

# Geometry of supergravity and the Batalin–Vilkovisky formulation of the $\mathcal{N} = 1$ theory in 10 dimensions

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w/ Julian Kupka and Charles Strickland-Constable

2410.16046, 2412.04968, 2501.18008, 2508.06398

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- inclusion of the Yang–Mills supermultiplets for free
- fully geometric

## **Second simplification = metric formulation**

- direct and geometric (including the diffeomorphism action on fermions)
- avoids vielbeine and Lorentz symmetry
  - $\implies$  considerably simplifies the symmetry structure
- equally applicable to supergravities in any dimension

# $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supergravity in 10 dimensions

- Lorentzian metric  $g_{\mu\nu}$  (graviton)
- 2-form  $B_{\mu\nu}$  (Kalb–Ramond field)
- 1-form  $A_\mu$  valued in  $\mathfrak{g}$  (gauge field)
- function  $\varphi$  (dilaton)
- vector-spinor  $\psi^\mu$  (gravitino)
- spinor  $\rho$  (dilatino;  $\rho = \gamma_\mu \psi^\mu - \lambda$ )
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$$\begin{aligned} \delta g_{\mu\nu} &= \bar{\epsilon} \gamma_{(\mu} \psi_{\nu)} & \delta B_{\mu\nu} &= \bar{\epsilon} \gamma_{[\mu} \psi_{\nu]} - \text{Tr} A_{[\mu} \bar{\epsilon} \gamma_{\nu]} \chi & \delta \rho &= -\not{\nabla} \epsilon + (\nabla_\mu \varphi) \gamma^\mu \epsilon + \frac{1}{4} \not{H} \epsilon + \dots \\ \delta A_\mu &= -\frac{1}{2} \bar{\epsilon} \gamma_\mu \chi & \delta \varphi &= \frac{1}{4} \bar{\rho} \epsilon - \frac{1}{4} \bar{\psi}^\mu \gamma_\mu \epsilon & \delta \psi_\mu &= \nabla_\mu \epsilon - \frac{1}{4} \not{H}_\mu \epsilon + \dots & \delta \chi &= \frac{1}{2} \not{F} \epsilon + \dots \end{aligned}$$

[Bergshoeff–de Roo–de Wit–van Nieuwenhuizen '82] [Chapline–Manton '83] [Dine–Rohm–Seiberg–Witten '85]



# Generalised geometry crashcourse

[Coimbra–Strickland–Constable–Waldram '11]

[Coimbra–Minasian–Triendl–Waldram '14]

## Transitive Courant algebroid (local picture) [Ševera '90s]:

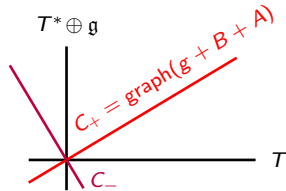
- data: manifold  $M = \mathbb{R}^{10}$ , Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$  with an invariant pairing  $\text{Tr}$
- vector bundle:  $E = TM \oplus T^*M \oplus (\mathfrak{g} \times M)$ ,  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ ,  $E \rightarrow TM$
- bracket:  $[x + \alpha + s, y + \beta + t] = L_x y + (L_x \beta - i_y d\alpha + \text{Tr } t ds) + (L_x t - L_y s + [s, t]_{\mathfrak{g}})$

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## Bosonic fields

- generalised metric = symmetric map  $\mathcal{G}: E \rightarrow E$  s.t.  $\mathcal{G}^2 = 1$   
 $\rightsquigarrow$  orthogonal splitting  $E = C_+ \oplus C_-$
- nonzero half-density  $\sigma \in \Gamma(H)$  ( $\sigma^2 = \sqrt{|g|} e^{-2\varphi}$ )



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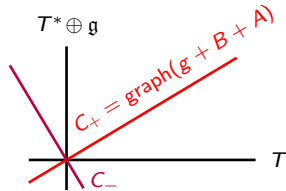
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## Fermionic fields

- assume  $\text{signature}(C_+) = (9, 1) \rightsquigarrow$  Majorana–Weyl spinor bundles  $S_{\pm}^{C_+}$
- $\rho \in \Gamma(\Pi S_+^{C_+} \otimes H)$ ,  $\psi \in \Gamma(\Pi S_-^{C_+} \otimes C_- \otimes H)$  (SuSy parameter  $\epsilon \in \Gamma(\Pi S_-^{C_+} \otimes H)$ )

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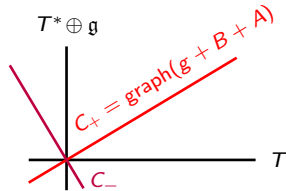
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**Unique operators** (only depending on  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\sigma$ ):  $\mathcal{R}, \not{D}\psi^\alpha, D_\alpha \rho, \dots$  ( $e_a, e_\alpha \leftrightarrow C_+, C_-$ )

# Supergravity in generalised geometry

$$S = \int_M \mathcal{R}\sigma^2 + \bar{\psi}_\alpha \not{D}\psi^\alpha + \bar{\rho} \not{D}\rho + 2\bar{\rho} D_\alpha \psi^\alpha \\ - \frac{1}{768} \sigma^{-2} (\bar{\psi}_\alpha \gamma_{cde} \psi^\alpha) (\bar{\rho} \gamma^{cde} \rho) - \frac{1}{384} \sigma^{-2} (\bar{\psi}_\alpha \gamma_{cde} \psi^\alpha) (\bar{\psi}_\beta \gamma^{cde} \psi^\beta)$$

$$\delta_\epsilon \mathcal{G}_{a\beta} = \frac{1}{2} \sigma^{-2} (\bar{\epsilon} \gamma_a \psi_\beta)$$

$$\delta_\epsilon \sigma = \frac{1}{8} \sigma^{-1} (\bar{\rho} \epsilon)$$

$$\delta_\epsilon \rho = \not{D}\epsilon + \frac{1}{192} \sigma^{-2} (\bar{\psi}_\alpha \gamma_{cde} \psi^\alpha) \gamma^{cde} \epsilon$$

$$\delta_\epsilon \psi_\alpha = D_\alpha \epsilon + \frac{1}{8} \sigma^{-2} (\bar{\psi}_\alpha \rho) \epsilon + \frac{1}{8} \sigma^{-2} (\bar{\psi}_\alpha \gamma_c \epsilon) \gamma^c \rho$$

[Siegel '93] [Coimbra–Strickland–Constable–Waldram '11] [Kupka–Strickland–Constable–FV '24]  
 [Coimbra–Minasian–Triendl–Waldram '14]

# Going back

$$\begin{aligned}
 S = \int_M \sqrt{|g|} e^{-2\varphi} & \left( R + 4|\nabla\varphi|^2 - \frac{1}{12} H_{\mu\nu\rho} H^{\mu\nu\rho} + \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \bar{\psi}^\mu \not{\nabla} \psi_\mu + \rho \not{\nabla} \rho \right. \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \bar{\chi} \not{\nabla}_A \chi - 2\bar{\psi}^\mu \nabla_\mu \rho + \frac{1}{4} \bar{\psi}^\mu \not{H} \psi_\mu - \frac{1}{4} \bar{\rho} \not{H} \rho - \frac{1}{8} \text{Tr} \bar{\chi} \not{H} \chi \\
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 & + \frac{1}{384} (\bar{\psi}_\mu \gamma_{\nu\rho\sigma} \psi^\mu) (\bar{\rho} \gamma^{\nu\rho\sigma} \rho) - \frac{1}{768} (\bar{\rho} \gamma^{\mu\nu\rho} \rho) \text{Tr}(\bar{\chi} \gamma_{\mu\nu\rho} \chi) \\
 & - \frac{1}{192} (\bar{\psi}_\mu \gamma_{\rho\sigma\tau} \psi^\mu) (\bar{\psi}_\nu \gamma^{\rho\sigma\tau} \psi^\nu) + \frac{1}{192} (\bar{\psi}_\mu \gamma_{\nu\rho\sigma} \psi^\mu) \text{Tr}(\bar{\chi} \gamma^{\nu\rho\sigma} \chi) \\
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$$\delta A_\mu = -\frac{1}{2} \bar{\epsilon} \gamma_\mu \chi \quad \delta \varphi = \frac{1}{4} \bar{\rho} \epsilon - \frac{1}{4} \bar{\psi}^\mu \gamma_\mu \epsilon$$

$$\delta \rho = -\not{\nabla} \epsilon + (\nabla_\mu \varphi) \gamma^\mu \epsilon + \frac{1}{4} \not{H} \epsilon + \frac{1}{96} (\bar{\psi}_\mu \gamma_{\nu\rho\sigma} \psi^\mu) \gamma^{\nu\rho\sigma} \epsilon + \frac{1}{4} (\bar{\rho} \epsilon) \rho - \frac{1}{192} \text{Tr}(\bar{\chi} \gamma_{\mu\nu\rho} \chi) \gamma^{\mu\nu\rho} \epsilon$$

$$\delta \psi_\mu = \nabla_\mu \epsilon - \frac{1}{8} H_{\mu\nu\rho} \gamma^{\nu\rho} \epsilon - \frac{1}{4} (\bar{\psi}_\mu \rho) \epsilon - \frac{1}{4} (\bar{\psi}_\mu \gamma_\nu \epsilon) \gamma^\nu \rho + \frac{1}{4} (\bar{\rho} \epsilon) \psi_\mu$$

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# Supersymmetry algebra [Kupka–Strickland–Constable–FV '25]

**Generalised diffeomorphisms:**  $\zeta \in \Gamma(E)$ ,  $\delta_\zeta = \mathcal{L}_\zeta$  (diffeo + 1-form + gauge)



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$$\zeta^a := \frac{1}{4}\sigma^{-2}(\bar{\epsilon}_2\gamma^a\epsilon_1), \quad \epsilon := -\frac{1}{2}\not{\zeta}\rho, \quad \mathcal{O}_\rho = -\frac{1}{4}\not{\zeta}, \quad \mathcal{O}_\psi = \frac{1}{8}\epsilon[2\bar{\epsilon}_1] - \frac{1}{4}\not{\zeta}, \quad \mathcal{O}_\sigma = \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{G}} = 0$$

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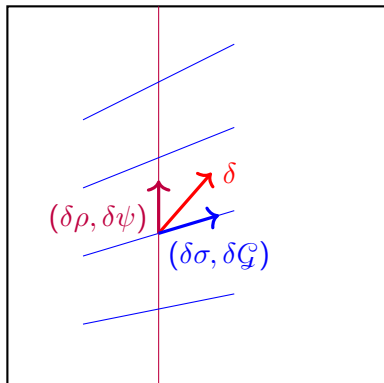
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**Field space:**

|                                                                 |                    |                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| $\{\text{all fields}\} \ni \{\mathcal{G}, \sigma, \rho, \psi\}$ | $\rightsquigarrow$ | natural non-flat connection |
| $\downarrow$                                                    |                    |                             |
| $\{\text{bosons}\} \ni \{\mathcal{G}, \sigma\}$                 |                    |                             |

# Interpretation of symmetry variations

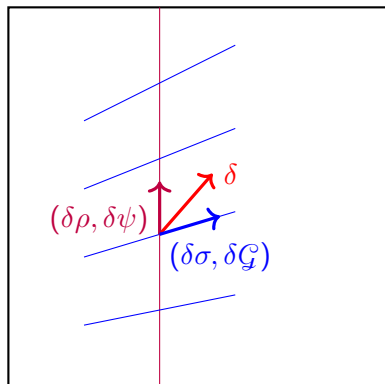


all fields

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bosonic fields

# Interpretation of symmetry variations



all fields

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bosonic fields

$\Rightarrow [\delta_1, \delta_2]$  on fermions picks curvature contribution  $\rightsquigarrow$  “cancellation” of Lorentz terms

# BV formulation of supergravity [Kupka–Strickland–Constable–FV '25]

**Fields:** physical  $\mathcal{G}, \sigma, \rho, \psi$ , ghosts  $e$  (SuSy),  $\xi$  (diffeo), ghost for ghost  $f$  + antifields

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 \end{aligned}$$

**Claim:** This satisfies the classical master equation  $\{S, S\} = 0$ .



# Conclusions and remarks

- Completion of the program of simplifying  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  supergravity via generalised geometry.
- Allows a (reasonably short) check of supersymmetry by hand.
- First BV formulation of higher-dimensional supergravity in a background independent way.
- Confirmation that gen. geometry provides natural variables for string massless sector.

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