

Twisted geometric ∞ -bundles

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handout¹ for a talk, June 2012

reporting on joint work [NSS] with

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with precursors in [NiWa, RoSt, SSS, S]

and with various applications, indicated in [Lect].

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1 Motivation

Classical fact. For X a manifold and G a topological/Lie group, regarded as a sheaf of groups $C(-, G)$ on X , there is an equivalence:

| algebraic data on X | | geometric data on X |
|--|----------|---|
| $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{degree-1 nonabelian} \\ \text{sheaf cohomology} \\ H^1(X, G) \end{array} \right\}$ | \simeq | $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{isomorphism classes of} \\ G\text{-principal bundles over } X \\ \text{GBund}(X) \end{array} \right\}$ |
| $\left(\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccccc} & & (x, j) & & * \\ & \nearrow & \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow \\ (x, i) & \xrightarrow{g} & (x, k) & \xrightarrow{g_{ik}(x)} & * \\ & \searrow & \downarrow & \searrow & \downarrow \\ & & x & & * \end{array} \\ \\ X \xrightarrow{g} \mathbf{BG} \\ \text{cocycle} \end{array} \right) / \sim$ | \simeq | $\left(\begin{array}{ccc} P \times G & \longrightarrow & EG \times G \\ p_1 \downarrow \rho & & p_1 \downarrow \rho \\ P & \longrightarrow & EG \\ \downarrow & \text{pullback} & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{ g } & BG \\ G\text{-principal} & & \text{universal} \\ \text{bundle} & \text{classifying} & \text{bundle} \\ \text{map} & & \end{array} \right) / \sim$ <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;"> G-actions total spaces quotient spaces </p> |

Problem. In *higher differential geometry* [S], for instance in *String-geometry* [SSS], geometric groups G are generalized to *geometric grouplike A_∞ -spaces*: to *geometric ∞ -groups* (examples below in 5). Need to generalize the above classical fact to this case.

¹Available at ncatlab.org/schreiber/files/TwistedBundlesTalk.pdf.

2 Higher geometry

We need

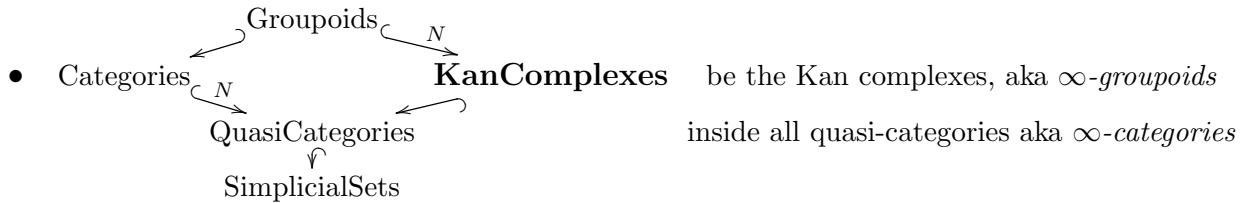
$$\boxed{\text{geometry}} + \boxed{\text{homotopy theory}} = \boxed{\text{higher geometry} \simeq \infty\text{-topos theory}}.$$

Here is a way to think of the above classical fact that will generalize: let

- $C := \text{SmthMfd}$ be the category of all smooth manifolds of finite dimension (or some other site, here, for convenience, assumed to have enough points);
- $\text{gSh}(C)$ be the category of groupoid-valued sheaves over C ,
for instance $X = \{ X \rightrightarrows X \}$, $\mathbf{BG} = \{ G \rightrightarrows * \} \in \text{gSh}(C)$;
- $\text{Ho}_{\text{gSh}(C)}$ the *homotopy category* obtained by universally turning
 $\boxed{\text{stalkwise groupoid-equivalences}} \mapsto \boxed{\text{isomorphisms}}$.

Fact. $H^1(X, G) \simeq \text{Ho}_{\text{gSh}(C)}(X, \mathbf{BG})$ (e.g. using Hollander (2001)).

Definition. To generalize, let



- $\text{sSh}(C)_{\text{lfb}} \hookrightarrow \text{Sh}(C, \text{sSet})$ be the (stalkwise Kan) simplicial sheaves;
- $\mathbf{H} := L_W \text{sSh}(C)_{\text{lfb}}$ the *simplicial localization* obtained by universally turning
 $\boxed{\text{stalkwise homotopy equivalences}} \mapsto \boxed{\text{homotopy equivalences}}$.

Fact. (Toën-Vezzosi, Rezk, Lurie) This is the ∞ -category theory analog of the sheaf topos: the ∞ -stack ∞ -topos over C .

Example. $\text{Smooth}\infty\text{Grpd} := \text{Sh}_{\infty}(\text{SmthMfd})$ is the ∞ -topos of *smooth* ∞ -groupoids / *smooth* ∞ -stacks.

Example. For A a sheaf of abelian groups, $\mathbf{B}^{n+1}A := \text{DoldKan}(A[n+1]) \in \text{sSh}(C)$ is the moduli n -stack of $\mathbf{B}^n A$ -principal bundles (details in a moment).

Proposition. Every object in $\text{Smooth}\infty\text{Grpd}$ is presented by a simplicial manifold, but not necessarily by a *locally Kan* simplicial manifold (see below).

Definition A *group* in the ∞ -topos is a $G \in \mathbf{H}$ equipped with a groupal A_{∞} -algebra structure: coherently homotopy associative product with coherent homotopy inverses.

Example. In $\text{Smooth}\infty\text{Grpd}$ this is a *smooth* ∞ -group: for instance a Lie group, or a Lie 2-group, or a differentiable group stack, or a sheaf of simplicial groups on SmthMfd .

Fact. (classical + Lurie) There is an equivalence

$$\{ \text{groups in } \mathbf{H} \} \begin{array}{c} \xleftarrow{\text{looping } \Omega} \\ \xrightarrow[\text{delooping } \mathbf{B}]{} \\ \xrightarrow{\simeq} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{pointed connected} \\ \text{objects in } \mathbf{H} \end{array} \right\}$$

Proposition. Let C have a terminal object. For every ∞ -group $G \in \text{Grp}(\text{Sh}_{\infty}(C))$ there is a sheaf of simplicial groups presenting it under $\text{Sh}_{\infty}(C) \simeq L_W \text{sSh}(C)$; and every ∞ -action $\rho : P \times G \rightarrow P$ is presented by a corresponding simplicial action.

3 Principal ∞ -bundles

Definition. A G -principal bundle over $X \in \mathbf{H}$ is

- a morphism $P \rightarrow X$; with an ∞ -action $\rho : P \times G \rightarrow P$;
- such that $P \rightarrow X$ is ∞ -quotient $P \rightarrow P//G \overset{(*)}{\cong} \text{princality} : P \times G^n \xrightarrow{(p_1, \rho)} P \times_X \cdots \times_X P$

Theorem. There is equivalence of ∞ -groupoids $GBund(X) \overset{\text{hofib}}{\underset{\lim \rightarrow}{\simeq}} \mathbf{H}(X, \mathbf{BG})$, where

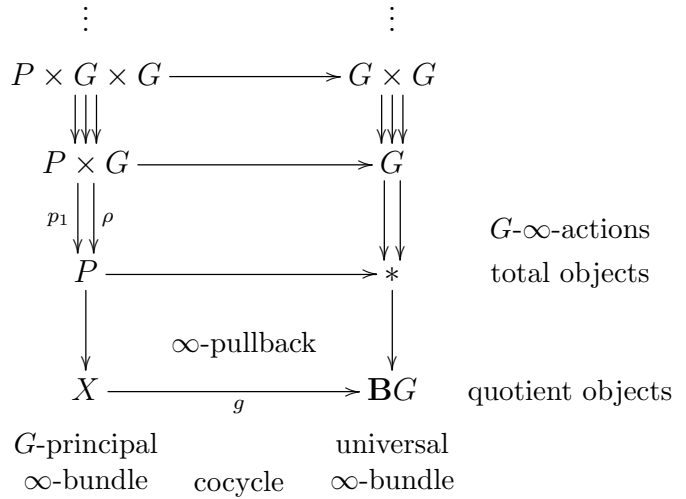
1. hofib sends a cocycle $X \rightarrow \mathbf{BG}$ to its homotopy fiber;
2. $\lim \rightarrow$ sends an ∞ -bundle to the map on ∞ -quotients $X \simeq P//G \rightarrow *//G \simeq \mathbf{BG}$.

In particular, G -principal ∞ -bundles are classified by the intrinsic cohomology of \mathbf{H}

$$GBund(X)/\sim \simeq H^1(X, G) := \pi_0 \mathbf{H}(X, \mathbf{BG}).$$

Proof. Repeatedly apply two of the $(*)$ Giraud-Rezk-Lurie axioms that characterize ∞ -toposes:

1. every ∞ -quotient is effective;
2. ∞ -colimits are preserved by ∞ -pullbacks. \square



This gives a general abstract theory of principal ∞ -bundles in every ∞ -topos. We also have the following *presentations*.

Definition For $G \in \text{Grp}(\text{sSh}(C))$, and $X \in \text{sSh}(C)_{\text{lfib}}$, a *weakly G -principal simplicial bundle* is a G -action ρ over X such that the *principality morphism* $(\rho, p_1) : P \times G \rightarrow P \times_X P$ is a stalkwise weak equivalence.

Theorem. Nerve $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{weakly } G\text{-principal simplicial bundles} \\ \text{over } X \end{array} \right\} \simeq GBund(X)$.

Example. For X terminal over C and restricted to cohomology classes, this is [JL].

Remark. We need more than that, notably $X = \mathbf{BG}$ itself, see next page.

Example. For $C = *$ we have $\text{sSh}(C)_{\text{lfib}} = \text{KanComplexes}$. Classical theory considers *strictly* principal simplicial bundles [Ma].

Proposition. Strictly principal simplicial bundles over $C = *$ do present the cohomology $H^1(X, G)$, but not in general the full cocycle space $\mathbf{H}(X, \mathbf{BG})$. For C nontrivial they do in general not even present $H^1(X, G)$.

Theorem. Let $C = \text{SmthMfd}$ or other *cohesive* [S] site. If G is “ C -acyclic”, then

- $\mathbf{H}(-, \mathbf{BG})$ is computed by simplicial hyper-Čech cohomology;
- G -principal ∞ -bundles over manifolds are presented by locally Kan fibrant simplicial manifolds.

4 Associated and twisted ∞ -bundles

Observation. By the above theorem, every G - ∞ -action $\rho : V \times G \rightarrow G$ has a classifying map \mathbf{c} :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} V & \longrightarrow & V//G \\ & & \downarrow \mathbf{c} \\ & & \mathbf{B}G \end{array}$$

Proposition. This is the universal ρ -associated V -bundle.

Observation. Sections σ of the associated ∞ -bundle are *lifts* of the cocycle through \mathbf{c} ; and these locally factor through V :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} P \times_G V & \longrightarrow & V//G \\ \sigma \uparrow \downarrow & & \downarrow \mathbf{c} \\ X & \xrightarrow{g} & \mathbf{B}G \end{array} \right\} \simeq \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} & & V//G \\ \sigma \nearrow & & \downarrow \mathbf{c} \\ X & \xrightarrow{g} & \mathbf{B}G \end{array} \right\} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} & & V \\ \sigma \uparrow U & \nearrow & \downarrow \mathbf{c} \\ U & \longrightarrow & X \xrightarrow{g} \mathbf{B}G \end{array} .$$

Hence sections σ are equivalently

- cocycles in $[g]$ -twisted cohomology;
- \mathbf{c} -valued cocycles in the *slice* ∞ -topos: $\Gamma_X(P \times_G V) \simeq \mathbf{H}_{/\mathbf{B}G}(g, \mathbf{c})$

(This is a geometric and unstable variant of the picture in [ABG].)

Theorem. The ∞ -bundles classified by $\mathbf{H}_{/\mathbf{B}G}(-, \mathbf{c})$ are P -twisted ∞ -bundles: twisted G -equivariant ΩV - ∞ -bundles on P :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Q & \longrightarrow & * & P\text{-twisted } \Omega V\text{-principal } \infty\text{-bundle} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\ P & \longrightarrow & V & \longrightarrow & * & G\text{-principal } \infty\text{-bundle} \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\ X & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & V//G & \xrightarrow{\mathbf{c}} & \mathbf{B}G & \text{section of } \rho\text{-associated } V\text{-}\infty\text{-bundle} \\ & \searrow & \downarrow & \nearrow & & \\ & & \mathbf{B}G & & & \end{array}$$

g

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{sections of} \\ \rho\text{-associated } V\text{-}\infty\text{-bundle} \end{array} \right\} \simeq \left\{ \begin{array}{c} g\text{-twisted } \Omega V\text{-cohomology} \\ \text{relative } \mathbf{c} \end{array} \right\} \simeq \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \Omega V\text{-}\infty\text{-bundles} \\ \text{twisted by } P \end{array} \right\}$$

Example. Connecting homomorphism \mathbf{c} of Lie group $U(1)$ -extension

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathbf{B}U(1) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{B}\hat{G} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{B}G \\ & & & & \downarrow \mathbf{c} \\ & & & & \mathbf{B}^2U(1) \end{array}$$

induces the $H^3(X, \mathbb{Z})$ -twisted smooth \hat{G} -bundles known from twisted K-theory.

Example. Associated *connected-fiber* ∞ -bundles are ∞ -gerbes.

- A (nonabelian/Giraud-)gerbe on X is a connected 1-truncated object in $\mathbf{H}_{/X}$ (a *connected stack* on X).
- A (nonabelian/Giraud-Breen) ∞ -gerbe over X is a connected object in $\mathbf{H}_{/X}$.
- A G - ∞ -gerbe is an $\text{Aut}(\mathbf{B}G)$ -associated ∞ -bundle. Its *band* is the underlying $\text{Out}(G)$ -principal ∞ -bundle.

Observation. G - ∞ -gerbes bound by a band are classified by $(\mathbf{B}\text{Aut}(\mathbf{B}G) \rightarrow \mathbf{B}\text{Out}(G))$ -twisted cohomology.

5 Selected examples

| local coefficient ∞ -bundle | twisting ∞ -bundle / twisting cohomology | twisted ∞ -bundle / twisted cohomology | see [Lect] |
|---|--|--|-----------------|
| $V \longrightarrow V//G$ \downarrow^c $\mathbf{B}G$ | ρ -associated V - ∞ -bundle | section | [S] |
| $\mathbf{B}^2\ker(G) \longrightarrow \mathbf{BAut}(\mathbf{B}G)$ \downarrow $\mathbf{BOut}(G)$ | band (<i>lien</i>) | nonabelian (Giraud-Breen) G - ∞ -gerbe | [NSS] [S] |
| $GL(d)/O(d) \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}O(d)$ \downarrow^{orth} $\mathbf{B}GL(d)$ | tangent bundle | orthogonal structure / Riemannian geometry | [S] |
| $O(d)\backslash O(d,d)/O(d) \twoheadrightarrow \mathbf{B}(O(d) \times O(d))$ $\downarrow^{\text{TypeII}}$ $\mathbf{B}O(d,d)$ | generalized tangent bundle | generalized (type II) Riemannian geometry | [S] |
| $\mathbf{B}U(n) \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}PU(n)$ \downarrow^{dd_n} $\mathbf{B}^2U(1)$ | circle 2-bundle / bundle gerbe | twisted vector bundle / twisted K-cocycle / bundle gerbe module | [S] |
| $\mathbf{B}^nU(1) \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}^nU(1)//\mathbb{Z}_2$ $\downarrow^{\mathbf{J}_{n-1}}$ $\mathbf{B}\mathbb{Z}_2$ | double cover | higher (bosonic) orientifold / $n = 2$: Jandl bundle gerbe | [FSSc] [SSW] |
| $V \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}\text{Spin}^{\nu_{n+1}}$ $\downarrow^{\nu_{n+1}^{\text{int}}}$ $\mathbf{B}^nU(1)$ | circle n -bundle | smooth integral Wu structure | [FSSc] |
| $\mathbf{B}\text{String} \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}\text{Spin}$ $\downarrow^{\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{p}^1}$ $\mathbf{B}^3U(1)$ | circle 3-bundle / bundle 2-gerbe | twisted String 2-bundle | [SSS] [FSSa] |
| $V \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}(\mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{T}^*)$ $\downarrow^{\langle \mathbf{c}_1 \cup \mathbf{c}_1 \rangle}$ $\mathbf{B}^3U(1)$ | circle 3-bundle / bundle 2-gerbe | T-duality structure | [S] |
| $\mathbf{B}\text{Fivebrane} \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}\text{String}$ $\downarrow^{\frac{1}{6}\mathbf{p}^2}$ $\mathbf{B}^7U(1)$ | circle 7-bundle | twisted Fivebrane 6-bundle | [SSS] [FSSa] |
| $\mathfrak{b}\mathbf{B}^nU(1) \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}^nU(1)$ \downarrow^{curv} $\mathfrak{b}_{\text{dR}}\mathbf{B}^{n+1}U(1)$ | curvature $(n + 1)$ -form | circle n -bundle with connection: curvature-twisted flat connection | [S] |

Observation. Ordinary cohomology is crucially contravariant: it “pulls back”: $\mathbf{H}(-, A) : \mathbf{H}^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \infty\text{Grpd}$. Twisted cohomology is not contravariant in \mathbf{H} : the information for how to “carry the twists along” is missing. However, by the above it is contravariant in the slice $\mathbf{H}/_{\mathbf{B}G}$ over the moduli of twists.

Example. Cocycles in $\mathbf{H}/_{\mathbf{B}GL(n)}(TX, \text{orth})$ are metrics on X : these pull back along

$$\mathbf{H}/_{\mathbf{B}GL(n)}(TY, TX) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} Y & \xrightarrow{f} & X \\ & \searrow^{TY} & \swarrow_{TX} \\ & \mathbf{B}GL(n) & \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{local diffeomorphism } f; \\ f^*TX \simeq TY \end{array} \right\}$$

Example. Since $\text{Sh}_\infty(\text{SmthMfd})$ is “cohesive” [S]: there is a canonical notion of *flat* coefficients $\flat\mathbf{B}^nU(1)$ and of flat de Rham coefficients $\flat_{\text{dR}}\mathbf{B}^nU(1)$, and a canonical *curvature* morphism forming a local coefficient bundle

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \flat\mathbf{B}^nU(1) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{B}^nU(1) \\ & & \downarrow^{\text{curv}} \\ & & \flat_{\text{dR}}\mathbf{B}^{n+1}U(1)_{\text{conn}} \end{array} .$$

The corresponding twisted cohomology is *differential cohomology* with universal coefficient object $\mathbf{B}^nU(1)_{\text{conn}}$, presented by the Deligne complex.

Example. Bosonic string orientifold configurations [SSW], see [Freed]:

$$\begin{array}{cc} \text{worldsheet field} & \text{target space field} \\ (\phi, \nu) \in \mathbf{H}/_{\mathbf{B}\mathbb{Z}_2}(\mathbf{w}_1(T\Sigma), w_X) & (w, \hat{B}) \in \mathbf{H}(X, \mathbf{BAut}(U(1))_{\text{conn}}) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \Sigma & \xrightarrow{\phi} & X & \xrightarrow{\hat{B}} & \mathbf{BAut}(U(1))_{\text{conn}} \\ & \searrow^{\nu} & \downarrow^{w_X} & \swarrow_{\mathbf{J}} & \\ & \mathbf{w}_1(T\Sigma) & \mathbf{B}\mathbb{Z}_2 & & \end{array}$$

Example. There are differential refinements of the first and second fractional Pontryagin classes, of the form [FSSa]:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{BString}_{\text{conn}} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{BSpin}_{\text{conn}} \\ & & \downarrow^{\frac{1}{2}\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1} \\ & & \mathbf{B}^3U(1)_{\text{conn}} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{BFivebrane}_{\text{conn}} & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{BString}_{\text{conn}} \\ & & \downarrow^{\frac{1}{6}\hat{\mathbf{p}}_2} \\ & & \mathbf{B}^7U(1)_{\text{conn}} \end{array} .$$

The corresponding twisted bundles are *twisted String-principal 2-bundle with 2-connection* and *twisted Fivebrane-principal 6-bundles with 6-connection*: higher analogs of the twisted unitary bundles of twisted K-theory; play a role in the heterotic string [SSS], see [Lect].

Their transgression to codimension 0 is

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|----------|
| action functional of level-1 3d Spin-Chern-Simons theory | $[\Sigma_3, \mathbf{BSpin}_{\text{conn}}]$ | $\xrightarrow{[\Sigma_3, \frac{1}{2}\hat{\mathbf{p}}_1]}$ | $[\Sigma_3, \mathbf{B}^3U(1)_{\text{conn}}]$ | $\xrightarrow{\exp(2\pi i \int_{\Sigma_3} (-))}$ | $U(1)$; |
| action functional of a 7d level-1 CS theory of String 2-connections [FSSb] | $[\Sigma_7, \mathbf{BString}_{\text{conn}}]$ | $\xrightarrow{[\Sigma_7, \frac{1}{6}\hat{\mathbf{p}}_2]}$ | $[\Sigma_7, \mathbf{B}^7U(1)_{\text{conn}}]$ | $\xrightarrow{\exp(2\pi i \int_{\Sigma_7} (-))}$ | $U(1)$ |

But before transgression, the action was “localized/extended to the point”. See next page...

6 Higher geometric prequantization

It turns out that the differential refinement of smooth twisted cohomology is tightly related to higher notions of *geometric quantization* under the following dictionary.

| differential twisted cohomology | geometric quantization |
|---------------------------------|--|
| twist | extended action functional / prequantum circle n -bundle |
| twist auto-equivalences | higher Heisenberg group / quantomorphism group |
| local coefficient bundle | associated prequantum n -bundle |

Example. Let $\mathbb{C} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C} // U(1)$ be the canonical complex-linear circle action.
 \downarrow
 $\mathbf{B}U(1)$

Then

- $\nabla : X \rightarrow \mathbf{B}U(1)_{\text{conn}}$ classifies a circle bundle with connection, a *prequantum line bundle* of its curvature 2-form;
- $\Gamma_X(P \times_{U(1)} \mathbb{C})$ is the corresponding space of smooth sections;
- $\mathbf{H}_{/\mathbf{B}U(1)_{\text{conn}}}(\nabla, \nabla)_{\simeq}$ is the $\exp(\text{Poisson bracket})$ -group action of prequantum operators, containing the Heisenberg group action.

Example. Let $\mathbf{B}U(n) \longrightarrow \mathbf{B}PU(n)$ be the canonical 2-circle action.
 $\downarrow \mathbf{d}d_n$
 $\mathbf{B}^2U(1)$

Then

- $\nabla : X \rightarrow \mathbf{B}^2U(1)_{\text{conn}}$ classifies a circle 2-bundle with connection, a *prequantum line 2-bundle* of its curvature 3-form;
- $\Gamma_X(P \times_{\mathbf{B}U(1)} \mathbf{B}U)$ is the corresponding groupoid of smooth sections = twisted bundles;
- $\mathbf{H}_{/\mathbf{B}^2U(1)_{\text{conn}}}(\nabla, \nabla)_{\simeq}$ is the $\exp(2\text{-plectic bracket})$ -2-group action of 2-plectic geometry [Rogers], containing the *Heisenberg 2-group* action [RoSc].

Example. ∞ -Chern-Simons theory [FS]:

- extended Lagrangian: differential cocycle on moduli ∞ -stack of fields
 $\hat{\mathbf{c}} : \mathbf{B}G_{\text{conn}} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}^nU(1)_{\text{conn}}$ (e.g. $\frac{1}{2}\hat{\mathbf{P}}_1, \frac{1}{6}\hat{\mathbf{P}}_2, \mathbf{D}\hat{\mathbf{D}}_n \cup \mathbf{D}\hat{\mathbf{D}}_n, \dots$);

- representation: local coefficient bundle $V \longrightarrow V // \mathbf{B}^{n-1}U(1)$;
 $\downarrow \rho$
 $\mathbf{B}^nU(1)$

- extended action in codim k :

$$\exp(2\pi i \int_{\Sigma_k} \hat{\mathbf{c}}) : [\Sigma_k, \mathbf{B}G_{\text{conn}}] \xrightarrow{[\Sigma_k, \hat{\mathbf{c}}]} [\Sigma_k, \mathbf{B}^nU(1)_{\text{conn}}] \xrightarrow{\exp(2\pi i \int_{\Sigma_k} (-))} \mathbf{B}^{n-k}U(1)_{\text{conn}}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \text{higher Heisenberg} & \text{higher quantum} \\
 & \text{operator} & \text{state} \\
 [\Sigma_k, \mathbf{B}G_{\text{conn}}] & \xrightarrow{\quad} & [\Sigma_k, \mathbf{B}G_{\text{conn}}] \xrightarrow{\quad} V // \mathbf{B}^{n-k-1}U(1)_{\text{conn}} \\
 & \searrow \exp(2\pi i \int_{\Sigma_k} \hat{\mathbf{c}}) & \downarrow \exp(2\pi i \int_{\Sigma_k} \hat{\mathbf{c}}) \\
 & & \mathbf{B}^{n-k}U(1)_{\text{conn}} \\
 & & \swarrow \rho
 \end{array}$$

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