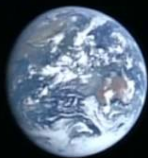


Free fall in quantum geometry and gravity from the odd sheet



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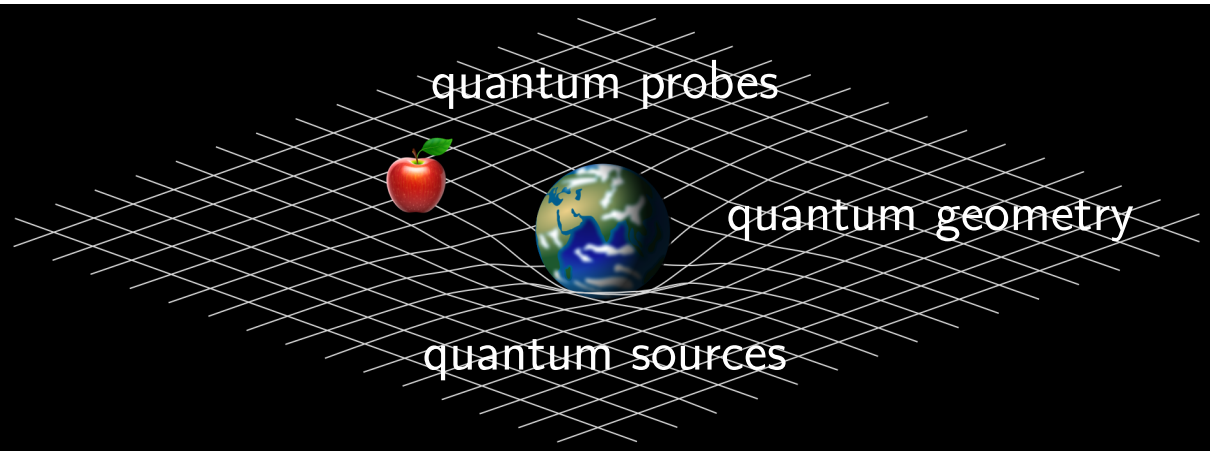
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free falling



universality of gravity allows purely geometric description: gravity = free fall in curved spacetime

$$\frac{d^2 x^\mu}{d\tau^2} + \Gamma_{\alpha\beta}^\mu \frac{dx^\alpha}{d\tau} \frac{dx^\beta}{d\tau} = 0$$



quantum inertial mass vs. passive gravitational mass vs. active gravitational mass (energy)
quantum non-locality, quantum equivalence principle?
(in low energy quantum gravity regime)

interaction via deformation

Interaction via deformation: a unified description of forces & useful method

- ▶ classical: “gravity = free fall in curved spacetime” 
→ let's extend this idea to all forces! (algebraic approach)
- ▶ quantum: “gravity = free fall in quantum geometry”
→ free Hamiltonian, deformed quantum algebra $[\text{🍏}, \text{🍎}] \neq 0$
- ▶ example electromagnetism, generalizes ordinary gauge theory: magnetic sources ok
methods originally developed for noncommutative gauge theory, Seiberg-Witten maps
- ▶ gauge theory recovered via Moser's lemma:
deformation maps are not unique $\Rightarrow$ gauge symmetry
- ▶ gravity requires **graded geometry**



gravity as free fall in quantum geometry

$$\{\theta^\mu, \theta^\nu\} = 2\mathbf{g}^{\mu\nu}(x)$$

graded spacetime mechanics

$\Rightarrow$ Graded Poisson algebra on NP-supermanifold $T^*[2] \oplus T[1] M$, deformed by metric:
 $p_\mu \quad \theta^\mu \quad x^\mu$

$$\{\theta^\mu_1, \theta^\nu_1\} = 2g^{\mu\nu}_0(x) \quad \{p_\mu_2, x^\nu_0\} = \delta^\nu_{0\mu} \quad \{p_\mu, f(x)\} = \partial_\mu f(x)$$

Poisson bracket of degree -2 , θ^μ of degree 1, p_μ of degree 2; grading fixes all further structure:

$$\{p_\mu_2, \theta^\alpha_1\} = \Gamma^\alpha_{\mu\beta}(x) \theta^\beta_1 =: \nabla_\mu \theta^\alpha \quad (\text{connection})$$

associativity (Jacobi identity) $\Rightarrow$ metric connection (Weitzenböck, Levi-Civita, etc.):

$$\partial_\mu g^{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2} \{p_\mu, \{\theta^\alpha, \theta^\beta\}\} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\{\{p_\mu, \theta^\alpha\}, \theta^\beta\} + \{\theta^\alpha, \{p_\mu, \theta^\beta\}\} \right) = \Gamma^\alpha_{\mu\gamma} g^{\gamma\beta} + \Gamma^\beta_{\mu\gamma} g^{\alpha\gamma}$$

curvature and Riemann tensor

$$\{\{p_\mu, p_\nu\}, \theta^\alpha\} = [\nabla_\mu, \nabla_\nu] \theta^\alpha = \theta^\beta R^\alpha_{\beta\mu\nu} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \{p_\mu_2, p_\nu_2\} = \frac{1}{4} \theta^\beta_1 \theta^\alpha_1 R_{\beta\alpha\mu\nu}$$

symmetries = canonical transformations

- ▶ generator of degree 2 (degree-preserving):

$$v^\alpha(x)p_\alpha + \frac{1}{2}\Omega_{\alpha\beta}(x)\theta^\alpha\theta^\beta \rightsquigarrow \text{metric-preserving "local Poincare"}$$

- ▶ generators of degree 1:

$$V = V_\alpha(x)\theta^\alpha \rightsquigarrow \{V, W\} = 2g(V, W) \quad \text{Clifford algebra, metric structure}$$

- ▶ generators of degree 3:

$$\Theta = \theta^\alpha p_\alpha \quad \left(+ \frac{1}{6} C_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \theta^\alpha \theta^\beta \theta^\gamma \right) \quad \text{Dirac operator (+ background 3-flux)}$$

- ▶ generators of degree 4:

$$H = \frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu}(x)p_\mu p_\nu + \frac{1}{2}\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\beta(x)\theta^\mu\theta^\nu p_\beta + \frac{1}{16}R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}(x)\theta^\alpha\theta^\beta\theta^\mu\theta^\nu \quad \text{Hamiltonian}$$

$$\rightsquigarrow \text{SUSY algebra} \quad \frac{1}{4}\{\Theta, \Theta\} = H$$

Dynamics (for particle with spin) via square of Dirac operator $\Theta = \theta^\mu p_\mu$

$$\frac{dA}{d\tau} = \frac{1}{2M} \{\Theta, \{\Theta, A\}\} = \frac{1}{2M} \{\{\Theta, \Theta\}, A\} - \frac{1}{2M} \{\Theta, \{\Theta, A\}\} =: \{H, A\}$$

and *derived* Hamiltonian

$$H = \frac{1}{4M} \{\Theta, \Theta\} = \frac{1}{2M} g^{\mu\nu} p_\mu p_\nu + \frac{1}{2M} \theta^\mu \theta^\nu \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\beta p_\beta + \frac{1}{16M} \theta^\alpha \theta^\beta \theta^\mu \theta^\nu R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}$$

For a torsion-less connection, or particle without spin, only the first term is non-zero.

Equations of motion (without spin)

${}^g\Gamma$: any metric-compatible connection (e.g. Weitzenböck, Levi-Civita)

$$\frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau} = \frac{1}{2M} \{ \Theta, \{ \Theta, x^\mu \} \} = \{ \frac{1}{2M} g^{\alpha\beta} p_\alpha p_\beta, x^\mu \} = g^{\mu\nu} p_\nu / M \quad (M \text{ "inertial"})$$

$$\frac{dp_\mu}{d\tau} = \{ \frac{1}{2M} g^{\alpha\beta} p_\alpha p_\beta, p_\mu \} = -\frac{1}{2M} (\partial_\mu g^{\alpha\beta}) p_\alpha p_\beta = -{}^g\Gamma_{\mu\alpha\beta} M \dot{x}^\alpha \dot{x}^\beta \quad (M \text{ "gravitational"})$$

$\Rightarrow$ Geodesic equation: (Levi-Civita connection appears automatically, M cancels)

$$\frac{d^2 x^\mu}{d\tau^2} = \{ \frac{1}{2M} g^{\alpha\beta} p_\alpha p_\beta, g^{\mu\nu} p_\nu \} = -\frac{dx^\alpha}{d\tau} {}^{LC}\Gamma_{\alpha\beta}{}^\mu \frac{dx^\beta}{d\tau}$$

Including spin and torsion, leads to Mathisson–Papapetrou–Dixon type equations.

Quantum Equivalence (proposal)

motivated by analogy “(curved, framed) spacetime $\leftrightarrow$ (deformed, graded) quantum algebra”

“The effect of a gravitational background on a local quantum systems is equivalent to a universal deformation of the underlying extended quantum algebra.”

local: point test particles, local quantum fields

universal: this is the main point: independence of mass and other intrinsic properties

extended: the quantum algebra may need a graded extension to capture gravity effects

Strong QEP: replace “quantum system” by “quantum gravitational system”

gravity and double geometry

$$\mathcal{G} = g + B \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{G} = \begin{pmatrix} g^{-1} & g^{-1}B \\ -Bg^{-1} & g - Bg^{-1}B \end{pmatrix}$$

double geometry, “strings without strings”

$\rightsquigarrow T^*[2]T[1]M$ instead of $T^*[2] \oplus T[1]M$ (“double up”)

$\rightsquigarrow$ consider generalized geometry instead of ordinary differential geometry

$\rightsquigarrow$ low energy effective gravity actions in a target space approach, fixed by stringy symmetries

$\rightsquigarrow$ bridging high and low energies, bypassing string computations

$\rightsquigarrow$ double and exceptional field theory, exceptional generalized geometry, ...

main player: generalized metric

$$g + B \rightsquigarrow \mathbb{G} = \begin{pmatrix} g^{-1} & g^{-1}B \\ -Bg^{-1} & g - Bg^{-1}B \end{pmatrix}$$

Gravity and generalized geometry from a Lie 2-algebroid perspective

The generalized geometric approach to string gravity theories: Double the geometry, generalize General Relativity. Typical problems: Circular definitions, ambiguities, $\frac{1}{4}H^2$ vs $\frac{1}{12}H^2$, dilaton.

More structure:

Riemann and Torsion tensors in terms of generalized Lie bracket $[[e, e']]$, as part of a Lie 2-algebroid structure (going beyond Courant algebroids)

$$T(e, e') = \nabla_e^E e' - \nabla_{e'}^E e - [[e, e']]$$

$$R(e, e') = \nabla_e^E \nabla_{e'}^E - \nabla_{e'}^E \nabla_e^E - \nabla_{[[e, e']]}$$

with generalized fundamental theorem of Riemannian geometry and Koszul formula.

Given a Lie 2-algebroid, the unique compatible generalised connection reproduces the effective closed string action from a geometric action based on the new generalised Ricci tensor.

soon on arxiv: Chatzistavrakidis, Hull, Jonke, Lavau, PS 2026

cf: Boffo, PS 2020

graded geometry and mixed symmetry tensors

Graded geometry is also a very useful tool for mixed symmetry tensor theories:
Consider e.g. a bi-partite tensor

$$\omega_{p,q} = \frac{1}{p!q!} \omega_{i_1 \dots i_p}^{j_1 \dots j_q}(x) \theta^{i_1} \dots \theta^{i_p} \chi_{j_1} \dots \chi_{j_q}$$

and the natural θ - χ duality transformation

$$\omega_{p,q} \mapsto \tilde{\omega}_{q,p} \quad \text{via} \quad \theta^i \leftrightarrow \chi^i \equiv \eta^{ij} \chi_j.$$

Introduce two differentials

$$d = \theta^i \partial_i \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{d} = \chi^i \partial_i$$

and a generalized Hodge dual

$$(\star \omega)_{D-p,D-q} = \frac{1}{(D-p-q)!} \eta^{D-p-q} \tilde{\omega}_{q,p} \quad \text{where} \quad \eta = \theta^i \chi_i.$$

↪ natural and concise formalism for mixed symmetry tensor actions:

$$\text{general kinetic term} \quad \boxed{\mathcal{L}_{\text{kin}}(\omega_{p,q}) = \int_{\theta,\chi} d\omega \star d\omega} \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}}(\phi_{0,0}) = -\frac{1}{2(D-1)!} \int_{\theta,\chi} \eta^{D-1} \phi \, d\tilde{d} \phi = \frac{1}{2} \phi \square \phi$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Maxwell}}(A_{1,0}) = \frac{1}{2(D-2)!} \int_{\theta,\chi} \eta^{D-2} A \, d\tilde{d} \tilde{A} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{ij} F^{ij}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{LEH}}(h_{[1,1]}) = -\frac{1}{4} \left(h^i{}_i \square h^j{}_j - 2h^k{}_k \partial_i \partial_j h^{ij} + 2h_{ij} \partial^j \partial_k h^{ik} - h_{ij} \square h^{ij} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{Curtright}}(\omega_{[2,1]}) = & \frac{1}{2} \left(\partial_i \omega_{jk|l} \partial^i \omega^{jk|l} - 2\partial_i \omega^{ij|k} \partial^l \omega_{lj|k} - \partial_i \omega^{jk|i} \partial^l \omega_{jk|l} - \right. \\ & \left. - 4\omega_i{}^{j|i} \partial^k \partial^l \omega_{kj|l} - 2\partial_i \omega_j{}^{k|j} \partial^i \omega^l{}_{k|l} + 2\partial_i \omega_j{}^{i|j} \partial^k \omega^l{}_{k|l} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Taylor expansion of geometry

probes of spacetime: let the geometry arise dynamically instead of imposing it

start with first order geometry

$$\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{0|1} \rightarrow M, \quad \Phi^*(x^i) = x^i + \epsilon \theta^i \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad T[1]M$$

local coords: x^i , $\theta^i = dx^i$; $C^\infty(T[1]M) \cong \Omega(M)$ differential forms, integration

perfect setting for gauge theories

generalize to k-th order geometry, jet-like spaces (k-jets, $J^k M$)

$$\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{0|k} \rightarrow M \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad T[1]T[1]\dots T[1]M$$

Denis Kochan, Pavol Ševera: Differential gorms, differential worms, [math/0307303](#)

Pavol Ševera: Differential worms and generalized manifolds, [math/0606645](#)

Taylor expansion of geometry

second order geometry

$$\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{0|2} \rightarrow M, \quad \Phi^*(x^i) = x^i + \epsilon \theta^i + \tilde{\epsilon} \tilde{\theta}^i + \tilde{\epsilon} \epsilon \xi^i \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad T[1]T[1]M$$

$$\text{local coords: } x^i, \theta^i = dx^i, \tilde{\theta}^i = \tilde{d}x^i, \xi^i = d\tilde{d}x^i = d\tilde{\theta}^i = -\tilde{d}\tilde{\theta}^i$$

mixed symmetry tensors, bi-differential calculus, canonical integration

fundamental field: metric “gorm”

$$g = g_{jk}(x) \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k$$

perfect setting for gravity theories

discrete/quantum probes of spacetime

cf. superfield in RNS superstring sigma model on the world sheet $\Sigma^{2|2}$

$$X^\mu(\sigma, \tau, \epsilon, \bar{\epsilon}) = x^\mu(\sigma, \tau) + \epsilon \psi^\mu(\sigma, \tau) + \bar{\epsilon} \tilde{\psi}^\mu(\sigma, \tau) + \epsilon \bar{\epsilon} F^\mu(\sigma, \tau)$$

superstring worldsheet $\rightarrow$ “continuous” quantum probe of spacetime geometry

cf. second order geometry: maps from the odd sheet as discrete probes of spacetime

$$\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{0|2} \rightarrow M, \quad \Phi^*(x^i) = x^i + \epsilon \theta^i + \tilde{\epsilon} \tilde{\theta}^i + \tilde{\epsilon} \epsilon \xi^i \quad \rightsquigarrow \quad T[1]T[1]M$$

$\mathbb{C}$ -functions on the odd sheet ($\epsilon, \tilde{\epsilon}$ of degree -1) $\cong$ entangled 2-qubit state $|\psi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}[\epsilon, \tilde{\epsilon}]$
 $\rightarrow$ “digital” quantum probe of spacetime

$$|\Phi\rangle = x^i |00\rangle + \theta^i |01\rangle + \tilde{\theta}^i |10\rangle + \xi^i |11\rangle$$

Metric gorm: in generic, coordinate, vielbein, flat frame:

$$g = g_{jk} \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k = g_{\mu\nu} \tilde{\theta}^\mu \theta^\nu = e_\mu^a \tilde{\theta}_a \theta^\mu = \eta_{ab} \tilde{\theta}^a \theta^b$$

Poisson structure and its quantization $\rightsquigarrow$ gamma matrices, represented on spinors

$$\{\tilde{\theta}_a, \tilde{\theta}_b\} = 2\eta_{ab} \rightsquigarrow [\gamma_a, \gamma_b]_+ = 2\eta_{ab}$$

In Riemann normal coordinates

$$\tilde{d}dg = -g_{jk} \xi^j \xi^k - \frac{1}{2} R_{ikjl} \tilde{\theta}^l \theta^i \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k$$

used by Kochan and Ševera to express topological invariants ($\rightarrow$ Euler characteristic)

$$\int \exp(\tilde{d}dg) = \frac{1}{2} (-\pi)^{D/2} S_D \chi(M)$$

but no dynamics of gravity: Integrals polynomial in ξ^i are ill-defined.

gravity from the odd sheet

For gravity we must move to $T[1]M \oplus T[1]M$ via a splitting (section) s of

$$0 \longrightarrow \pi^*(T[2]M) \longrightarrow T[1]T[1]M \longrightarrow T[1]M \oplus T[1]M \longrightarrow 0$$

$$s : T[1]M \oplus T[1]M \rightarrow T[1]T[1]M : \quad s^*(\xi^i) = \varphi_{jk}{}^i(x) \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k$$

geometric interpretation: covariant coordinates $\eta^i = \xi^i - \varphi_{jk}{}^i(x) \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k$

→ gravity action

$$\boxed{S_{\text{gravity}} = \int s^*(dg \star dg)}$$

the theory can also be formulated on $T[1]T[1]M$ with $\delta^{(D)}(\eta)$ or a regularized generalization

first order action, quadratic in derivatives of g , polynomial (cf. comments on measure);
uniquely gives Einstein-Hilbert on the critical locus of s^* , there is no Weyl ambiguity

gravity from the odd sheet

The metric gorm naturally accomodates an antisymmetric part

$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_{jk} \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k \equiv (g_{jk} + B_{jk}) \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k$$

$$d\mathcal{G} = \partial_i \mathcal{G}_{jk} \theta^i \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k + \mathcal{G}_{jk} \xi^j \theta^k$$

$$\tilde{d}d\mathcal{G} = \partial_l \partial_i \mathcal{G}_{jk} \tilde{\theta}^l \theta^i \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k - \mathcal{G}_{jk} \xi^j \xi^k + (\partial_j \mathcal{G}_{ik} - \partial_i \mathcal{G}_{jk} + \partial_k \mathcal{G}_{ji}) \xi^i \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k$$

note the quadratic form in ξ^i and via pullback in $s^*(\xi^i) = \varphi^i = \varphi_{kj}{}^i(x) \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k$.

The field equations for φ^i (critical locus) of the action

$$S[\mathcal{G}, s] = \int s^*(\tilde{d}d\mathcal{G} \mathcal{G} g^{D-3}) \sim \int s^*(d\mathcal{G} \star d\mathcal{G})$$

give $\varphi_{kji} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_k \mathcal{G}_{ji} + \partial_j \mathcal{G}_{ik} - \partial_i \mathcal{G}_{jk}) = \overset{\circ}{\Gamma}_{kji} + \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{(\partial_k B_{ji} + \partial_j B_{ik} + \partial_i B_{kj})}_{H_{kji}} =: \Gamma_{kji}$ uniquely
no Weyl or other ambiguities

gravity from the odd sheet

Pulling back to $T[1]M \oplus T[1]M$ via $s^*(\xi^i) = \varphi^i = \varphi_{kj}^i \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k$,

$$s^*(\tilde{d}d\mathcal{G}) = \partial_l \partial_i \mathcal{G}_{jk} \tilde{\theta}^l \theta^i \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k - g_{jk} \varphi^j \varphi^k + \Gamma_{kij} \varphi^i \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k$$

evaluating at the critical locus $\varphi = \overset{\circ}{\Gamma} + \frac{1}{2}H = \Gamma$

$$s^*(\tilde{d}d\mathcal{G}) = (\partial_l \partial_i \mathcal{G}_{jk} + \Gamma_{il}{}^s g_{sr} \Gamma_{kj}{}^r) \tilde{\theta}^l \theta^i \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k$$

Compare the to the usual form of the Riemann tensor:

$$R_{ikj}{}^s = \partial_i \Gamma_{kj}{}^s - \partial_k \Gamma_{ij}{}^s - \Gamma_{ij}{}^r \Gamma_{kr}{}^s + \Gamma_{kj}{}^r \Gamma_{ir}{}^s.$$

Compute $R_{ikj}{}^s g_{sl}$ using $\partial_i g_{sl} + \Gamma_{isl} + \Gamma_{ils} = 0$ (i.e. g -metric, torsion allowed)

$$R_{ikjl} \tilde{\theta}^l \theta^i \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k = -2 (\partial_l \partial_i \mathcal{G}_{jk} + \Gamma_{il}{}^s g_{sr} \Gamma_{kj}{}^r) \tilde{\theta}^l \theta^i \tilde{\theta}^j \theta^k = s^*(-2\tilde{d}d\mathcal{G})$$

gravity from the odd sheet

evaluating the Berezin integrals over $\tilde{\theta}$ and θ leads to a pair of epsilon tensors and together with the factors of g contracts all indices

$$\int s^*(\tilde{d}d\mathcal{G}\mathcal{G}g^{D-3})[d\tilde{\theta}d\theta] \propto \det g R_{ikj}{}^k [g^{-1}(g+B)g^{-1}]^{ij}$$

the $\Gamma\Gamma$ -terms contribute $-\frac{1}{4}H^2$ and integrating $\partial\partial B B$ by parts contributes $+\frac{1}{6}H^2$. Altogether the integrant becomes up to a factor

$$\overset{\circ}{R} - \frac{1}{12}H^2 \quad (\text{where } H^2 \equiv H_{ijk}H^{ijk})$$

the need of the $g+B$ factor was noticed before in other generalized geometry computations

cf. Khoo, Vysoky, Jurco, Boffo, PS

gravity from the odd sheet

Integration measure

$$S_{\text{gravity}} = \int s^*(dg \star dg)$$

Integration on $T[1]T[1]M$ with integral measure $[dx d\xi | d\tilde{\theta} d\theta]$ is canonical with Berezinian 1.

On $T[1]M \oplus T[1]M$ we inherit the freedom in choice of measure $[d\xi]$, via a scalar ϕ (dilaton) as

$$e^{-2\phi} (-|g|)^{-\frac{1}{2}} [dx | d\tilde{\theta} d\theta]$$

The Berezinian integrations will contribute a factor $\det g$ resulting in $e^{-2\phi} \sqrt{-\det g}$.

The theory there is no freedom beyond field redefinition.

The canonical setup is compatible with a measure based on the metric g . To maintain compatibility with the dilaton, we must rescale g . There are $D - 1$ factors of g , thus

$$g \mapsto g e^{-2\phi/(D-1)}$$

gravity from the odd sheet

... leading to a term

$$\left(\frac{2}{D-1}\right)^2 g d\phi g d\tilde{\phi} g^{D-3}$$

contributing

$$4(\partial\phi)^2.$$

to the action, where $gd\phi$ evaluates to

$$g_{ij}\partial_k\phi\theta^j\tilde{\theta}^i\theta^k = \frac{1}{2}(g_{ij}\partial_k\phi - g_{ik}\partial_j\phi)\theta^j\tilde{\theta}^i\theta^k$$

contorsion term

$$K_{ij}{}^k = -\frac{2}{D-1}(\delta_i^k\partial_j\phi - g_{ij}\partial^k\phi) \quad \text{with trace} \quad K_{ij}{}^i = -2\partial_j\phi$$

gravity from the odd sheet

in summary. . .

From the new YM-style quadratic (in dg) first order gravity action

$$S_{\text{gravity}} = \int s^*(dg \star dg),$$

including B as an antisymmetric companion for g and accounting for the ξ integration measure freedom by the dilaton via $\exp(-2\phi)$, we obtain

$$S[g, B, \phi] = \int e^{-2\phi} \sqrt{-|g|} \left(\overset{\circ}{R} - \frac{1}{12} H^2 + 4(\partial\phi)^2 \right)$$

in a direct, straightforward, unambiguous computation.

Geometric structure arises dynamically, it is not an input.

Conclusion

- ▶ algebra vs geometry: description of forces including gravity as “free fall in quantum geometry” with associativity and grading as guiding principles
- ▶ suggests a quantum equivalence principle
- ▶ gravity from the odd sheet: new first order (polynomial) gravity action quadratic in dg
- ▶ very simple and rigid, reproduces effective string action
- ▶ outlook: work “upstairs” on $T[1]T[1]M$, generalize, study BV, quantization

Thanks for listening!