

Introductory School on
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS
IN SUPERSYMMETRIC GAUGE THEORIES

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INSTANTON PHYSICS
(Part III)

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zero modes. Then we derive an explicit formulae for the appropriate supersymmetric volume form on \mathfrak{M}_k .

4.1. Action, supersymmetry and equations-of-motion

We start by defining theories in four-dimensional Minkowski space with $\mathcal{N} = 1, 2$ and 4 supersymmetry. In the interests of brevity we will develop a unified notion that allows us to deal with all these cases together. To this end, we introduce the fermionic partners of the gauge field λ^A and $\bar{\lambda}_A$. Here, $A = 1, \dots, \mathcal{N}$ is an R -symmetry index of the supersymmetry. Since we are working—at least initially—in Minkowski space, these spinors are subject to the reality conditions

$$(\lambda_\alpha^A)^\dagger = \bar{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}A}, \quad (\bar{\lambda}_A^{\dot{\alpha}})^\dagger = \lambda^{\alpha A} \quad (\alpha = \dot{\alpha}). \quad (4.12)$$

In addition, for the theories with extended supersymmetry there are real scalar fields ϕ_a , $a = 1, \dots, 2(\mathcal{N} - 1)$. The Minkowski space action is²¹

$$S^{\text{Mink}} = \int d^4x \text{tr}_N \left\{ \frac{1}{2} F_{mn}^2 + \frac{i\theta g^2}{16\pi^2} F_{mn}^* F^{mn} + 2i \mathcal{D}_n \bar{\lambda}_A \bar{\sigma}^n \lambda^A - \mathcal{D}^n \phi_a \mathcal{D}_n \phi_a \right. \\ \left. + g \bar{\lambda}_A \Sigma_a^{AB} [\phi_a, \bar{\lambda}_B] + g \lambda^A \bar{\Sigma}_{aAB} [\phi_a, \lambda^B] + \frac{1}{2} g^2 [\phi_a, \phi_b]^2 \right\}. \quad (4.13)$$

The terms involving the scalar fields are, of course, absent in the $\mathcal{N} = 1$ theory. The Σ -matrices are associated to the $SU(2)$ and $SU(4)$ R -symmetry group of the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ and 4 theories, respectively. For $\mathcal{N} = 2$ we take

$$\Sigma_a^{AB} = \varepsilon^{AB}(i, 1), \quad \bar{\Sigma}_{aAB} = \varepsilon_{AB}(-i, 1). \quad (4.14)$$

In this case the indices $A, B, \dots = 1, 2$ are spinor indices of the $SU(2)$ subgroup of the $U(1) \times SU(2)$ R -symmetry group. In this case, we can raise and lower the indices using the ε -tensor in the usual way following the conventions of [47]. For the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ case

$$\Sigma_a = (\eta^3, i\bar{\eta}^3, \eta^2, i\bar{\eta}^2, \eta^1, i\bar{\eta}^1), \\ \bar{\Sigma}_a = (-\eta^3, i\bar{\eta}^3, -\eta^2, i\bar{\eta}^2, -\eta^1, i\bar{\eta}^1), \quad (4.15)$$

where $\eta^c, \bar{\eta}^c$, $c = 1-3$, are 't Hooft's η -symbols defined in Appendix A.

Theory (4.13) is invariant under the on-shell supersymmetry transformations

$$\delta A_n = -\xi^A \sigma_n \bar{\lambda}_A - \bar{\xi}_A \bar{\sigma}_n \lambda^A, \quad (4.16a)$$

$$\delta \lambda^A = -i\sigma^{mn} \xi^A F_{mn} - ig \Sigma_{ab}^A \xi^B [\phi_a, \phi_b] + \Sigma_a^{AB} \sigma^n \bar{\xi}_B \mathcal{D}_n \phi_a, \quad (4.16b)$$

²¹ We remind the reader that our gauge field is anti-Hermitian rather than Hermitian, otherwise our conventions in Minkowski space are those of Wess and Bagger [47].

$$\delta\bar{\lambda}_A = -i\bar{\sigma}^{mn}\bar{\xi}_A F_{mn} - ig\bar{\Sigma}_{abA}{}^B\bar{\xi}_B[\phi_a, \phi_b] + \bar{\Sigma}_{aAB}\bar{\sigma}^n{}^{\zeta B}\mathcal{D}_n\phi_a, \tag{4.16c}$$

$$\delta\phi_a = i\zeta^A\bar{\Sigma}_{aAB}\lambda^B + i\bar{\xi}_A\Sigma_a{}^{AB}\bar{\lambda}_B. \tag{4.16d}$$

In the above,

$$\sigma^{mn} = \frac{1}{4}(\sigma^m\bar{\sigma}^n - \sigma^n\bar{\sigma}^m), \quad \bar{\sigma}^{mn} = \frac{1}{4}(\bar{\sigma}^m\sigma^n - \bar{\sigma}^n\sigma^m) \tag{4.17}$$

and

$$\Sigma_{ab} = \frac{1}{4}(\Sigma_a\bar{\Sigma}_b - \Sigma_b\bar{\Sigma}_a), \quad \bar{\Sigma}_{ab} = \frac{1}{4}(\bar{\Sigma}_a\Sigma_b - \bar{\Sigma}_b\Sigma_a). \tag{4.18}$$

In order to construct instanton solutions, we now Wick rotate to Euclidean space. Vector quantities in Minkowski space $a^n = (a^0, \vec{a})$, with $n = 0-3$, become $a_n = (\vec{a}, ia^0)$, with $n = 1-4$, in Euclidean space. The Euclidean action is then $-i$ times the Minkowski space action. The exception to this is that we define the Euclidean σ -matrices as in (2.8) and (2.9). So in Minkowski space $\sigma^n = (-1, \vec{\tau})$ and $\bar{\sigma}^n = (-1, -\vec{\tau})$, whereas in Euclidean space $\sigma_n = (i\vec{\tau}, 1)$ and $\bar{\sigma}_n = (-i\vec{\tau}, 1)$. Operationally, this means that when Wick rotating from Minkowski space to Euclidean space we should actually replace the Minkowski space σ -matrices by $-i$ times the Euclidean space σ -matrices. As usual we treat λ_α and $\bar{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}$ as independent spinors, i.e. independent integration variables in the functional integral. The Euclidean space action is

$$S = \int d^4x \text{tr}_N \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}F_{mn}^2 - \frac{i\theta g^2}{16\pi^2}F_{mn}^*F_{mn} - 2\mathcal{D}_n\bar{\lambda}_A\bar{\sigma}_n\lambda^A + \mathcal{D}_n\phi_a\mathcal{D}_n\phi_a \right. \\ \left. - g\bar{\lambda}_A\Sigma_a{}^{AB}[\phi_a, \bar{\lambda}_B] - g\lambda^A\bar{\Sigma}_{aAB}[\phi_a, \lambda^B] - \frac{1}{2}g^2[\phi_a, \phi_b]^2 \right\}. \tag{4.19}$$

As discussed above, the fact that the fermionic terms in this action are not real will not concern us further. For the case with $\mathcal{N}=2$ supersymmetry, we can recover the more conventional presentation of the theory by defining a complex scalar field

$$\phi = \phi_1 - i\phi_2, \quad \phi^\dagger = \phi_1 + i\phi_2 \tag{4.20}$$

and spinors $\lambda \equiv \lambda^1$ and $\psi \equiv \lambda^2$. The fields $\Phi = \{\phi/\sqrt{2}, \psi\}$ form a chiral multiplet and $V = \{A_m, \lambda\}$ a vector multiplet of $\mathcal{N}=1$ supersymmetry. In terms of these variables, the Euclidean space action of the $\mathcal{N}=2$ theory (4.19) is

$$S_{\mathcal{N}=2} = \int d^4x \text{tr}_N \left\{ -\frac{1}{2}F_{mn}^2 - \frac{i\theta g^2}{16\pi^2}F_{mn}^*F_{mn} - 2\mathcal{D}_n\bar{\lambda}\bar{\sigma}_n\lambda - 2\mathcal{D}_n\bar{\psi}\bar{\sigma}_n\psi + \mathcal{D}_n\phi^\dagger\mathcal{D}_n\phi \right. \\ \left. + 2ig\bar{\psi}[\phi, \bar{\lambda}] + 2ig[\phi^\dagger, \lambda]\psi + \frac{1}{4}g^2[\phi, \phi^\dagger]^2 \right\}. \tag{4.21}$$

In the following, we prefer the presentation of the theory in (4.19) since this will allow us to deal with the theories with different numbers of supersymmetries in a unified way.

The equations-of-motion following from (4.19) are

$$\mathcal{D}_m F_{nm} = 2g[\phi_a, \mathcal{D}_n \phi_a] + 2g\bar{\sigma}_n\{\lambda^A, \bar{\lambda}_A\}, \quad (4.22a)$$

$$\mathcal{D}\lambda^A = g\Sigma_a^{AB}[\phi_a, \bar{\lambda}_B], \quad (4.22b)$$

$$\mathcal{D}\bar{\lambda}_A = g\bar{\Sigma}_{aAB}[\phi_a, \lambda^B], \quad (4.22c)$$

$$\mathcal{D}^2\phi_a = g^2[\phi_b, [\phi_b, \phi_a]] + g\bar{\Sigma}_{aAB}\lambda^A\lambda^B + g\Sigma_a^{AB}\bar{\lambda}_A\bar{\lambda}_B. \quad (4.22d)$$

The supersymmetry transformations in Euclidean space are given by (4.16a)–(4.16d) by replacing the sigma matrices with $-i$ times their Euclidean space versions and by replacing Minkowski space inner products with Euclidean ones:

$$\delta A_n = i\zeta^A\sigma_n\bar{\lambda}_A + i\bar{\zeta}_A\bar{\sigma}_n\lambda^A, \quad (4.23a)$$

$$\delta\lambda^A = i\sigma_{mn}\zeta^A F_{mn} - ig\Sigma_{ab}{}^A{}_B\zeta^B[\phi_a, \phi_b] - i\Sigma_a^{AB}\mathcal{D}\phi_a\bar{\zeta}_B, \quad (4.23b)$$

$$\delta\bar{\lambda}_A = i\bar{\sigma}_{mn}\bar{\zeta}_A F_{mn} - ig\bar{\Sigma}_{ab}{}^A{}_B\bar{\zeta}_B[\phi_a, \phi_b] - i\bar{\Sigma}_{aAB}\mathcal{D}\phi_a\zeta^B, \quad (4.23c)$$

$$\delta\phi_a = i\zeta^A\bar{\Sigma}_{aAB}\lambda^B + i\bar{\zeta}_A\Sigma_a^{AB}\bar{\lambda}_B. \quad (4.23d)$$

4.2. The super-instanton at linear order

We will now attempt to find *super-instanton* configurations which solve the full coupled equations-of-motion (4.22a)–(4.22d). First notice that the original instanton solution of the pure gauge theory (2.49) is a solution of the full equations-of-motion when all other fields are set to zero. In fact, we can use $A_m(x; X)$ as a starting point to find the more general solutions where the fermion and scalar fields are non-vanishing. As explained in the introduction to this section we will proceed perturbatively order by order in the coupling. In this connection note the explicit powers of g appearing on the right-hand side of Eqs. (4.22a)–(4.22d).

The first step, following [38], is to expand to linear order in the fields around the bosonic instanton solution. To the next order, we must therefore solve the covariant Weyl equations

$$\mathcal{D}\lambda^A = 0, \quad (4.24a)$$

$$\mathcal{D}\bar{\lambda}_A = 0 \quad (4.24b)$$

for the fermions, and the covariant Laplace equation

$$\mathcal{D}^2\phi_a = 0 \quad (4.25)$$

for the scalars. It then remains to be seen whether the original instanton solution needs to be modified due the source term on the right-hand side of (4.22a).

A key result follows from the fact that \mathcal{D} has no zero modes in an instanton (rather than anti-instanton) background. Consequently, the solution to (4.24b) is $\bar{\lambda}_A = 0$. To prove this, (4.24b)

one-loop effects

- running coupling

$$g_{\text{eff}}^2 = g_{\text{IR}}^2 = g^2(\mu = |a|)$$

$$\Lambda = \mu \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi^2}{g^2(\mu)}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow g_{\text{eff}}^2 = \frac{2\pi^2}{\log\left(\frac{|a|}{\Lambda}\right)} \quad - \textcircled{\alpha}$$

- anomaly

$U(1)_R$ rotation: $a \rightarrow e^{2i\delta} a$

equivalent to shifting θ_{eff} by -8δ

$$\Rightarrow \theta_{\text{eff}} = -4 \pi \left(\log\left(\frac{a}{\Lambda}\right) \right) + \text{cst} \quad - \textcircled{\beta}$$

4

Ⓐ + Ⓑ ⇒

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{F}_{1\text{-loop}}}{\partial a^2} = \frac{4\pi i}{g_{\text{eff}}^2} + \frac{\theta_{\text{eff}}}{2\pi}$$

$$= \frac{2i}{\pi} \log\left(\frac{a}{\Lambda}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{F}_{1\text{-loop}} = \frac{i}{2\pi} a^2 \log\left(\frac{a^2}{\Lambda^2}\right)$$

- holomorphic as required

Adler-Bardeen Theorem

⇒ no further renormalisation of chiral anomaly at any order in perturbation theory

⇒ no perturbative corrections to $\mathcal{F}_{1\text{-loop}}$

Non-perturbative prepotential

constraints:

- holomorphy
- RG invariance

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}(a, \Lambda)$$

- $U(1)_R$ anomaly

\mathcal{L}_{eff} invariant under $U(1)_R$
except for the effects of anomaly

- $\Theta_{\text{eff}} = -4\pi \left(\log\left(\frac{a}{\Lambda}\right) \right)$
+ single-valued

- $U(1)_R$ conservation violated
by $8k$ units in sector of
topological charge k

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \sim \int d^4\theta \mathcal{F} \quad \text{invariant}$$

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ has charge 4 under $U(1)_R$

most general allowed form:
Seiberg

$$\mathcal{F}(a) = \frac{i}{2\pi} a^2 \log\left(\frac{a^2}{\Lambda^2}\right)$$

one-loop

$$- \frac{i}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{F}_k \left(\frac{\Lambda}{a}\right)^{4k} a^2$$

contribution from
topological charge k

$$\Lambda^{4k} \sim e^{\frac{-8\pi^2 k + i k \theta}{g^2}}$$

$\Rightarrow k$ 'th term corresponds
to leading semiclassical
contribution of k instantons

$$F(a) = \frac{i}{2\pi} a^2 \log\left(\frac{a^2}{\Lambda^2}\right) - \frac{i}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} F_k \left(\frac{\Lambda}{a}\right)^{4k} a^2$$

= 1-loop + instantons

- no perturbative corrections in k -instanton background

Seiberg-Witten solution (1994)

predicts exact function \mathcal{F}

⇒ prediction for coeffs F_k

$$F_1 = 1/2, F_2 = 5/16, \dots, F_k \in \mathbb{Q}$$

Why???

- check against first principles calculation

Finnel + Pouliot
 ND + Khose + Mattis
 §

Testing SW theory

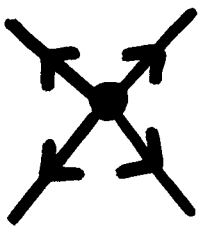
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \supset \frac{\partial^4 F(a)}{\partial a^4} \psi^2 \lambda^2 \leftarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{4-fermion} \\ \text{vertex} \end{array}$$

\Rightarrow non-zero contribution to long-distance behaviour of correlator, $|x_i - x_j| \gg |a|$

$$\langle \bar{\psi}(x_1) \bar{\psi}(x_2) \bar{\lambda}(x_3) \bar{\lambda}(x_4) \rangle$$

$$\sim \frac{\partial^2 F}{\partial a^4} \int d^4 X \prod_{i=1}^4 \pi S_F(x_i - X)$$

\nwarrow massless fermion propagator



• gets contributions from all numbers of instantons $\sim F_R$

eg 1-instanton contribution to

$$G^{(4)} = \langle \bar{\psi}(x_1) \bar{\psi}(x_2) \bar{\lambda}(x_3) \bar{\lambda}(x_4) \rangle$$

$$\sim \frac{\partial^4}{\partial a^4} \mathcal{F}_1 \left(\frac{\Lambda^4}{a^4} \right) a^2$$

$$\sim \mathcal{F}_1 \left(\frac{\Lambda^4}{a^6} \right)$$

check:

$$\text{R-charge of LHS} = -4$$

$$\text{R-charge of RHS} = -12$$

$$\Delta Q_R = -4 - (-12) = 8 \quad \checkmark \checkmark$$

note contribution of VEV a to counting reflects spontaneous breaking of $U(1)_R$

Semiclassical Calculation

Solve Euclidean e.o.m order by order in g^2

$$D_m F_{mn} = 2g [\phi_a, D_n \phi_a] + 2g \bar{c}_n [\lambda, \bar{\lambda}_A]$$

$$D \phi_a^A = g \Sigma_a^{AB} [\phi_a, \bar{\lambda}_B]$$

$$D \bar{\lambda}_A^A = g \bar{\Sigma}_a^{AB} [\phi_a, \lambda_B]$$

$$D^2 \phi_a^a = g^2 [\phi_a^b, [\phi_a^b, \phi_a^a]] \\ + g \bar{\Sigma}_{aAB} \lambda^A \lambda^B + g \Sigma_a^{AB} \bar{\lambda}_A \bar{\lambda}_B$$

notation:

ϕ_a $a=1,2$ real adjoint scalars

$$\phi = \phi_1 + i \phi_2 \in \mathbb{C}$$

$$\parallel \lambda^1 = \lambda \quad \lambda^2 = \psi$$

Vacuum boundary condition:

$$\underset{\sim}{\phi}(x) \rightarrow \frac{ia\tau^3}{2} \quad |x| \rightarrow \infty$$

Zero'th order: $k=1$

$$D_m \underset{\sim}{F}_{mn} = 0$$

$$\not{D} \lambda^A = 0$$

$$\not{D} \bar{\lambda}^A = 0$$

$$D^2 \underset{\sim}{\phi} = 0$$

BOSONS

$$\underset{\sim}{A}_m = \underset{\sim}{A}_m^{cl} \quad \curvearrowright \text{BPST instanton}$$

collective coords: X_m, ρ, U
position \uparrow size \uparrow orientation

$$\underset{\sim}{\phi} = \underset{\sim}{\phi}^{cl} = \frac{(x-x)^2}{(x-x)^2 + \rho^2} \cdot \frac{ia\tau^3}{2}$$

$\tilde{A}_m = A_m^cl$ $\tilde{\phi} = \phi^cl$ is not a solution of full e.o.m.

symptom:

$$\frac{1}{g^2} S[\tilde{A}_m^cl, \tilde{\phi}^cl] = \frac{8\pi^2}{g^2} + 4\pi^2 e^2 |a|^2$$

instanton unstable to scale transformation

reflects spontaneous breaking of conformal invariance

⇒ corresponding zero mode lifted

potential on instanton moduli space

fermions

$$\bar{d}\psi_{cl} \lambda^A = 0 \quad 4 \text{ zero modes}$$

$$d\psi_{cl} \bar{\lambda}_A = 0 \quad \text{no zero modes}$$

set

$$\lambda_{\alpha}^A \sim \lambda_{\alpha}^{cl A} = \sum_{\ell=1}^4 \alpha_{\ell}^A \Psi_{\alpha \ell}^{(0)} (\pi: X, \ell, U)$$

$$\bar{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha} A} = 0$$

↑ Grassmann parameters

collective coordinates:

$$\alpha_1^A \Leftrightarrow \left. \begin{matrix} \alpha \\ \alpha \end{matrix} \right\}^A \quad \text{SUSY zero modes}$$

$$\alpha_3^A \Leftrightarrow \bar{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha} A} \quad \text{superconformal zero modes}$$
$$\alpha_4^A$$

$A_{\mu}^{\alpha}, \phi^{\alpha}, \lambda_{\alpha}$ is not a solution
 of the full e.o.m
symptom:

$$\frac{1}{g^2} \delta' = \frac{8\pi^2}{g^2} + 4\pi^2 e^2 |a|^2 + c \bar{a} \bar{\eta}_{L1}^{\alpha} \eta_{L2A} e^2$$

\Rightarrow superconformal zero modes
 "Lifted" by VEV
 selection rules altered

quadratic fluctuation operators

fermions: $\Delta_F^{\dot{\alpha}\alpha} = (\not{D}_{cl})^{\dot{\alpha}\alpha}$ 4 zero modes

gauge: $(\Delta_B)^{\beta}_{\alpha} = (\not{D}_{cl})_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} (\bar{\not{D}}_{cl})^{\dot{\alpha}\beta}$

also define

$(\bar{\Delta}_B)^{\dot{\alpha}}_{\beta} = (\bar{\not{D}}_{cl})^{\dot{\alpha}\alpha} (\not{D}_{cl})_{\alpha\beta}$ no zero modes

total contribution of quadratic fluctuations:

= gauge + ghost + fermion + scalar

$$\mathcal{Z} = \left(\frac{\det \bar{\Delta}_B}{\det' \Delta_B} \right)^{1/2}$$

zero
eigenvalues
removed

SUSY \Rightarrow pairing of non-zero modes of Δ_B and $\bar{\Delta}_B$

Exercise:

suppose $\Delta_B \psi^{(\lambda)} = \lambda \psi^{(\lambda)}$, $\lambda \neq 0$

define $\bar{\psi}^{(\lambda)} = \bar{\psi}_{c_i} \psi^{(\lambda)}$

then,

$$\bar{\Delta}_B \bar{\psi}^{(\lambda)} = \bar{\psi}_{c_i} \bar{\psi}_{a_i} \bar{\psi}_{c_i} \psi^{(\lambda)}$$

$$= \bar{\psi}_{c_i} \Delta_B \psi^{(\lambda)} = \lambda \bar{\psi}^{(\lambda)}$$

Iterating E.O.M to $O(g^2)$

\Rightarrow anti-fermions $\bar{\lambda}_{A\dot{\alpha}}$ turn on

$$\bar{\lambda}_{A\dot{\alpha}} \xrightarrow{cl} \int_{\alpha A} S_F(x-X)^{\dot{\alpha}\alpha}$$

$$|x-X| \gg |a|$$

fermion propagator

The calculation:

$$\langle \bar{\lambda}(x_1) \bar{\lambda}(x_2) \bar{\psi}(x_3) \bar{\psi}(x_4) \rangle$$

$$= \int d^4x \prod_{i=1}^4 S_F(x_i - x) \int d^4\xi \int d^4\eta$$

$$\times \int d^4e d^2\bar{\eta} e^{-e^2|a|^2 - \bar{a}e^2\bar{\eta}\cdot\bar{\eta}} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \uparrow \\ \leftarrow \text{finite} \int \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\times \mu_{PV} e^{\frac{-8\pi^2}{g^2}(\mu_{PV})} + i\theta$$



$$= \Lambda_{PV}^4$$

$$\langle \bar{\lambda}(x_1) \bar{\lambda}(x_2) \bar{\psi}(x_1) \bar{\psi}(x_2) \rangle$$

$$= c_1 \left(\frac{\Lambda_{\text{PV}}^4}{a^6} \right) \int d^4x \prod_{i=1}^4 S_F(x-x)$$

• after careful matching of Λ_{SW}^2 & Λ_{PV} coef c_1 precisely agrees with SW prediction

$$F_1 = 1/2 \quad \text{Finel + Pauliot 1995}$$

• test for $k=2$ (no matching required) • works also

ND + Khoze + Mattis, 1996

tests repeated for $k=1, 2$
different gauge group

+ matter content

• Remarkable all order calculation
19 Nekrasov 2002