it is limited up to $p = 3$ is because we only have up to 4-tensor RR-field in IIA/IIB superstring theory.

Monopole is characterized by magnetic flux measured at surface surrounding the monopole (see Fig. 5)

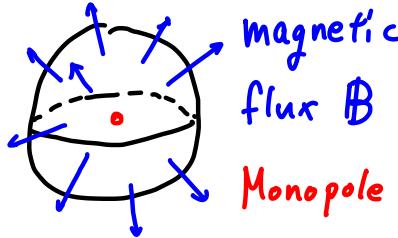


Fig. 5: Monopole is measured by magnetic flux configuration.

$$q_m = \int_S B \cdot n dS = \int_{B_3} \nabla \cdot B dV , \quad (12)$$

$$= \int_{\partial B} F_2 = \int_B dF_2 , \quad (13)$$

where q_m is a magnetic charge, B is magnetic flux, S is a surface surrounding the monopole, B_3 is a 3-dim ball, whose boundary is S , B in the second line is B_3 , and ∂B is a surface of B , which is S . Note that F_2 cannot be expressed by an exterior derivative dA globally, hence, $dF_2 \neq 0$, rather $dF_2 = \nabla \cdot B = q_m \delta^3(r)$. If we extend this idea to D p -brane ($p \geq 3$)

$$q_m = \int_{\partial B_{D-(p+1)}} G_{D-(p+2)} = \int_{B_{D-(p+1)}} dG_{D-(p+2)} . \quad (14)$$

See Fig. 6 to understand the direction of the flux $G_{D-(p+2)}$, which leads potential $C_{D-(p+3)}$. The reason why $p \geq 3$ is because $D = 10$ and the highest tensor is [4].

If you allow to use electro-magnetic duality it is more easily understood (see Fig. 7).

String or fundamental string, denoted as F1, is electrically coupled to B-field. On the other hand, there is an object that is magnetically coupled to B-field, which is called **NS5-brane**.

Now you should notice that in IIA/IIB string theory the number p of D p -brane is limited to a certain number. This is because the rank of RR-field (tensor) is limited. Let us summarize which D-brane can exist in which superstring theory (see Table 1).

Comments:

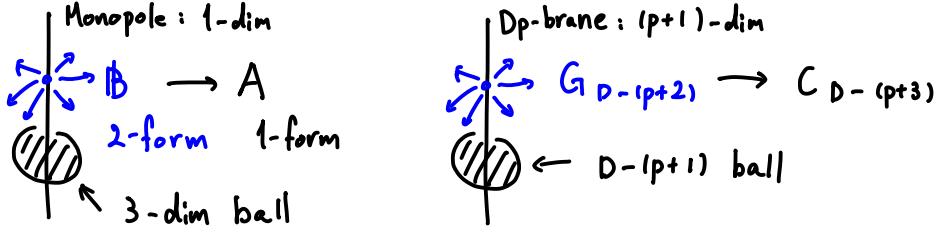


Fig. 6: Higher dimensional analog of monopole: magnetically coupled D_p-brane.

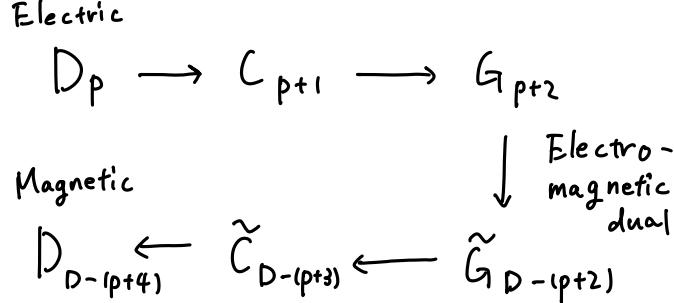


Fig. 7: Electro-magnetic duality and D-brane.

- Only D_p-brane for even p exist in IIA and for odd p in IIB.
- D(-1)-brane is timely localized object (like instanton).
- D8-brane can exist in IIA, which is a non-dynamical object and there is no corresponding anti-symmetric tensor.

2 1-loop amplitude

We continue to study amplitude, here it is 1-loop amplitude. 1-loop amplitude is important because it includes quantum information, such as anomaly.

2.1 Torus and its modulus & CKG

Here, we will briefly see $g = 1$ case, which is nothing but torus. Torus can be constructed from 1d flat complex space \mathbb{C} by identification (see Fig. 8)

$$z \sim z + 2\pi \sim z + 2\pi\tau , \quad (15)$$

where $\tau = \tau_1 + i\tau_2$ and assume $\tau_2 > 0$. Since the metric is flat the τ is a complex modulus, which describe the “shape” of the torus. There is also a complex translation invariance, which is 2 CKG.

Table 1: Possible D-branes in IIA/IIB superstring, fundamental string, and NS5-brane.

IIA	B_2	C_1	C_3	IIB	B_2	C_0	C_2	C_4^+
Electric	F1	D0	D2	Electric	F1	D(-1)	D1	D3
Magnetic	NS5	D6	D4	Magnetic	NS5	D7	D5	D3

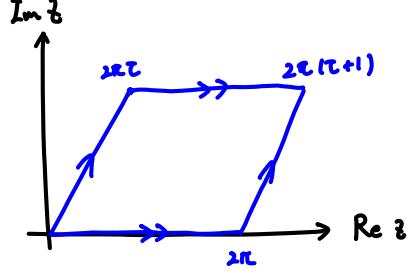


Fig. 8: Torus from \mathbb{C} by the identification.

Torus has so called a **modular invariance**. Let us define two generators:

$$T : \tau \rightarrow \tau + 1 , \quad S : \tau \rightarrow -\frac{1}{\tau} . \quad (16)$$

These T, S generates modular transformation

$$\tau \rightarrow \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d} , \quad \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in PSL(2, \mathbb{Z}) , \quad (17)$$

The “shape” of torus is conformally invariant under the modular transformation. Therefore, the parameter space of τ is limited to the fundamental region, see Fig. 9.

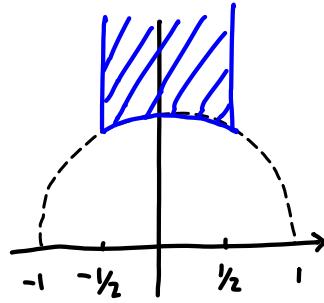


Fig. 9: Fundamental region of τ .

As we did for sphere case we will encounter ghost expectation, whose contribution is only from the zero modes. In the torus case since the space is flat and finite, we can insert a WS integral as follows

$$\langle c(0) \rangle_{bc} = \langle C \rangle_{bc} , \quad C \equiv \int \frac{d^2 z}{4\pi^2 \tau_2} c(z) . \quad (18)$$

(\bar{C} and B, \bar{B} are similarly defined.)

The string amplitude for torus case is

$$A_{1,n} = g_{st}^n \frac{1}{2} \int_F d^2 \tau \left\langle (b, \partial_\tau h)(b, \partial_{\bar{\tau}} h) c \bar{c} \sqrt{h} V_1 \prod_{j=2}^n \int d^2 z_j \sqrt{h} V_j \right\rangle . \quad (19)$$

As the same logic as before we can insert the integration even for z_1 since the amplitude should not depend on z_1 :

$$A_{1,n} = g_{st}^n \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{4\pi^2 \tau_2} \int_F d^2 \tau \left\langle (b, \partial_\tau h)(b, \partial_{\bar{\tau}} h) C \bar{C} \right\rangle_{bc} \left\langle \prod_{j=1}^n \int d^2 z_j \sqrt{h} V_j \right\rangle_X . \quad (20)$$

Though seemingly the metric would not depend on τ , it does indeed depend on τ as follows. Let us consider small deformation of the metric

$$ds^2 = dz d\bar{z} \rightarrow d(z + \epsilon\bar{z})d(\bar{z} + \bar{\epsilon}z) , \quad (21)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \delta h_{zz} = \bar{\epsilon} , \quad \delta h_{\bar{z}\bar{z}} = \epsilon . \quad (22)$$

New torus has coordinate $z + \epsilon\bar{z}$. This deformation changes the period to $(2\pi(1+\epsilon), 2\pi(\tau + \epsilon\bar{\tau}))$. Therefore the modulus becomes $\tilde{\tau} = \frac{\tau + \epsilon\bar{\tau}}{1+\epsilon} \simeq \tau - 2i\epsilon\tau_2 \Leftrightarrow \delta\tau = -2i\epsilon\tau_2$. Now the τ derivative is

$$\partial_\tau h_{\bar{z}\bar{z}} = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{\delta h_{\bar{z}\bar{z}}}{\delta\tau} = \frac{i}{2\tau_2} , \quad \Rightarrow \quad (b, \partial_\tau h) = 2\pi i B \quad \text{etc} , \quad (23)$$

where

$$(b, \partial_\tau h) = \int \frac{d^2 z}{4\pi} \sqrt{h} b_{ab} \frac{\partial}{\partial\tau} h^{ab}(\tau) . \quad (24)$$

2.2 Torus partition function for bosonic string

One may think the simplest amplitude would be tachyon amplitude, however, it is actually vacuum amplitude $n = 0$, which can be calculated in torus case opposed to sphere case.

$$A_{1,0} = \frac{1}{2} \int_F \frac{d^2\tau}{\tau_2} \langle B\bar{B}C\bar{C} \rangle_{bc} \langle 1 \rangle_X . \quad (25)$$

Matter sector

Using operator formalism

$$\langle 1 \rangle_X = \text{tr} \exp [2\pi i (\tau_1 P + i\tau_2 H)] = \text{tr} \left[q^{L_0 - \frac{c}{24}} \bar{q}^{\bar{L}_0 - \frac{c}{24}} \right] , \quad (26)$$

where $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$, $P = L_0 - \bar{L}_0$, $H = L_0 + \bar{L}_0 - \frac{c}{12}$, and

$$L_0 = \frac{\alpha'}{4} p^2 + \sum_{n>0} \alpha_{-n} \cdot \alpha_n . \quad (27)$$

Note that $e^{-2\pi\tau_2 H}$ is a thermal factor or Euclideanized time translation, and $e^{2\pi i\tau_1 P}$ is a space translation. The result is (homework)

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 1 \rangle_X &= \int \frac{d^D x d^D p}{(2\pi)^D} \exp \left(-4\pi\tau_2 \frac{\alpha'}{4} p^2 \right) \left| \frac{q^{-\frac{1}{24}}}{\prod_{n \geq 1} (1 - q^n)} \right|^{2D} \\ &= i \frac{V_{26}}{(2\pi l_s)^{26}} (\tau_2)^{-13} |\eta(\tau)|^{-52} , \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

where $l_s = \sqrt{\alpha'}$, and $\eta(\tau) = q^{\frac{1}{24}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)$. i in the second line is from Wick-rotation of space-time momentum $p^0 \rightarrow ip_E^0$, which is needed to define Gaussian integral.

Ghost sector

Similarly,

$$\langle B\bar{B}C\bar{C} \rangle_{bc} = \text{tr} \left[(-1)^F b_0 \bar{b}_0 c_0 \bar{c}_0 q^{L_0 - \frac{c}{24}} \bar{q}^{\bar{L}_0 - \frac{c}{24}} \right] \quad (29)$$

with $c = -26$ and $L_0 = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} (n : b_{-n} c_n :) - 1$. F is a fermion number operator; $F = 1$ for fermion and $F = 0$ for boson, and hence, $(-1)^F$ anti-commutes with fermions and commutes with boson. The eigenvalue of $(-1)^F$ for a vacuum depends on the situation; usually it is $+1$, namely, $(-1)^F |0\rangle = |0\rangle$. However, there is an example gives minus sign as we saw in the previous lecture; NS sector vacuum is fermionic $(-1)^F |0\rangle_{\text{NS}} = -|0\rangle_{\text{NS}}$. This sign operator $(-1)^F$ ensures periodic boundary condition:

$$\text{tr} [(-1)^F \Psi_1 \Psi_2] \rightarrow \text{tr} [(-1)^F (-1) \Psi_2 \Psi_1] \rightarrow \text{tr} [(-1)^2 \Psi_2 (-1)^F \Psi_1] \rightarrow \text{tr} [(-1)^F \Psi_1 \Psi_2] . \quad (30)$$

The result is (homework)

$$\langle B\bar{B}C\bar{C} \rangle_{bc} = q^{-1 - \frac{c}{24}} \bar{q}^{-1 - \frac{c}{24}} \prod_{n \geq 1} (1 - q^n)^2 (1 - \bar{q}^n)^2 = |\eta(\tau)|^4 . \quad (31)$$

So, the final result is

$$A_{1,0} = \frac{iV}{(2\pi l_s)^{26}} \int_F \frac{d^2\tau}{2\tau_2} (\tau_2)^{-13} |\eta(\tau)|^{-48} . \quad (32)$$

Comments:

- There is no UV divergence (see Fig. and recall the naive argument).
- $|\eta(\tau)|^{-48} \simeq |q^{-1} + 24 + \mathcal{O}(q)|^2$, which shows correct spectrum of a closed string.
- The torus partition function is **modular invariant** (homework).

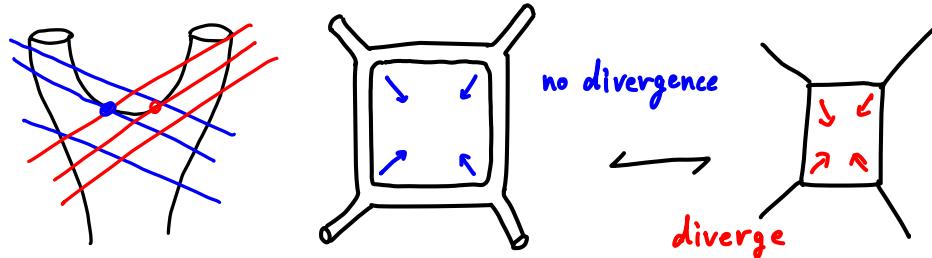


Fig. 10: Naive explanation of no UV divergence in string theory.

2.3 Torus partition functions for superstring

As we saw in bosonic string case, 1-loop (torus) partition function indicates many informations on the theories, and requires some properties. For example, the moduar

invariance is one of such requirement. Modular invariance for superstring requires GSO projection, which we naively introduced.

Torus partition function for Type II theories can be written as follows

$$Z = \frac{iV_{10}}{(2\pi l_s)^{10}} \int \frac{d^2\tau}{2\tau_2^2} \frac{1}{\tau_2^4 |\eta(\tau)|^{16}} Z_F(\tau) \tilde{Z}_F(\tau^*) , \quad (33)$$

where Z_F is ψ contribution and \tilde{Z}_F is $\tilde{\psi}$ contribution. Since Z_F and \tilde{Z}_F is symmetric we just focus on the former. It is, in Hamilton formalism, written as follows.

$$Z_F(\tau) = Z_{\text{NS}}^+ + Z_{\text{NS}}^- + e^{i\theta} Z_{\text{R}}^+ + e^{i\theta} Z_{\text{R}}^- , \quad (34)$$

$$Z_S^\pm = \text{tr} [(\pm)^F e^{2\pi i \tau H_S}] , \quad (35)$$

where S is either NS or R, θ is a relative phase compared to NS-sector (since the NS & R are disconnected Fock spaces there may be non-trivial phase for the partition function), F is a fermion number, and the superscript is an option for periodicity of world-sheet time t direction ($-$ is periodic). The “Hamiltonian”s for fermions (in light-cone gauge) are

$$H_{\text{NS}} = L_0 - \frac{c}{24} = \sum_{r=\frac{1}{2}}^{\infty} r \psi_{-r} \cdot \psi_r - \frac{D-2}{48} , \quad (36)$$

$$H_{\text{R}} = L_0 - \frac{c}{24} = \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} r \psi_{-r} \cdot \psi_r + \frac{D-2}{24} , \quad (37)$$

where D should be 10 for superstring, and light-cone gauge means that the space-time indices i runs from 2 to 8, e.g. $\psi \cdot \psi = \sum_{i=2}^8 \psi^i \psi^i$ (0 and 1 are combined into $+$ and $-$).

Let us see the result. Derivation for NS sector should be straightforward, on the other hand, R sector has vacuum degeneracies

$$|\mathbf{s}; k\rangle = |s_0, s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4; k\rangle , \quad (38)$$

where $s_i = \pm \frac{1}{2}$. Choice for s_0 is a choice of **16** or **16'**, and we chose $s_0 = +\frac{1}{2}$ required by BRST quantization (Dirac equation). The other choices of s_i ($i \neq 0$) simply give degeneracies of $2^4 = 16$. Note that $(-1)^F |\mathbf{s}; k\rangle = (-1)^{\mathbf{1} \cdot (\mathbf{1}-2\mathbf{s})/2} |\mathbf{s}; k\rangle$, where $\mathbf{1} \cdot (\mathbf{1}-2\mathbf{s})/2 = \sum_{i=0}^4 (\frac{1}{2} - s_i)$. Therefore,

$$\langle \mathbf{s}; k | (\pm 1)^F | \mathbf{s}; k \rangle = \begin{cases} 16 & \text{for } + \text{ sign} \\ +0 & \text{for } - \text{ sign, and } s_0 = \frac{1}{2} \\ -0 & \text{for } - \text{ sign, and } s_0 = -\frac{1}{2} \end{cases} , \quad (39)$$

where sum over s_i ($i = 1, 2, 3, 4$) is understood. In the end, the partition functions are

$$Z_{\text{NS}}^+ = \text{tr} [e^{2\pi i \tau H_{\text{NS}}}] = q^{-\frac{1}{6}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 + q^{n-\frac{1}{2}})^8 = \left(\frac{\vartheta_3(\tau)}{\eta(\tau)} \right)^4, \quad (40)$$

$$Z_{\text{NS}}^- = \text{tr} [(-1)^F e^{2\pi i \tau H_{\text{NS}}}] = \pm q^{-\frac{1}{6}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^{n-\frac{1}{2}})^8 = \pm \left(\frac{\vartheta_4(\tau)}{\eta(\tau)} \right)^4, \quad (41)$$

$$Z_{\text{R}}^+ = \text{tr} [e^{2\pi i \tau H_{\text{R}}}] = 16q^{\frac{1}{3}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 + q^n)^8 = \left(\frac{\vartheta_2(\tau)}{\eta(\tau)} \right)^4, \quad (42)$$

$$Z_{\text{R}}^- = \text{tr} [(-1)^F e^{2\pi i \tau H_{\text{R}}}] = \pm 0q^{\frac{1}{3}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)^8 = \pm \left(\frac{\vartheta_1(\tau)}{\eta(\tau)} \right)^4 = 0, \quad (43)$$

where $q = e^{2\pi i \tau}$, and the special functions are summarized in Appendix. Note that the \pm in Z_{NS}^- is coming from the vacuum fermion/boson statistics, namely,

$$(-1)^F |0\rangle_{\text{NS}} = \pm |0\rangle_{\text{NS}}. \quad (44)$$

In the previous lecture we set $(-1)^F |0\rangle_{\text{NS}} = -|0\rangle_{\text{NS}}$ (actually it was because of ghost vacuum) so that the tachyon state is removed from the physical states. Here it is required because of modular invariance as follows. $Z_F(\tau)$ becomes

$$Z_F(\tau) = \frac{1}{\eta^4(\tau)} \{ e^{i\theta} (\vartheta_2(\tau))^4 + (\vartheta_3(\tau))^4 \pm (\vartheta_4(\tau))^4 \} \quad (45)$$

Note that each term is not modular invariant (see Appendix), therefore, we need a specific combinations of them, and the correct one is

$$Z_F(\tau) = \frac{1}{\eta^4(\tau)} \{ -(\vartheta_2(\tau))^4 + (\vartheta_3(\tau))^4 - (\vartheta_4(\tau))^4 \} = 0. \quad (46)$$

This is called Jacobi identity (or Riemann identity).

Comments:

- The partition function is trivial due to supersymmetry (fermionic and bosonic contributions cancel each other).
- The partition function is modular invariant because it is independent of τ (actually it is zero).
- The combination derived above is nothing but GSO projection (see below).

The combination can be written as follows

$$\begin{aligned} & 2\text{tr} \left[\frac{1 + (-1)^F}{2} e^{2\pi i \tau H_{\text{NS}}} \right] - 2\text{tr} \left[\frac{1 \pm (-1)^F}{2} e^{2\pi i \tau H_{\text{R}}} \right] \\ &= 2\text{tr} [P_{\text{GSO}}^{\text{NS}} e^{2\pi i \tau H_{\text{NS}}}] - 2\text{tr} [P_{\text{GSO}}^{\text{R}} e^{2\pi i \tau H_{\text{R}}}], \end{aligned} \quad (47)$$

where GSO projections are

$$P_{\text{GSO}}^{\text{NS}} = \frac{1 + (-1)^F}{2} \quad \text{NS sector}, \quad (48)$$

$$P_{\text{GSO}}^{\text{R}\pm} = \frac{1 \pm (-1)^F}{2} \quad \text{R}\pm \text{ sector}, \quad (49)$$

where \pm in R-sector is an option for $\mathbf{8}_s$ or $\mathbf{8}_c$ (one can understand this as a choice of s_1). NS- sector can be defined by $P_{\text{GSO}}^{\text{NS-}} = \frac{1-(-1)^F}{2}$ includes tachyon, hence we never consider. Note that \pm in the sectors (e.g. R \pm sector) is different from the superscript of the partition functions Z_S^\pm . Also note that the definition of the GSO projection operator is different in some textbook.

A Special functions

The special functions we have used in the text are summarized below. You can also consult with Polchinski [Pol98, Sec. 7.2] or Blumenhagen & Plauschinn [BP09, Sec. 4.2].

The infinite product form of them are

$$\eta(\tau) = q^{\frac{1}{24}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n) , \quad (50)$$

$$\vartheta_2(\tau) = 2q^{\frac{1}{8}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)(1 + q^n)^2 , \quad (51)$$

$$\vartheta_3(\tau) = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)(1 + q^{n-\frac{1}{2}})^2 , \quad (52)$$

$$\vartheta_4(\tau) = \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)(1 - q^{n-\frac{1}{2}})^2 , \quad (53)$$

where $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$. The first one is called Dedekind eta function, the others are called (Jacobi or elliptic or simply without these) theta functions.

Their T-transformations are

$$\eta(\tau + 1) = e^{i\pi/12} \eta(\tau) , \quad (54)$$

$$\vartheta_2(\tau + 1) = e^{i\pi/4} \vartheta_2(\tau) , \quad (55)$$

$$\vartheta_3(\tau + 1) = \vartheta_4(\tau) , \quad (56)$$

$$\vartheta_4(\tau + 1) = \vartheta_3(\tau) . \quad (57)$$

Their S-transformations are

$$\eta(-1/\tau) = \sqrt{-i\tau} \eta(\tau) , \quad (58)$$

$$\vartheta_2(-1/\tau) = \sqrt{-i\tau} \vartheta_4(\tau) , \quad (59)$$

$$\vartheta_3(-1/\tau) = \sqrt{-i\tau} \vartheta_3(\tau) , \quad (60)$$

$$\vartheta_4(-1/\tau) = \sqrt{-i\tau} \vartheta_2(\tau) . \quad (61)$$

There two important identities. One is already explained in the main text, called Jacobi identity:

$$(\vartheta_3(\tau))^4 = (\vartheta_2(\tau))^4 + (\vartheta_4(\tau))^4 . \quad (62)$$

The other is called Jacobi triple product identity:

$$\vartheta_2(\tau) \vartheta_3(\tau) \vartheta_4(\tau) = 2\eta^3(\tau) , \quad (63)$$

from which you can show the modular transformation of the Dedekind eta function.

References

- [Pol98] J. Polchinski. String theory. Vol. 1. Cambridge University Press, 1998. [11](#)
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