

Squashed group manifolds in String Theory

brane realization and classical integrability

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IPMU - 4 December 2012

Based on: [[arXiv:1003.0712](#), [arXiv:1011.1771](#), [arXiv:1104.0738](#), [arXiv:1208.3680](#)]

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Outline

- 1 *Why are we here?*
- 2 *The main idea*
- 3 *D–brane construction*
- 4 *Integrability of the Principal Chiral Model*
- 5 *Conclusion*



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Squashed geometries

- String theory provides a dual description of the same physics: **worldsheet** and **target space**
- In very few cases we can access both and learn from both sides
- Most of these cases (flat spacetime, group manifolds, plane waves) have a **high degree of symmetry**
- More symmetry means **more structure** (and simpler analysis)
- Can we break part of this symmetry, at the same time preserving the “nice” structures?



Three dimensional gravity

- **Three-dimensional gravity** provides a simple laboratory for quantum gravity
- There are no propagating gravitons
- There are non-trivial solutions (BTZ black holes)
- Pure gravity solutions are always **locally AdS₃**
- Anti-de Sitter spaces appear in **near-horizon geometries** of various D-brane configurations
- AdS₃ appears as an **exact string theory background** (Wess–Zumino–Witten model)



TMG

- Three-dimensional AdS spaces also appear as solutions of **topologically massive gravity** (TMG)

$$S_{\text{tmg}}(g) = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} \left(R + \frac{2}{\ell^2} \right) + \mu S_{CS}$$

- for $\mu \neq 1$ the anti-de Sitter solution is unstable, but there are **two warped solutions** with metric of the type

$$ds^2[\text{WAdS}_3] = R^2 \left[d\omega^2 - \cosh^2 \omega d\tau^2 + \frac{1}{\cosh^2 \Theta_w} (d\beta + \sinh \omega d\tau)^2 \right]$$

where Θ_w is a deformation parameter:

- for $\Theta_w = 0$ this is AdS_3
- for $\Theta_w \rightarrow \infty$ this is $\text{AdS}_2 \times S^1$



Today's talk

- **Geometry** of squashed groups in general (and AdS_3 in particular)
- **T-duality** acts on principal fibrations
- **Type II** solutions with squashed AdS_3 and S^3
- **Integrability** (without RR fields)



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The Geometry – Group Manifold

- Consider a **group manifold** G (e.g. AdS_3 or S^3)
- There is a bi-invariant metric such that the isometry group is $G \times G$
- The **metric** can be written **in terms of the currents** J_a that generate half of the symmetry

$$ds^2[G] = \sum_{a=1}^{\dim G} J_a \otimes J_a$$

- If $H \subset G$ is compact, G is the total space of a **Hopf fibration** over G/H :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H & \longrightarrow & G \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & G/H \end{array}$$

- Today $H = U(1)$ and $G/H = S^2, \text{AdS}_2$.



The Geometry – Squashed group

- SqG is a deformation of G described by the **same currents**
- The symmetry group is $G(\mathbb{R}) \times U(1)$ (only left-invariance)
- The metric can be written in terms of the **same J_a currents**. Fix $\dim G = 3$

$$ds^2[\text{Sq}G] = J_1 \otimes J_1 + J_2 \otimes J_2 + \frac{1}{\cosh^2 \Theta_w} J_3 \otimes J_3$$

- SqG is the **base space for a fibration** that has $G \times S^1$ total space

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S^1 \times S^1 & \longrightarrow & G \times S^1 \\
 & & \downarrow \\
 & & G/U(1)
 \end{array}
 \xrightarrow{\text{choose embedding}}
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 S^1 & \longrightarrow & G \times S^1 \\
 & & \downarrow \\
 & & \text{Sq}G
 \end{array}$$

the **embedding** of $S^1 \hookrightarrow S^1 \times S^1$ is described by Θ_w



T-duality to “undo” fibrations

- Construct **NLSM on squashed groups via T-duality** from principal chiral models with group manifold target space G
- We are not considering here conformal models: we start with the **metric only** (a B -field will appear)
- Main observation: if the space has a S^1 fibration structure

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^1 & \longrightarrow & M \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & N \end{array}$$

- T-duality along the fiber will “undo” the fibration and give a **direct product**

$$\tilde{M} = N \times S^1$$



T-duality on the worksheet

- If there is a S^1 fibration, the action can be written as

$$S[u^i, z] = \int_{\Sigma} G_{ij}(u) du^i \wedge *du^j + (dz + f_i(u) du^i) \wedge *(dz + f_j(u) du^j) ,$$

which is to say, the metric has a block form

$$\left(\begin{array}{c|c} \frac{G_{ij}(u) + f_i(u)f_j(u)}{f_i(u)} & f_i(u) \\ \hline & 1 \end{array} \right) .$$

- we want to T-dualize the S^1 described by z .



T-duality on the worksheet

- introduce a gauge field A and a Lagrange multiplier

$$S[u^i, A, \tilde{z}] = \int_{\Sigma} G_{ij}(u) du^i \wedge *du^j + (A + f_i(u) du^i) \wedge *(A + f_i(u) du^i) - 2\tilde{z} dA.$$

- The EOM for \tilde{z} give

$$dA = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad A = dz,$$

which leads back to the original action

- The EOM for A gives

$$*d\tilde{z} = A + f_i(u) du^i = dz + f_i(u) du^i.$$

T-duality on the worksheet

- The resulting action describes a **direct product metric** plus a **B field**

$$S[u^i, \tilde{z}] = \int_{\Sigma} G_{ij}(u) du^i \wedge *du^j + d\tilde{z} \wedge *d\tilde{z} - 2 d\tilde{z} \wedge f_i(u) du^i$$

- as promised

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 S^1 & \longrightarrow & M \\
 & & \downarrow \\
 & & N
 \end{array}
 \xrightarrow{\text{T-duality}}
 \tilde{M} = N \times S^1$$

Squashed groups

- start with

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U(1) & \longrightarrow & G \times U(1) \\ & & \downarrow \\ & & \text{Sq}G \end{array}$$

the fiber is a linear combination of the $U(1)$ and one direction in the Cartan of G

- The metric on $\text{Sq}G$ is

$$ds^2[\text{Sq}G] = ds^2[G] + \tanh^2 \Theta j_C \otimes j_C,$$

where Θ measures the combination of the two $U(1)$:

- for $\Theta \rightarrow 0$, $\text{Sq}G = G$
- for $\Theta \rightarrow \infty$, $\text{Sq}G = G/U(1) \times U(1)$.



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Initial setup

- Consider the superposition of a D_1/D_5 system with a **magnetic monopole** and a **plane wave**
- This is the T-dual of the $D = 4$ extremal dyonic black string.
- The field content is

$$ds^2 = H_1^{1/2} H_5^{1/2} \left(H_1^{-1} H_5^{-1} \left(du dv + K du^2 \right) + H_5^{-1} \left(dy_1^2 + \dots dy_4^2 \right) + V^{-1} \left(d\psi + A_i dx^i \right)^2 + V \left(dx_1^2 + \dots dx_3^2 \right) \right)$$

$$e^{2\varphi} = H_1^{-1} H_5, \quad F_{[3]} = H_1^{-1} dt \wedge du \wedge dv - B_i dx^i \wedge d\psi$$

where $H_1(x), H_5(x), K(x), V(x), A_i(x), B_i(x)$ are harmonic functions of the transverse coordinates $x_i, i = 1, 2, 3$ and

$$dB = - * dH_5,$$

$$dA = - * dV$$



Initial setup

- Consider the **near-horizon limit**

$$\begin{aligned}
 ds^2 = & Q_m Q_1^{1/2} Q_5^{1/2} \left(-d\tau^2 + d\omega^2 + Q_w d\sigma^2 + 2Q_w^{1/2} \sinh \omega d\sigma d\tau \right) \\
 & + Q_m Q_1^{1/2} Q_5^{1/2} \left(d\theta^2 + d\varphi^2 + d\psi^2 + 2\cos \theta d\psi d\varphi \right) \\
 & + Q_1^{1/2} Q_5^{-1/2} \left(dy_1^2 + \dots + dy_4^2 \right),
 \end{aligned}$$

$$F_{[3]} = Q_m Q_1^{1/2} Q_5^{1/2} \left(\cosh \omega d\tau \wedge d\omega \wedge d\sigma + \sin \theta d\varphi \wedge d\psi \wedge d\theta \right).$$

- The geometry is $AdS_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$
- The radii are fixed by the monopole charge Q_m (quantized)
- The plane wave charge appears in the AdS_3 part



Hopf–T–duality

$$S^1 \longrightarrow \text{AdS}_3 \times S^1$$



$$\text{WAdS}_3$$

- We want to use the fact that
- Single out a $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^1$ part from the ten-dimensional geometry
- Implement **Hopf–T–duality**.

If the geometry is the total space for a S^1 fibration and there are **only Ramond–Ramond fields**, the **T–dual along the fiber has geometry $B \times S^1$** .

$$S^1 \longrightarrow E$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow + \text{RR fields} & \xrightarrow{\text{T-dual}} & (B \times S^1) + \text{RR and NS fields} \\ B & & \end{array}$$



Hopf-T-duality

- Starting from $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^1$:

$$ds^2 = R^2 \left(-d\tau^2 + d\omega^2 + Q_w d\sigma^2 + 2\sqrt{Q_w} \sinh \omega d\sigma d\tau \right) + \sqrt{\frac{Q_1}{Q_5}} dy_1^2$$

$$F_{[3]} = R^2 \cosh \omega d\tau \wedge d\omega \wedge d\sigma$$

T-duality

- we obtain the metric we want: $\text{WAdS}_3 \times S^1$

$$ds^2 = R^2 \left[d\omega^2 - \cosh^2 \omega d\tau^2 + \frac{1}{\cosh^2 \Theta_w} (d\beta + \sinh \omega d\tau)^2 \right] + d\zeta_w^2$$

$$F_4 = \frac{R^2}{\cosh^2 \Theta_w} \cosh \omega d\omega \wedge d\tau \wedge d\beta \wedge d\zeta_w,$$

$$F_2 = R \tanh \Theta_w \cosh \omega d\omega \wedge d\tau,$$

$$H_3 = R \tanh \Theta_w \cosh \omega d\omega \wedge d\tau \wedge d\zeta_w.$$



Observations

- Having started from a pure RR background, the geometry is **globally WAdS₃**. We can get **orbifolds by adding NS fluxes** in the initial background
- The **parameters** of the solution are understood **in terms of charges**:

$$R^2 = Q_m \sqrt{Q_1 Q_5} \qquad \sinh^2 \Theta_w = 4Q_w Q_m Q_5$$

- the quantization of the deformation corresponds to the quantization of the linear combination of the fibers.
- The group $SL_2(\mathbb{R})$ has **three different types of generators**. Each can be chosen for this construction and lead to **different geometries**.
- The same construction can be used to describe other squashed groups (simplest case: squashed S^3)



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Currents and EOM

- Consider the **PCM for a group G**

$$S = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma} \text{Tr}[dg(x, t) \wedge *dg^{-1}(x, t)],$$

where g is a map from the worldsheet to the group $g: \Sigma \rightarrow G$

- The **equations of motion** are

$$d*(g^{-1} dg) = d*(dg g^{-1}) = 0.$$

- these are the conservation laws for two **currents**

$$j = g^{-1} dg, \quad \bar{j} = -dg g^{-1}.$$

- the currents are **flat** and thus fulfill the *Maurer–Cartan* (MC) equations:

$$dj + j \wedge j = 0, \quad d\bar{j} + \bar{j} \wedge \bar{j} = 0.$$

- Conservation and flatness are the reasons for the integrability.**



Lax current

- We will consider only the left currents. The right side works in the same way
- Introduce the **one-parameter family** of currents

$$J(x, t; \zeta) = -\frac{\zeta}{1 - \zeta^2} (\zeta j(x, t) + *j(x, t))$$

where $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}$ is the *spectral parameter*.

- The flatness of J is an equation for the components (J_x, J_t) , the so-called **Lax equations**:

$$\partial_t J_x - \partial_x J_t + [J_t, J_x] = 0$$

this is a **Lax Pair**.



Lax current

- The flatness of J and \bar{J} implies both the EOM and the MC equations.
- Conversely, imposing the EOM and MC equations results in the flatness of the currents.
- This can be easily verified by observing that

$$dJ(\zeta) + J(\zeta) \wedge J(\zeta) = \frac{\zeta}{\zeta^2 - 1} (d*j + \zeta (dj + j \wedge j)) .$$

- We started with a conserved current. Its flatness implies the **existence of a one-parameter family of flat currents**.
- Algebraically we passed from $j \in \mathfrak{g}$ to the **loop algebra** $J \in \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathbb{C}[\zeta, \zeta^{-1}]$
- We literally have **infinitely more currents** (after Fourier transform).



Wilson line

- We have constructed infinite currents. Where are the **conserved charges**?
- Since $J(\zeta)$ is flat we can introduce a **Wilson line** as the path-ordered exponential

$$W(x, t | x_0, t_0; \zeta) = P \left\{ \exp \left[\int_{\mathcal{C}: (x_0, t_0) \rightarrow (x, t)} J(\xi, \tau; \zeta) \right] \right\},$$

and

$$J(x, t; \zeta) = W^{-1}(x, t; \zeta) dW(x, t; \zeta).$$

- This generalizes the relation $j = g^{-1} dg$ to the loop algebra.
- For spin chain experts: this is the **transfer matrix**.



Wilson loop and conserved charges

- We can now define a **one-parameter family of conserved charges**:

$$Q(t; \zeta) = W(\infty, t | -\infty, t; \zeta) = P \left\{ \exp \left[\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} J_x(x, t; \zeta) dx \right] \right\} .$$

- note that Q goes “all around” the worldsheet. This is a **Wilson loop**
- Key point: using the **Lax equations** and with appropriate BC, the **one-parameter charge $Q(t; \zeta)$ is conserved**

$$\frac{d}{dt} Q(t; \zeta) = 0$$

- Expand on ζ and find an **infinite set of conserved charges Q_n**

$$Q(t; \zeta) = 1 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \zeta^{n+1} Q^{(n)}(t) .$$

for which

$$\frac{d}{dt} Q^{(n)}(t) = 0, \quad \forall n = 0, 1, \dots .$$



Integrability of the PCM (in short)

- The principal chiral model has two **conserved currents** corresponding to the $G \times G$ **symmetry** of the action
- These currents are also **flat**
- Out of these one can construct two **one-parameter families of flat currents**
- The Wilson loops of these currents are time-independent
- The Fourier development gives **infinite conserved charges**
- These charges close under an infinite-dimensional algebra (**Yangian** or affine)
- the $\mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g}$ symmetry of the action is the zero mode of the $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}} \oplus \widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$ symmetry of the equations of motion.



Integrability and squashed groups

- How much of this structure remains **after T-duality**?
- We have a **linear transformation of the current** components $J(\zeta) \mapsto \tilde{J}(\zeta)$ that leaves the (on-shell) flatness conditions invariant:

$$d\tilde{J} + \tilde{J} \wedge \tilde{J} = 0,$$

- concretely we define T-dual Lax currents $\tilde{J}(\zeta)$ by imposing the condition

$$*\tilde{d}\tilde{z} = dz + f_i(u) du^i.$$

- **Flatness is the key.** This is preserved: the system is **still integrable**.
- The condition is not local (mix time and space derivatives). The resulting **charges are all non-local** and **do not correspond to isometries**.



A technical remark

- The current that we use for T–duality does not commute with the others
- some of the components of J depend explicitly on z , when we have an equation for dz .
- We need to perform a **gauge transformation**

$$J' = h^{-1} J h + h^{-1} dh,$$

- after the transformation, the new current has a zero–mode (in the ζ expansion)

$$\tilde{J}'(\zeta) = h^{-1} dh - \wedge(\zeta) h^{-1} j h \Big|_{dz = *d\tilde{z} - \tilde{f}_i(u) du^i} = \tilde{J}'^{(0)} - \wedge(\zeta) \tilde{j}.$$

- for the experts: in the hierarchies we will have to covariantize w.r.t. $\tilde{J}'^{(0)}$.



The simplest example: Squashed three-sphere

$$\mathcal{J}^1(\zeta) = -\mathbf{z} \wedge (\zeta) \sin \theta \, d\varphi ,$$

$$\mathcal{J}^2(\zeta) = -\mathbf{z} \wedge (\zeta) \, d\theta ,$$

$$\mathcal{J}^3(\zeta) = -\mathbf{z} \left[(1 + \wedge(\zeta)) \left(\frac{d\alpha + \cos \theta \, d\varphi}{\cosh^2 \Theta} + \tanh \Theta \, *d\bar{z} \right) - \cos \theta \, d\varphi \right] ,$$

$$\mathcal{J}^4(\zeta) = -\mathbf{z} \tanh \Theta \wedge (\zeta) (*d\bar{z} - \tanh \Theta (d\alpha + \cos \theta \, d\varphi)) ,$$

and

$$\tilde{\mathcal{J}}^1(\zeta) = -\mathbf{z} \wedge (\zeta) \left[\frac{1}{\cosh^2 \Theta} \cos \varphi \sin \theta \, d\alpha - \sin \varphi \, d\theta + \tanh^2 \Theta \cos \varphi \sin \theta \cos \theta \, d\varphi + \tanh \Theta \cos \varphi \sin \theta \, *d\bar{z} \right]$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{J}}^2(\zeta) = \mathbf{z} \wedge (\zeta) \left[\frac{1}{\cosh^2 \Theta} \sin \varphi \sin \theta \, d\alpha + \cos \varphi \, d\theta - \tanh^2 \Theta \sin \varphi \sin \theta \cos \theta \, d\varphi + \tanh \Theta \sin \varphi \sin \theta \, *d\bar{z} \right] ,$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{J}}^3(\zeta) = \mathbf{z} \wedge (\zeta) \left[\frac{1}{\cosh^2 \Theta} \cos \theta \, d\alpha + (1 - \tanh^2 \Theta \cos^2 \theta) \, d\varphi + \tanh \Theta \cos \theta \, *d\bar{z} \right] ,$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{J}}^4(\zeta) = \mathbf{z} \tanh \Theta \wedge (\zeta) (*d\bar{z} - \tanh \Theta (d\alpha + \cos \theta \, d\varphi)) .$$

- we recover $SU(2) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ currents even if **the isometry is $SU(2) \times U(1) \times U(1)$**
- this is promoted to affine when looking at the **non-local charges**



Symmetries of the squashed group model

- The action with squashed group target space is obtained via T–duality
- T–duality **preserves the integrable structure** of the PCM
- The **full $\widehat{\mathfrak{g}} \oplus \widehat{\mathfrak{g}}$** symmetry is preserved
- Only **part of the zero-modes are realized as isometries $\mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{u}(1)$**
- The other zero modes are non-local
- **Adding RR fluxes** does not change the overall picture:
 - NS and R sectors are separated under T–duality
 - We already know (from the previous section) the expressions for the RR fields
 - The PCM + RR fields is integrable and has an infinite symmetry
 - This infinite symmetry will be preserved

The Green–Schwarz action

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}_{NS}^{\text{SqS}^3} = & -i\bar{\theta}^1(\sqrt{h}h^{ij} - \varepsilon^{ij}\Gamma_{11}) \left\{ \sum_{a=0}^5 e_i^a \gamma_a \left[\partial_j - \frac{1}{2R} \gamma^{5[4} e_j^{3]} \cos 2\varpi + \frac{1}{4R} \gamma^{34} (e_j^5 - 2 \cot \theta e_j^4) \right] \right. \\
 & \left. \sum_{m=6}^9 e_i^m \gamma_m \left[\partial_j - \frac{1}{2R} \gamma^{9[4} e_j^{3]} \sin 2\varpi \right] \right\} \theta^1 \\
 & + i\bar{\theta}^2(\sqrt{h}h^{ij} - \varepsilon^{ij}\Gamma_{11}) \left\{ \sum_{a=0}^z e_i^a \gamma_a \left[\partial_j + \frac{1}{2R} \gamma^{z[4} e_j^{3]} \cos 2\varpi - \frac{1}{4R} \gamma^{34} (e_j^z - 2 \cot \theta e_j^4) \right] \right. \\
 & \left. + \sum_{m=6}^z e_i^m \gamma_m \left[\partial_j - \frac{1}{2R} \gamma^{z[4} e_j^{3]} \sin 2\varpi \right] \right\} \theta^2 \\
 & - i\bar{\theta}^1(\sqrt{h}h^{ij} - \varepsilon^{ij}\Gamma_{11}) \left\{ \sum_{a=0}^5 e_i^a \gamma_a \left[\partial_j + \frac{1}{4R} (\gamma^{5[4} e_j^{3]} - \gamma^{z[4} e_j^{3]}) - \frac{1}{4R} \gamma^{34} \left(\frac{1 - \gamma^{5z}}{2} \right) (e_j^z - 2 \cot \theta e_j^4) \right] \right. \\
 & \left. + \sum_{m=6}^9 e_i^m \gamma_m \left[\partial_j + \frac{1}{4R} (\gamma^{5[4} e_j^{3]} + \gamma^{z[4} e_j^{3]}) - \frac{1}{4R} \gamma^{34} \left(\frac{1 + \gamma^{9z}}{2} \right) (e_j^z - 2 \cot \theta e_j^4) \right] \right\} \theta^2 \\
 & + i\bar{\theta}^2(\sqrt{h}h^{ij} - \varepsilon^{ij}\Gamma_{11}) \left\{ \sum_{a=0}^z e_i^a \gamma_a \left[\partial_j + \frac{1}{4R} (\gamma^{5[4} e_j^{3]} - \gamma^{z[4} e_j^{3]}) + \frac{1}{4R} \gamma^{34} \left(\frac{1 + \gamma^{9z}}{2} \right) (e_j^5 - 2 \cot \theta e_j^4) \right] \right. \\
 & \left. + \sum_{m=6}^z e_i^m \gamma_m \left[\partial_j - \frac{1}{4R} (\gamma^{5[4} e_j^{3]} + \gamma^{z[4} e_j^{3]}) + \frac{1}{4R} \gamma^{34} \left(\frac{1 - \gamma^{5z}}{2} \right) (e_j^5 - 2 \cot \theta e_j^4) \right] \right\} \theta^1
 \end{aligned}$$



Integrability for the full superstring

- The Green–Schwarz superstring on $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3$ can be understood in terms of the sigma model on the supergroup $PSU(1, 1|2)$
- there is a \mathbb{Z}_4 grading, i.e. the Lie algebra decomposes into the form

$$\mathfrak{g} = \bigoplus_{n=0}^3 \mathfrak{g}_n$$

- the decomposition works for the Noether currents and is needed to impose a flatness condition
- the same decomposition (and flatness condition) is preserved by T-duality precisely in the same way as before
- we obtain a set of (non-local) currents for the squashed group that still generate $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)$.



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Summary

- Squashed group manifolds have met renewed attention during the last years
 - Topologically massive gravity
 - Schrödinger spacetimes
- They can be understood as natural deformations of group manifolds
- Using the **Hopf fibration** structure we can construct **type II backgrounds**.
- Using the **Lie algebra** structure we can construct exact **heterotic backgrounds**.
- Using both structures we can prove their classical integrability



The end

*Thank you
for your attention*

