

# Structure of off-shell covariant higher gauge theory

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# INTRODUCTION

- ◆ I would like to discuss a problem in a non-abelian theory of 2-form gauge fields appearing in the effective theory of multiple M2/M5-branes.
- ◆ This theory is considered to be a 6-dimensional  $N=(2,0)$  supersymmetric theory. And there are two major problems:
  1. Selfdual 2-form gauge field
  2. Interacting non-abelian 2-form gauge field theory
- ◆ Here we want to focus on the second problem.  
Our aim is
  1. List a wider class of higher gauge theories based on Lie 2-algebras.  
We find a new class of theory in 5 dimensions.
  2. Search for off-shell covariant theories  
and analyze the properties.

# ◆ PHYSICAL BACKGROUND: MULTIPLE M2 AND M5

- ◆ Effective theory of multiple (i.e.  $n$ ) M2-branes is now known as ABJM theory

3-dimensional field theory on M2 world volume:

$N=6(8)$  Supersymmetric Chern-Simons matter theory

- ◆ Effective theory of  $n$  M5-branes is not known yet

## WE EXPECT

- ◆ 6-dimensional field theory on single M5-brane world volume should be a theory of the following supermultiplet:

- ◆ 5 scalar fields for transversal coordinates in 11-dim. spacetime
- ◆ 1 fermion field as superpartner: 4-component Weyl spinor (8 d.o.f.)

- ◆ We need 3 more bosonic DOF on the world volume

- ◆ **✗** Vector field in 6 dim.: massless  $4=6-2$ , massive  $5=6-1$
- ◆ **✗** 2-form field in 6 dim.: massless  $\binom{4}{2} = 6$ , massive  $\binom{5}{2} = 10$
- ◆ **○** Self-dual 2-form field in 6 dim.:  $6/2=3$

# HIGHER GAUGE THEORY

◆ Single M5-brane effective theory:  $X^i, B = \frac{1}{2} B_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu, \psi$

with self-duality condition  $dB = *dB$

## 2 MAJOR PROBLEMS

① Covariant action problem of self-dual 2-form gauge field:

$$F^{(3)} = dB = *dB = *F^{(3)}$$

NO ACTION?

$$S \propto \int F^{(3)} \wedge *F^{(3)} = \int F^{(3)} \wedge F^{(3)} = 0$$

② Interacting (non-abelian) gauge theory of 2-form field:

HIGHER GAUGE THEORY

- ◆ Theory based on crossed module: Strict Lie 2-algebra [Baez-Crans, 2004]
- ◆ Semi-strict Lie 2-algebra [Roytenberg, 2007]

## TRIALS:

- ① Discard Lorentz covariance [Chu-Ko 2005, Ho-Huang-Matsuo 2007]
- ② Use of deformed higher gauge theory [Ho-Matsuo 2009]

NO solution yet

# STARTING POINT OF HGT

- ◆ Gauge theory based on strict Lie 2-algebra [Baez 2002]

Easy way: Define the Lie 2-algebra by the differential crossed module:

- ◆ two Lie algebras:  $\mathfrak{g}$  and  $\mathfrak{h}$  and the following maps between them:

$$\underline{t} : \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \quad \underline{\alpha} : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \text{Der}(\mathfrak{h})$$

s.t. for  $g \in \mathfrak{g}$ ,  $h, h' \in \mathfrak{h}$

- ◆  $\mathfrak{g}$ -invariance:  $\underline{t}(\underline{\alpha}(g) \triangleright h) = [g, \underline{t}(h)]$
- ◆ Peiffer identity:  $\underline{\alpha}(\underline{t}(h)) \triangleright h' = [h, h']$

- ◆ Correspondingly, we introduce two gauge fields:

- ◆  $\mathfrak{g}$ -valued 1-form:  $A^a$
- ◆  $\mathfrak{h}$ -valued 2-form:  $B^I$

- ◆ Field strengths are given by

- ◆  $F = dA + \frac{1}{2}A \wedge A - \underline{t}(B)$
- ◆  $H = dB + \underline{\alpha}(A) \wedge B$

THEN Bianchi identity and closure of gauge transformations are analyzed

◆ Crossed Module:

◆ Since the (differential) Crossed Module is a basic object in our construction, we introduce a little more detailed expressions:

◆ Crossed module: A pair of Lie algebras,  $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{h})$  with homomorphisms  $t, \alpha$

$$t : \mathfrak{h} \rightarrow \mathfrak{g} \quad \alpha : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \text{Der}(\mathfrak{h})$$

◆ To write down the field theory, we introduce a local basis:

$$g_a \in \mathfrak{g}, \quad h_A \in \mathfrak{h}, \quad [g_a, g_b] = f_{ab}^c g_c, \quad [h_A, h_B] = \tilde{f}_{AB}^C h_C$$

then the maps are

$$\alpha(g_a) \triangleright h_A = \alpha_{aA}^B h_B, \quad t(h_A) = t_A^a g_a$$

◆ There are now 4 structure constants

$$\alpha_{aB}^A \quad t_A^a \quad f_{ab}^c \quad \tilde{f}_{AB}^C$$

Among them there are some relations required by consistency

- ◆ To construct gauge field theories, we use a so-called QP-manifold. For our purpose, we take the graded manifold with a pair of vector spaces  $V$  and  $W$

$$\mathcal{M}_n = T^*[n](W[1] \oplus V[2]) \quad W \sim \mathfrak{g}^*, V \sim \mathfrak{h}^*$$

where  $[n]$  shifts the degree  $n$  of the coordinates, thus the local coordinates are for  $W \oplus V \oplus W^* \oplus V^*$

$$(q^a, Q^A, p_a, P_A) \quad \text{with degree} \quad (1, 2, n-1, n-2)$$

- ◆ QP-structure

- ◆ P-structure  $\omega = (-1)^n dq^a \wedge dp_a + dQ^A \wedge dP_A$

then we have a corresponding graded Poisson bracket of degree  $-n$ ,  $\{-, -\}$

- ◆ Q-structure is given by a Hamiltonian  $\Theta$  :

- ◆ Hamiltonian in the local coordinates is a polynomial of degree  $n+1$

- ◆ Master equation  $\{\Theta, \Theta\} = 0$

- ◆ Homological vector field of degree 1:  $Q = \{\Theta, -\} \quad Q^2 = 0$

- ◆ For example, a Hamiltonian: Each term contains a SINGLE momentum variable.

On our supermanifold  $\mathcal{M}_n = T^*[n](W[1] \oplus V[2])$

$$\Theta^{(1)} = t_A^a Q^A p_a - \frac{1}{2} f_{bc}^a q^b q^c p_a - \alpha_{aB}^a q^a Q^B P_A + \frac{1}{6} T_{abc}^A q^a q^b q^c P_A$$

- ◆ Here, the structure constants of crossed module appears.

The master eq.  $\{\Theta^{(1)}, \Theta^{(1)}\} = 0$  gives the relations among the structure constants. Extra structure constants

$$T_{abc}^A = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{Strict Lie 2-algebra}$$

$$T_{abc}^A \neq 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{Semi-strict Lie 2-algebra}$$

## ◆ Gauge Field and Field Strength

◆ To construct the gauge tr. rules and field strength, we follow AKSZ-Strobl:

◆ Taking a d-dimensional spacetime  $\Sigma$  with coordinates:  $(\sigma^\mu, \theta^\mu) \in T[1]\Sigma$

◆ Fields are defined in the mapping space

◆ Consider the map  $a : T[1]\Sigma \rightarrow T^*[n](W[1] \oplus V[2])$

◆ (super)gauge fields are defined by pullback:  $a^*(q^a) = \mathbf{A}^a, \quad a^*(Q^A) = \mathbf{B}^A$

◆ (super)Field strength:  $\mathbf{F}_z = \mathbf{d}a^*(z) - a^*(Qz)$

◆ Usual field corresponding to the coordinate  $z$  is the degree  $|z|$  component of superfield  $a^*(z)$

◆ We define a degree preserving map with identification of the degree 1 coordinate of  $T[1]\Sigma$  with a form  $d\sigma^\mu$

$$\tilde{a} : T[1]\Sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_n \quad \tilde{a}^*(q^a) = A_\mu^a d\sigma^\mu \quad \tilde{a}^*(Q^A) = \frac{1}{2} B_{\mu\nu}^A d\sigma^\mu d\sigma^\nu$$

◆ From degree  $|z|+1$  part of  $\mathbf{F}_z$  we get  $F_z = d\tilde{a}^*(z) - \tilde{a}^*(Qz)$

◆ From degree  $|z|$  part, we get the gauge transformation

$$\delta\tilde{a}^*(z) = d\tilde{a}_{-1}^*(z) - \tilde{a}_{-1}^*(Qz)$$

## ◆ Classification of Hamiltonians

Now we classify the possible Hamiltonians for spacetime dimensions  $d=n+1$

- ◆ We expand the Hamiltonian in the number of conjugate momenta  $(p_a, P_A)$

$$\Theta = \sum_k \Theta^{(k)}$$

- ◆ We find that there is a limited number of types available, depending on the spacetime dimension  $d=n+1$

1) dimension larger than 6  $n \geq 6$   $\Theta = \Theta^{(0)} + \Theta^{(1)}$

2) dimension 5 and 6  $n = 4, 5$   $\Theta = \Theta^{(0)} + \Theta^{(1)} + \Theta^{(2)}$

3) dimension 4 and less

- ◆ We see that case 1) is essentially the same as the semi-strict case:

$$\Theta^{(0)} = \frac{1}{d!} m_{ab\dots de} q^a q^b \dots q^d q^e + \frac{1}{(d-2)!} m_{a\dots cA} q^a q^b \dots Q^A + \dots,$$

$$\{\Theta^{(1)}, \Theta^{(1)}\} = 0 \quad \longleftarrow \text{Same relations as semi-strict Lie 2-algebra}$$

$$\{\Theta^{(0)}, \Theta^{(1)}\} + \{\Theta^{(1)}, \Theta^{(0)}\} = 0$$

$$\{\Theta^{(0)}, \Theta^{(0)}\} = 0 \quad \longleftarrow \text{Automatic, no new relations}$$

◆ Dimensions 5 and 6 provide interesting possibilities. We consider the case  $d=5$ .

◆ The Hamiltonian is  $\Theta = \Theta^{(0)} + \Theta^{(1)} + \Theta^{(2)}$

$$\Theta^{(0)} = \frac{1}{5!} m_{abcde} q^a q^b q^c q^d q^e + \frac{1}{3!} m_{abcA} q^a q^b q^c Q^A + \frac{1}{2} m_{aAB} q^a Q^A Q^B,$$

$$\Theta^{(1)} = \frac{1}{2} f_{ab}^c q^a q^b p_c + t_A^a Q^A p_a + \alpha_{aA}^B q^a Q^A P_B + \frac{1}{3!} T_{abc}^A q^a q^b q^c P_A,$$

$$\Theta^{(2)} = s^{aA} p_a P_A + \frac{1}{2} n_a^{AB} q^a P_A P_B$$

◆ The master equation is decomposed by

$$\{\Theta^{(0)}, \Theta^{(0)}\} = 0,$$

$$\{\Theta^{(0)}, \Theta^{(1)}\} + \{\Theta^{(1)}, \Theta^{(0)}\} = 0$$

$$\{\Theta^{(1)}, \Theta^{(1)}\} + \{\Theta^{(0)}, \Theta^{(2)}\} + \{\Theta^{(2)}, \Theta^{(0)}\} = 0,$$

$$\{\Theta^{(1)}, \Theta^{(2)}\} + \{\Theta^{(2)}, \Theta^{(1)}\} = 0,$$

$$\{\Theta^{(2)}, \Theta^{(2)}\} = 0.$$

Now we have some possibilities to extend the semi-strict Lie 2-algebra

#### NOTE: WHY 5 DIM

5-dimensional theory is also interesting since one can think of it as a KK compactification of the 6-dimensional theory, and the 6-dimensional theory itself is believed not to exhibit a covariant action.

Now we have some possibilities to extend the semi-strict Lie 2-algebra

1)  $\Theta^{(0)} \neq 0$  and  $\Theta^{(2)} = 0$

- ◆ It does **not** change the gauge transformation and field strength, since

$$\{\Theta^{(0)}, q^a\} = 0 \quad \{\Theta^{(0)}, Q^A\} = 0$$

- ◆ It does **not** change the semi-strict Lie 2-algebra structure since  $\{\Theta^{(1)}, \Theta^{(1)}\} = 0$

2)  $\Theta^{(0)} = 0$  and  $\Theta^{(2)} \neq 0$

- ◆ It changes the gauge transformation and field strength.
- ◆ It does **not** change the semi-strict Lie 2-algebra structure.

3) Both  $\Theta^{(0)}, \Theta^{(2)} \neq 0$

- ◆ It changes the gauge transformation and field strength, and it also changes the semi-strict Lie 2-algebra structure, since  $\{\Theta^{(0)}, \Theta^{(2)}\}$  term changes the relations given by  $\{\Theta^{(1)}, \Theta^{(1)}\}$

- ◆ This deforms the constraints on the structure constants:  $t^a_A$   $\alpha^A_{aB}$   $f^c_{ab}$   $T^A_{abc}$  and gives a new type of 2-form gauge field theory.

We focus on case 2), which already exhibits a very interesting structure from the covariantization point of view.

$$\Theta^{(0)} = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \Theta^{(2)} \neq 0$$

$$\Theta^{(1)} = \frac{1}{2} f_{ab}^c q^a q^b p_c + t_A^a Q^A p_a + \alpha_{aA}^B q^a Q^A P_B + \frac{1}{3!} T_{abc}^A q^a q^b q^c P_A,$$

$$\Theta^{(2)} = s^{aA} p_a P_A + \frac{1}{2} n_a^{AB} q^a P_A P_B$$

$$\frac{1}{2} f_{e[a}^d f_{bc]}^e - \frac{1}{3!} t_A^d T_{abc}^A = 0,$$

$$t_A^c f_{cb}^a - t_B^a \alpha_{bA}^B = 0,$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \alpha_{cA}^B f_{ab}^c + \alpha_{[a|C|}^B \alpha_{b]A}^C + \frac{1}{2} t_A^c T_{cab}^B = 0,$$

$$\frac{3}{2} f_{[ab}^e T_{cd]e}^A + \alpha_{[a|B|}^A T_{bcd]}^B = 0,$$

$$\alpha_{a(A}^C t_{B)}^a = 0.$$

$$s^{a(A} n_a^{BC)} = 0,$$

$$s^{cA} f_{ca}^b + \alpha_{aB}^A s^{bB} - t_B^b n_a^{AB} = 0,$$

$$\frac{1}{2} s^{c(A} T_{abc}^{B)} + \frac{1}{4} n_c^{AB} f_{ab}^c + \alpha_{[a|C|}^{(A} n_{b]}^{B)C} = 0,$$

$$s^{a(A} \alpha_{aC}^{B)} + \frac{1}{2} t_C^a n_a^{AB} = 0,$$

$$t_A^{[a} s^{b]A} = 0.$$

2') set  $T_{abc}^A = 0 \quad \longrightarrow$  strict Lie 2-algebra

We focus on case 2), which already exhibits a very interesting structure from the covariantization point of view.

$$\Theta^{(0)} = 0 \text{ and } \Theta^{(2)} \neq 0$$

$$\Theta^{(1)} = \frac{1}{2} f_{ab}^c q^a q^b p_c + t_A^a Q^A p_a + \alpha_{aA}^B q^a Q^A P_B + \frac{1}{3!} T_{abc}^A q^a q^b q^c P_A,$$

$$\Theta^{(2)} = s^{aA} p_a P_A + \frac{1}{2} n_a^{AB} q^a P_A P_B$$

$$\frac{1}{2} f_{e[a}^d f_{bc]}^e - \frac{1}{3!} t_A^d T_{abc}^A = 0,$$

$$t_A^c f_{cb}^a - t_B^a \alpha_{bA}^B = 0,$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \alpha_{cA}^B f_{ab}^c + \alpha_{[a|C|}^B \alpha_{b]A}^C + \frac{1}{2} t_A^c T_{cab}^B = 0,$$

$$\frac{3}{2} f_{[ab}^e T_{cd]e}^A + \alpha_{[a|B|}^A T_{bcd]}^B = 0,$$

$$\alpha_{a(A}^C t_{B)}^a = 0.$$

$$s^{a(A} n_a^{BC)} = 0,$$

$$s^{cA} f_{ca}^b + \alpha_{aB}^A s^{bB} - t_B^b n_a^{AB} = 0,$$

$$\frac{1}{2} s^{c(A} T_{abc}^{B)} + \frac{1}{4} n_c^{AB} f_{ab}^c + \alpha_{[a|C|}^{(A} n_{b]}^{B)C} = 0,$$

$$s^{a(A} \alpha_{aC}^{B)} + \frac{1}{2} t_C^a n_a^{AB} = 0,$$

$$t_A^{[a} s^{b]A} = 0.$$

2') set  $T_{abc}^A = 0 \longrightarrow$  strict Lie 2-algebra

Now we have two new structure constants:  $s^{aA}, n_a^{AB}$

◆ Structure of the maps,

$$\begin{array}{lll}
 [-, -] : & W \times W & \rightarrow W \\
 \underline{t} : & V & \rightarrow W \\
 \underline{\alpha} : & W \times V & \rightarrow V \\
 [-, -, -] : & W \times W \times W & \rightarrow W \\
 \underline{s} : & W^* & \rightarrow V \\
 \underline{n} : & W \times V^* & \rightarrow W
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{l}
 [p_a, p_b] = f_{ab}^c p_c, \\
 \underline{t}(P_A) = t_A^a p_a, \\
 \underline{\alpha}(p_a) P_A = \alpha_{aA}^B P_B, \\
 [p_a, p_b, p_c] = T_{abc}^A P_A, \\
 \underline{s}(q^a) = s^{aA} P_A, \\
 \underline{n}(p_a)(Q^A) = n_a^{AB} P_B.
 \end{array}
 \left. \vphantom{\begin{array}{l} [p_a, p_b] = f_{ab}^c p_c, \\ \underline{t}(P_A) = t_A^a p_a, \\ \underline{\alpha}(p_a) P_A = \alpha_{aA}^B P_B, \end{array}} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{differential} \\ \text{crossed} \\ \text{module} \end{array}$$

◆ Other important maps

◆  $\underline{\alpha} \circ \underline{t} : V \times V \rightarrow V$ , since  $\alpha_{a(A}^C t_B^a) = 0$  this map is a bracket  $[-, -]_V$

with structure constant  $\tilde{f}_{AB}^C = \alpha_{a[A}^C t_B^a]$

◆  $\underline{s}' : W \rightarrow V$ , since  $t_A^{[a} s^{b]A} = 0$ ,  $G^{ab} = t_A^a s^{bA}$  is a symmetric tensor.

We can write  $G^{ab} = \mathcal{P}_c^a g^{cb}$  where  $g$  is an invertible metric on  $W$ . Then

$s_a^A = g_{ab} s^{bA}$  defines the map  $\underline{s}'$  ( $g_{ab}$  has some ambiguity)

## Field strength and gauge transformation

$$F^a = dA^a - \frac{1}{2} f_{bc}^a A^b \wedge A^c - t_A^a B^A - s^{aA} D_A,$$

$$H^A = dB^A + \alpha_{aB}^A A^a \wedge B^B + s^{bA} C_b + n_a^{AB} A^a \wedge D_B + \frac{1}{3!} T_{abc}^A A^a \wedge A^b \wedge A^c.$$

$$F_a^{(C)} = dC_a - f_{ab}^c A^b \wedge C_c - \alpha_{aB}^A B^B \wedge D_A - \frac{1}{2} n_a^{AB} D_A \wedge D_B - \frac{1}{2} T_{abc}^A A^b \wedge A^c \wedge D_A,$$

$$F_A^{(D)} = dD_A - t_A^a C_a - \alpha_{aB}^A A^a \wedge D_B.$$

$$\delta A^a = d\epsilon^a - f_{bc}^a A^b \epsilon^c - t_A^a \mu^A - s^{aA} \mu'_A,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta B^A &= d\mu^A + \alpha_{aB}^A (A^a \wedge \mu^B + \epsilon^a B^B) + s^{bA} \epsilon'_b + n_a^{AB} (A^a \wedge \mu'_B + \epsilon^a \wedge D_B) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} T_{abc}^A A^a \wedge A^b \epsilon^c \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta C_a &= d\epsilon'_a - f_{ab}^c (A^b \wedge \epsilon'_c + \epsilon^b \wedge C_c) - \alpha_{aB}^A (B^B \wedge \mu'_A + \mu^B \wedge D_A) - n_a^{AB} D_A \wedge \mu'_B \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{2} T_{abc}^A (2A^b \wedge D_A \epsilon^c + A^b \wedge A^c \wedge \mu'_A), \end{aligned}$$

$$\delta D_A = d\mu'_A - t_A^a \epsilon'_a - \alpha_{aA}^B (A^a \wedge \mu'_B + \epsilon^a D_B).$$

$$\delta F^a = f_{bc}^a F^b \epsilon^c,$$

$$\delta H^A = \alpha_{aB}^A H^B \epsilon^a - \alpha_{aB}^A F^a \wedge \mu^B - n_a^{AB} F^a \wedge \mu'_B + n_a^{AB} F_B^{(D)} \epsilon^a + T_{abc}^A A^a \wedge F^c \epsilon^b$$

## Field strength and gauge transformation, T=0

$$F^a = dA^a - \frac{1}{2} f_{bc}^a A^b \wedge A^c - t_A^a B^A - s^{aA} D_A,$$

$$H^A = dB^A + \alpha_{aB}^A A^a \wedge B^B + s^{bA} C_b + n_a^{AB} A^a \wedge D_B + \frac{1}{3!} T_{abc}^A A^a \wedge A^b \wedge A^c.$$

$$F_a^{(C)} = dC_a - f_{ab}^c A^b \wedge C_c - \alpha_{aB}^A B^B \wedge D_A - \frac{1}{2} n_a^{AB} D_A \wedge D_B - \frac{1}{2} T_{abc}^A A^b \wedge A^c \wedge D_A,$$

$$F_A^{(D)} = dD_A - t_A^a C_a - \alpha_{aB}^A A^a \wedge D_B.$$

$$\delta A^a = d\epsilon^a - f_{bc}^a A^b \epsilon^c - t_A^a \mu^A - s^{aA} \mu'_A,$$

$$\delta B^A = d\mu^A + \alpha_{aB}^A (A^a \wedge \mu^B + \epsilon^a B^B) + s^{bA} \epsilon'_b + n_a^{AB} (A^a \wedge \mu'_B + \epsilon^a \wedge D_B)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} T_{abc}^A A^a \wedge A^b \epsilon^c$$

$$\delta C_a = d\epsilon'_a - f_{ab}^c (A^b \wedge \epsilon'_c + \epsilon^b \wedge C_c) - \alpha_{aB}^A (B^B \wedge \mu'_A + \mu^B \wedge D_A) - n_a^{AB} D_A \wedge \mu'_B$$

$$- \frac{1}{2} T_{abc}^A (2A^b \wedge D_A \epsilon^c + A^b \wedge A^c \wedge \mu'_A),$$

$$\delta D_A = d\mu'_A - t_A^a \epsilon'_a - \alpha_{aA}^B (A^a \wedge \mu'_B + \epsilon^a D_B).$$

$$\delta F^a = f_{bc}^a F^b \epsilon^c,$$

$$\delta H^A = \alpha_{aB}^A H^B \epsilon^a - \alpha_{aB}^A F^a \wedge \mu^B - n_a^{AB} F^a \wedge \mu'_B + n_a^{AB} F_B^{(D)} \epsilon^a + T_{abc}^A A^a \wedge F^b \epsilon^c$$

F=0 is necessary for covariance: fake curvature condition

## ◆ Reduction to 2-form gauge theory

- ◆ The theory constructed so far contains auxiliary gauge fields C, D

They are the auxiliary gauge fields of BF theory.

Since we are interested in the theory only with A, B, which is non-topological, we drop the auxiliary gauge fields by imposing constraint conditions:

- ◆ Trivial example:  $C=0, D=0$
- ◆ We look for a case in which the gauge transformation of the field strengths H, F is deformed/canceled in  $\delta H$ ,

For this, we shift  $\delta B$  by a term F

We do this by adjusting the gauge freedom of the auxiliary gauge fields C, D

In general, we also analyze canonical transformations on the QP-manifold to identify equivalent theories.

One possibility is to take constraints:

$$s^{aA} C_a = \Gamma_{ab}^A A^a \wedge F^b \quad D_A = 0$$

## ◆ Reduction to 2-form gauge theory

- ◆ With constraints on the auxiliary gauge fields, a smaller class of gauge symmetries remains.
  - ◆ Identify the residual gauge symmetry, and the transformation of the field strengths (F, H) under this residual symmetry.
  - ◆ Identify also the conditions for the transformation of the 3-form field strength,  $\delta H$ , to be covariant.

The results are summarized in the end, with residual gauge transformation  $\hat{\delta}$  and parameters  $\hat{\mu}, \hat{\epsilon}$  as:

$$F^a = dA^a - \frac{1}{2} f_{bc}^a A^b \wedge A^c - t_A^a B^A,$$

$$H^A = dB^A + \alpha_{aB}^A A^a \wedge B^B - \alpha_{aB}^A s_c^B F^a \wedge A^c,$$

$$\hat{\delta} A^a = d\hat{\epsilon}^a - f_{bc}^a A^b \hat{\epsilon}^c - t_A^a \hat{\mu}^A,$$

$$\hat{\delta} B^A = d\hat{\mu}^A + \alpha_{jB}^A (A^j \wedge \hat{\mu}^B + \hat{\epsilon}^j B^B) - \alpha_{jB}^A s_c^B \hat{\epsilon}^c F^j,$$

$$\hat{\delta} F^a = f_{bc}^a F^b (\hat{\epsilon}^c - (\mathcal{P}\hat{\epsilon})^c),$$

$$\hat{\delta} H^A = \alpha_{aB}^A H^B (\hat{\epsilon}^a - (\mathcal{P}\hat{\epsilon})^a),$$

## Discussion

- ◆ Systematic reduction from Lie  $n$ -algebra gauge theory to Lie 2-algebra gauge theory is proposed
- ◆ 5-dim. case is analyzed carefully, and an example of a covariantized theory is constructed.
- ◆ The algebroid version can be a natural generalization  
We have anyway scalar field in M5 effective theory.
- ◆ Other possibility: inclusion of  $\Theta^{(0)}$   
In this case, we modify the (semi)strict Lie 2-algebra structure.
- ◆ 4-dimensional case:  $n=3$