# **D-Branes and Doubled Geometry**

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# Outline

#### Introduction

- Para-Hermitian Geometry
- Born Sigma-Models
- Born D-Branes
- Metric Algebroids and Wess-Zumino Terms
- Reduction: D-Branes on the Physical Spacetime
- Example: D-Branes on Doubled Nilmanifolds

with Vincenzo Emilio Marotta [arXiv: 1810.03953, 1910.09997, 2104.07774, 2202.05680]

## Introduction

- Manifest T-duality invariance: Correct description involves algebroids and 'doubled geometry'
- ► Generalized geometry: TM → TM = TM ⊕ T\*M with structure of (twisted) Courant algebroid (Hitchin '02; Gualtieri '04)
- Double field theory (DFT):  $M \longrightarrow \mathcal{M} = M \times \widetilde{M}$

Solving strong constraint (polarisation) reduces DFT structure to standard Courant algebroid (Siegel '93; Hull & Zwiebach '09; Hohm, Hull & Zwiebach '10;...)

- In this talk: Global description of DFT provided by para-Hermitian geometry and metric algebroids
- Phenomena described by T-duality: What is a D-brane in this setting?
- Conformal boundary conditions for Born sigma-model: Covariant version of doubled sigma-models for duality-symmetric string theory (Duff '90; Tseytlin '90; Hull '05; Berman, Copland & Thompson '07; Hull & Reid-Edwards '09; Copland '11; Lee & Park '13 ...)

Generalize previous treatments of D-branes and doubled geometry (Hull '04; Lawrence, Schulz & Wecht '06; Albertsson, Kimura & Reid-Edwards '08; Hull & Sz '19; Sakatani & Uehara '20)

# **Double Field Theory and Para-Hermitian Geometry**

 Para-Hermitian Geometry: A "real version" of complex Hermitian geometry

Addresses global issues of doubled geometry, provides simple elegant framework for generalized flux compactifications and non-geometric backgrounds (Hull '04; Vaisman '12; Freidel, Rudolph & Svoboda '17; Chatzistavrakidis, Jonke, Khoo & Sz '18; Svoboda '18; Marotta & Sz '18; Mori, Sasaki & Shiozawa '19; Hassler, Lüst & Rudolph '19; Kimura, Sasaki & Shiozawa '22; ...)

- Other applications of para-Hermitian geometry:
  - Formulation of  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  vector multiplets in Euclidean spacetimes

(Cortés, Mayer, Mohaupt & Saueressig '03; Cortés & Mohaupt '09)

- Lagrangian and non-Lagrangian dynamical systems (Marotta & Sz '18)
- 2D 'twisted' SUSY sigma-models (Abou-Zeid & Hull '99; Stojevic '09; Hu, Moraru & Svoboda '19)
- Modern perspective: Geometry on  $\mathbb{T}M = TM \oplus T^*M \longleftrightarrow T\mathcal{M}$
- Examples: Fibre bundles (*T*\**M*, *TM*, ...), Doubled Lie groups, Drinfel'd doubles, and quotients (*T*<sup>2d</sup>, doubled twisted torus, ...)

#### Para-Hermitian Manifolds

- ▶ Para-complex structure  $K : TM \longrightarrow TM$  on 2*d*-dim manifold M with  $K^2 = +1$ , whose  $\pm 1$ -eigenbundles  $L_{\pm}$  have same rank *d*
- ▶ Splits  $TM = L_+ \oplus L_-$ , integrability of  $L_+$  and  $L_-$  independent
- Para-Hermitian structure (K, η): metric η with signature (d, d) satisfying compatibility K<sup>T</sup> η K = −η
- Fundamental 2-form ω = η K , dω = 'generalized fluxes' If symplectic (dω = 0) then (K, η) para-Kähler structure
- $L_{\pm}$  maximally isotropic with respect to  $\eta$  and  $\omega$
- ► Example:  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{T}^* M \xrightarrow{\pi} M$  with canonical symplectic 2-form  $\omega_0$ ; para-Hermitian structures correspond to isotropic splittings of

$$0 \longrightarrow \ker(\pi_*) \longrightarrow T(T^*M) \longrightarrow \pi^*(TM) \longrightarrow 0$$

▶ Para-Hermitian vector bundles:  $\mathbb{T}M = TM \oplus T^*M$ , exact Courant algebroids , ...

#### **Generalized Metrics & Born Geometry**

• *B*-transformation of  $(K, \eta)$  on  $T\mathcal{M} = L_+ \oplus L_-$ :

$$e^B = egin{pmatrix} \mathbbm{1} & 0\ B & \mathbbm{1} \end{pmatrix} \in \operatorname{Aut}(\mathcal{TM}) ext{ where } B: L_+ \longrightarrow L_- ext{ with } \ \etaig(B(X),Yig) = -\etaig(X,B(Y)ig) =: b(X,Y) \end{cases}$$

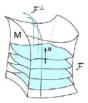
•  $K \longrightarrow K_B = e^B K e^{-B}$  where  $(K_B, \eta)$  is another para-Hermitian structure with fundamental 2-form  $\omega_B = \eta K_B = \omega + 2 b$ 

- Generalized metric on a para-Hermitian manifold (M, K, η): I ∈ Aut(TM) covering id<sub>M</sub> with I<sup>2</sup> = 1 Defines Riemannian metric H = η I on M
- $\blacktriangleright$   $\mathcal{H}$  defined by metric on  $L_+$  and B-transformation (g, b)
- If Hω<sup>-1</sup>H = −ω then (η,ω, H) is a Born geometry Specified by metric g on L<sub>+</sub>
- ▶ Generalized T-duality:  $O(T\mathcal{M}) \subset \operatorname{Aut}(T\mathcal{M})$  isometries of  $\eta$ , preserve Born geometry structure:  $K_{\vartheta} = \vartheta K \vartheta^{-1}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_{\vartheta} = \vartheta^*(\mathcal{H})$  for  $\vartheta \in O(T\mathcal{M})$

## Born Sigma-Model

$$\begin{split} S[\mathbb{X}] \;&=\; \frac{1}{4}\,\int_{\Sigma_2}\,\mathcal{H}_{IJ}\,\mathsf{d}\mathbb{X}^I\wedge\star\mathsf{d}\mathbb{X}^J+\frac{1}{4}\,\int_{\Sigma_2}\,\mathbb{X}^*(\omega)\\ \mathbb{X}:\Sigma_2\longrightarrow\mathcal{M} \;\;,\; (\eta,\omega,\mathcal{H}) \;&=\; \text{Born geometry on }\mathcal{M} \end{split}$$

Strong Constraint: Assuming L<sub>−</sub> ⊂ TM involutive selects physical spacetime as a quotient M = M/F by action on leaves of foliation of M by F with L<sub>−</sub> = TF (Hull & Reid-Edwards '09; Vaisman '12; Park '13; Lee, Strickland-Constable & Waldram '15)



Reduces Born sigma-model if there is a Riemannian submersion  $q: (\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{H}) \longrightarrow (\mathcal{M}, \overline{g})$  such that  $g = q^* \overline{g}$ is leaf-invariant (Marotta & Sz '19)

# Gauging the Born Sigma-Model

- Apply to Killing Lie algebroid ρ: TF → TM: Born sigma-model can be gauged along foliation F ↔ L<sub>V</sub>g = 0 for all V ∈ Γ(TF), where H is determined by metric g on L<sub>+</sub>
- ▶ If  $\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{F}$  is smooth, then there is a Riemannian submersion  $q: (\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{H}) \longrightarrow (\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{F}, \overline{g})$  such that  $g = q^* \overline{g}$
- $\omega$  descends to 2-form  $\overline{b}$  on  $\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{F}$  if  $L_+$  is locally spanned by projectable vector fields  $V_i$ :  $[V_i, W] \in \Gamma(T\mathcal{F})$  for all  $W \in \Gamma(T\mathcal{F})$ , and  $\mathcal{L}_W \eta = 0$
- ▶  $d\mathbb{X}' \longrightarrow D^A \mathbb{X}' = d\mathbb{X}' \rho^{lj} A_j$  for  $T\mathcal{F}$ -valued connection 1-form A
- Euler-Lagrange equation for A gives 'self-duality constraint':

 $\mathsf{D}^{A}\mathbb{X} \;=\; \eta^{-1}\,\mathcal{H}\,\star\,\mathsf{d}\mathbb{X}$ 

Reduces Born sigma-model to standard string sigma-model into physical spacetime  $(\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{F},\bar{g},\bar{b})$ 

• Generalized T-duality  $(\mathcal{M}, \eta, K, \mathcal{H}) \longrightarrow (\mathcal{M}, \eta, K_{\vartheta}, \mathcal{H}_{\vartheta})$  with  $T\mathcal{M} = L^{\vartheta}_{+} \oplus L^{\vartheta}_{-}$ ; if  $L^{\vartheta}_{-} = T\mathcal{F}^{\vartheta}$  then sigma-models for  $(\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{F}, \bar{g}, \bar{b})$  and  $(\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{F}^{\vartheta}, \bar{g}^{\vartheta}, \bar{b}^{\vartheta})$  are T-dual

## Boundary Conditions for the Born Sigma-Model

•  $(\sigma, \tau)$  local coordinates for  $\Sigma$ , with boundary  $\partial \Sigma$ :

$$\left( - \tfrac{1}{2} \, \mathcal{H}_{IJ} \, \partial_\sigma \mathbb{X}^J \, d\sigma + \omega_{IJ} \, \partial_\tau \mathbb{X}^J \, d\tau \right) \big|_{\partial \Sigma} \; = \; \mathbf{0}$$

Solution given by subbundle  $L \subset TM$  ("tangent vectors"):

$$0 \longrightarrow L \longrightarrow T\mathcal{M} \longrightarrow T\mathcal{M}/L \longrightarrow 0$$

and orthogonal splitting  $TM = L \oplus L^{\perp}$  wrt generalized metric  $\mathcal{H}$ , with orthogonal projectors  $\Pi : T\mathcal{M} \longrightarrow L$  and  $\Pi^{\perp} : T\mathcal{M} \longrightarrow L^{\perp}$ 

Together with self-duality constraint, conformal boundary conditions are solved by

$$\eta\big(\Pi(Z_I),\Pi(Z_J)\big) = 0 = \eta\big(\Pi^{\perp}(Z_I),\Pi^{\perp}(Z_J)\big) \quad , \quad \omega\big(\Pi(Z_I),\Pi(Z_J)\big) = 0$$

for a local frame  $\{Z_I\}$  of  $T\mathcal{M}$ 

• Thus *L* is maximally isotropic wrt both  $\eta$ ,  $\omega$  (but not necessarily integrable)

## **Born D-Branes**

- ▶ Def.: A Born D-brane is a maximally isotropic subbundle L<sub>D</sub> ⊂ TM such that K(L<sub>D</sub>) = L<sub>D</sub>
- **Examples:** Eigenbundles  $L_{\pm}$  of para-complex structure K
- ▶ If  $W_D = L_+ \cap L_D$  has constant rank, then  $L_D = W_D \oplus \eta^{\sharp}(Ann(W_D))$  with metric

- Generalized T-duality  $\vartheta \in O(T\mathcal{M})$  sends D-brane  $L_D$  for Born sigma-model  $S(\mathcal{H}, \omega)$  into  $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{K}, \eta)$  to D-brane  $L_D^{\vartheta} = \vartheta(L_D)$  for Born sigma-model  $S(\mathcal{H}_{\vartheta}, \omega_{\theta})$  into  $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{K}_{\vartheta}, \eta)$
- Standard picture of D-branes as submanifolds when L<sub>D</sub> = TF<sub>D</sub> is integrable: Each leaf of foliation F<sub>D</sub> of M is a d-dim submanifold of M whose tangent vectors satisfy the boundary conditions
- Chan-Paton bundles induced by B-transformations (with suitable integrality)

# **Dirac Structures**

- ► Generalised submanifold (W, L) for an exact Courant algebroid  $E \longrightarrow M$ with anchor  $\rho$ :  $W \subset M$ ,  $L \subset E$  maximally isotropic integrable with  $\rho(L) = TW$  (Gualtieri '04; Zambon '07)
- Generalized para-complex D-brane supported on  $W \subseteq M$  for an exact Courant algebroid  $E \longrightarrow M$  with anchor  $\rho$  and generalized para-complex structure  $\mathcal{K}$ : Generalized submanifold (W, L) such that  $\mathcal{K}(L) = L$
- ► Born sigma-model corresponds (up to *B*-transformations) to the 'large Courant algebroid'  $\mathbb{TM} = TM \oplus T^*M$  with generalized metric determined by  $\mathcal{H}$  (Alekseev & Strobl '04; Ševera '15)
- ►  $(\eta, K)$  gives generalized para-complex structure  $\mathcal{K}_{K} = \begin{pmatrix} K & 0 \\ 0 & -K^{\top} \end{pmatrix}$ preserving splitting on  $\mathbb{T}\mathcal{M}$  (Hu, Moraru & Svoboda '19)
- ▶ Born D-brane  $L_D$  defines Dirac structure  $D = L_D \oplus Ann(L_D)$  on  $\mathbb{T}M$
- For each leaf W<sub>D</sub> of L<sub>D</sub>, (W<sub>D</sub>, D|<sub>W<sub>D</sub></sub>) is a generalized para-complex brane: K<sub>K</sub>(D|<sub>W<sub>D</sub></sub>) = D|<sub>W<sub>D</sub></sub> (since K(L<sub>D</sub>) = L<sub>D</sub>)

# **Metric Algebroids**

• Metric algebroid: Anchored pseudo-Euclidean vector bundle  $(E, \langle -, - \rangle_E, \rho)$  with bracket  $[-, -]_E : \Gamma(E) \times \Gamma(E) \longrightarrow \Gamma(E)$ :

$$\rho(e) \cdot \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle_E = \langle [e, e_2]_E, e_2 \rangle_E + \langle e_2, [e, e_2]_E \rangle_E$$
  
$$\langle [e, e]_E, e_1 \rangle_E = \frac{1}{2} \rho(e_1) \cdot \langle e, e \rangle_E$$

 Any anchored pseudo-Euclidean vector bundle admits infinitely many metric algebroid stuctures (Vaisman '12)

'pre-QP-manifolds'

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(del Carpio-Marek '15; Marotta & Sz '21)
(aka 'symplectic nearly Lie 2-algebroids' (Bruce & Grabowski '16)
'symplectic pre-NQ-manifolds of degree 2' (Deser & Sämann '16)
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(Heller, Ikeda & Watamura '16)
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Any para-Hermitian manifold (M, K, η) admits a unique 'canonical' metric algebroid bracket [-, -]<sub>TM</sub> preserving K, with anchor 1<sub>TM</sub>: L<sub>±</sub> are involutive wrt [-, -]<sub>TM</sub>, and [-, -]<sub>TM</sub> is compatible with Lie algebra of vector fields on TM (Freidel, Rudolph & Svoboda '17))

## **Related Algebroids**

- ▶ Pre-Courant algebroids:  $\rho : E \longrightarrow TM$  bracket morphism (symplectic almost Lie 2-algebroids (Bruce & Grabowski '16)))
- Courant algebroids: Jacobi identity for [-, -]<sub>E</sub> (symplectic Lie 2-algebroids (Ševera '98; Roytenberg '99))
- DFT algebroid on a para-Hermitian manifold (M, K, η): ρ: (E, ⟨−,−⟩<sub>E</sub>) → (TM, η) isomorphism of pseudo-Euclidean vector bundles with ρρ<sup>\*</sup> = η<sup>-1</sup> (Chatzistavrakidis, Jonke, Khoo & Sz '18; Svoboda '18; Hu, Moraru & Svoboda '19; Grewcoe & Jonke '20; Marotta & Sz '21)
- **Example:** Splitting and projection of large Courant algebroid  $\mathbb{T}M$  is a DFT algebroid isomorphic to canonical metric algebroid, reduces to standard Courant algebroid on physical spacetime  $\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{F}$  when  $L_{-} = \mathcal{T}\mathcal{F}$  DFT algebroids lie "in between" two Courant algebroids
- Note: Generalised para-complex branes make sense for exact pre-Courant algebroids — extension to metric algebroids?

#### Adding a Wess-Zumino Term

- Difference between any two metric algebroid brackets on (M, K, η) is a 3-form H<sub>D</sub> on M
- Canonical 3-form  $H_{can}$ : Choose canonical metric algebroid and reference bracket induced by Levi-Civita connection of  $\eta$  ( $H_{can} = 0$  iff  $d\omega = 0$ )
- $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{K}, \eta)$  is admissible if  $H_2(\mathcal{M}) = 0$  and  $\frac{1}{4\pi} [H_{can}] \in H^3(\mathcal{M}; \mathbb{Z})$
- ► Defines Wess-Zumino term  $\frac{1}{2} \int_{V} X^{*}(H_{can})$ ,  $\partial V = \Sigma$  for Born sigma-model,  $H_{can}$  represents Ševera class of associated Courant algebroid
- ► For open strings, consider relative maps  $\mathbb{X} : (\Sigma, \partial \Sigma) \longrightarrow (\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{W})$ and relative admissibility:  $H_2(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{W}) = 0$ ,  $\frac{1}{4\pi} [(H_{can}, B_{can})] \in H^3(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{W}; \mathbb{Z})$  for some 2-form  $B_{can}$  on  $\mathcal{W}$
- ►  $L_{\mathcal{W}} := \operatorname{im}(T\mathcal{W} \longrightarrow T\mathcal{M})$  is a Born D-brane iff  $\mathcal{W} \subset \mathcal{M}$  Lagrangian submanifold,  $B_{\operatorname{can}} = 0$  and  $H_{\operatorname{can}}|_{\mathcal{W}} = 0$  (orientation condition)
- Can only couple to *flat* Chan-Paton bundles analogous to A-branes

#### **Generalized Para-Complex Branes**

 Generalized submanifolds (W, L) on an exact Courant algebroid correspond to subbundles

$$L = L^{\mathsf{F}} := \left\{ X + \alpha \in T\mathcal{W} \oplus T^*\mathcal{M}|_{\mathcal{W}} \mid \alpha|_{\mathcal{W}} = \iota_X \mathsf{F} \right\} \subset \mathbb{T}\mathcal{M}$$

for some 2-form F on W with  $dF + H_{can}|_{W} = 0$ 

- Example: For a Born D-brane  $L_D$  and its Dirac structure  $D = L_D \oplus \operatorname{Ann}(L_D)$ ,  $(\mathcal{W}_D, D|_{\mathcal{W}_D})$  is a generalized para-complex D-brane iff  $H_{\operatorname{can}}|_{\mathcal{W}_D} = 0$  (since F = 0)
- Example: For a Born D-brane  $L_D$  and given  $F \in \Omega^2(W)$ ,  $(W_D, L^F)$  is a generalized para-complex D-brane iff

$$K^{\top}(\iota_X F) + \iota_{K(X)}F \in \operatorname{Ann}(T\mathcal{W}_D) \quad \forall X \in \Gamma(T\mathcal{W}_D)$$

If  $H_{can}|_{W_D} = 0$  (integrability),  $F \in \Omega^2_{\mathbb{Z}}(W_D)$  and K integrable, then F is the curvature of a para-holomorphic Chan-Paton bundle  $(C, \nabla^C)$  on  $W_D$  — analogous to B-branes (Lawn & Schäfer '05)

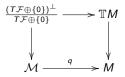
## **D-Branes on the Physical Spacetime**

- D-branes are defined by "tangent vectors" distributions on tangent bundle of target space, need to be integral to interpret leaves as D-brane worldvolumes
- When L<sub>−</sub> = TF and q : (M, H) → (M = M/F, ḡ) is a Riemmannian submersion, dq|<sub>L<sub>+</sub></sub> : L<sub>+</sub> → TM fibrewise isomorphism
- ▶ Born D-brane  $L_D = T\mathcal{F}_D \subset T\mathcal{M}$  induces  $dq(L_D) = T\mathcal{F}_D^q \subseteq TM$ , leaves of foliation  $\mathcal{F}_D^q$  supported by physical D-branes in  $(M, \bar{g}, \bar{b})$
- Example:  $L_{-} = T\mathcal{F} \implies$  0-branes on *M* (fully Dirichlet)
  - $L_+$  integrable  $\implies$  spacetime-filling D-branes (fully Neumann)
- D-branes are associated with Dirac structures on Courant algebroid for corresponding sigma-model (Zabzine '04; Asakawa, Sasa & Watamura '12)
- Consider reduction of Born D-branes as reduction of Dirac structures, using techniques of Courant algebroid reduction

(Bursztyn, Cavalcanti & Gualtieri '05; Zambon '07)

#### **Dirac Reduction of Born D-Branes**

- For  $A = T\mathcal{F} \oplus \{0\} \subset \mathbb{T}\mathcal{M}$ ,  $A^{\perp}$  spanned by  $Y + d(q^*f)$  for projectable  $Y \in \Gamma(T\mathcal{M})$  and  $f \in C^{\infty}(\mathcal{M})$ , which are 'basic'
- Hence large Courant algebroid TM reduces to standard Courant algebroid TM through pullback diagram



- For a Born D-brane L<sub>D</sub> = TF<sub>D</sub> ⊂ TM, D = L<sub>D</sub> ⊕ Ann(L<sub>D</sub>) is a Dirac structure for large Courant algebroid TM such that D ∩ A<sup>⊥</sup> still spanned by Y + d(q\*f)
- ▶ Hence if  $L_D$  admits a sub-bundle spanned by projectable vector fields, then D descends to a Dirac structure  $D_{red}$  on M = M/F

### Example: D-Branes on Doubled Nilmanifolds

- ► H = 3d Heisenberg group with Drinfel'd double  $T^*H = H \ltimes \mathbb{R}^3$ , basis  $\{Z_i, \tilde{Z}^i\}_{i=x,y,z}$  of left-invariant vector fields on  $T(T^*H)$
- $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{K}, \eta)$ :  $\mathcal{M} = \Gamma_m \setminus T^*H$  for discrete cocompact subgroup  $\Gamma_m$  with  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}(Z_i) = +Z_i$   $\mathcal{K}(\tilde{Z}^i) = -\tilde{Z}^i$ , and  $\eta$  induced from duality pairing between Lie(H) and  $\mathbb{R}^3$
- ▶ Nilmanifold: Principal  $T^3$ -bundle  $\mathcal{M} \longrightarrow N_m$  = nilmanifold of degree m
  - ▶  $L_+$  = D3-brane filling  $N_m$ , Dirac structure  $TN_m \subset \mathbb{T}N_m$
  - ►  $L_D$  = Span( $Z_x, Z_y, \tilde{Z}^z$ ) reduces to Dirac structure associated with foliation of  $N_m$  with  $T^2$  leaves wrapped by D2-branes
- ▶  $T^3$  with *H*-flux:  $T^3$ -fibration  $\mathcal{M} \longrightarrow T^3$ , m = DD class of gerbe on  $T^3$ *B*-transformation sends  $\{Z_i, \tilde{Z}^i\} \longrightarrow \{Z'_i, \tilde{Z}'^i\}, K \longrightarrow K'$ 
  - ►  $L_D = \text{Span}(Z'_x, \tilde{Z}'^y, \tilde{Z}'^z)$  yields Dirac structure associated with foliation of  $T^3$  with  $S^1$  leaves wrapped by D1-branes, T-dual to D0-branes on  $N_m$  from reducing Born D-brane  $L_-$
  - ►  $H_{can} = -\frac{3}{2} m dx \wedge dy \wedge dz$ ,  $H_{can}(Z'_x, Z'_y, Z'_z) \neq 0$  forbids D3-branes wrapping  $T^3$  for  $m \neq 0$