Urs Schreiber

(New York University, Abu Dhabi & Czech Academy of Science, Prague)

Cohomotopy Theory and Branes

talk at Geometry, Topology & Physics at Abu Dhabi NYU AD 2020

> based on joint work with H. Sati and D. Fiorenza

0) Nonabelian Differential Cohomology

Brane charge in...

- 1) Twisted Cohomotopy theory
- 2) Equivariant Cohomotopy theory
- 3) Differential Cohomotopy theory

implies...

- 4) Hanany-Witten Theory
- 5) Chan-Paton Data
- 6) BMN Matrix Model States
- 7) M2/M5 Brane Bound States

(0)

Nonabelian Differential Cohomology

in

Cohesive Homotopy Theory

Sec. 4 of Fiorenza-Sati-Schreiber 15 [arXiv:1506.07557] based on Sec. 6.4.14.3 of Schreiber dcct

back to top









Geometry

Topology

topological space X



smooth manifold \sum

Geometry

Topology

topological space X

smooth manifold \sum

Topology

Geometry

 $\operatorname{Maps}(\Sigma, X)^{\operatorname{topological}}$

mapping space = cocycle space of X-cohomology on Σ

smooth manifold \sum

Topology

 $\operatorname{Maps}(\Sigma, X)^{\operatorname{topological}}$

mapping space = cocycle space of X-cohomology on Σ

 $\overset{\text{loop}}{\iota_{\infty}\text{-algebra}}$

Geometry

smooth manifold \sum

Topology

 $\operatorname{Maps}(\Sigma, X)^{\operatorname{topological}}$

mapping space = cocycle space of X-cohomology on Σ

 $\Omega_{\mathrm{Cl}}(\Sigma,\mathfrak{l}X)$

Geometry

differential forms (flat/closed)

smooth manifold \sum

Topology

 $\operatorname{Maps}(\Sigma, X)^{\operatorname{topological}}$

mapping space = cocycle space of X-cohomology on Σ



Geometry

 L_{∞} -algebra valued differential forms (flat/closed)



smooth manifold \sum

Topology

topological space $Maps(\Sigma, X)$

mapping space = cocycle space of X-cohomology on Σ



Geometry

 L_{∞} -algebra valued differential forms (flat/closed)

 $Maps(\Sigma, X_{\mathbb{R}})$

rationalized (real-ified) top. space

smooth manifold \sum

Topology

 $Maps(\Sigma, X)$

mapping space =cocycle space of X-cohomology on Σ

topological

space

Tationalization datacter $\operatorname{Maps}(\Sigma, X_{\mathbb{R}})$

rationalized (real-ified)

top. space

loop L_{∞} -algebra $\Omega_{\rm cl}(\Sigma, \mathfrak{l}X)$

 L_{∞} -algebra valued differential forms (flat/closed)



smooth manifold \sum

Topology



loop topological L_{∞} -algebra space $Maps(\Sigma, X)$ $\Omega_{\rm cl}(\Sigma, \mathfrak{l}X)$ L_{∞} -algebra valued mapping space =differential forms cocycle space of X-cohomology on Σ Lo de Rhan theorem (flat/closed) Tationalitation datacter $\operatorname{Maps}(\Sigma, X_{\mathbb{R}})$ rationalized (real-ified) top. space

smooth manifold \sum



Geometry

loop topological L_{∞} -algebra space $Maps(\Sigma, X)$ $\Omega_{\rm cl}(\Sigma, \mathfrak{l}X)$ mapping space = L_{∞} -algebra valued differential forms cocycle space of X-cohomology on Σ Lo de Rhan theorem (flat/closed) Tationalitation datacter $\operatorname{Maps}(\Sigma, X_{\mathbb{R}})$ rationalized (real-ified) top. space

smooth manifold \sum

Homotopy



loop topological L_{∞} -algebra space $Maps(\Sigma, X)$ $\Omega_{\rm cl}(\Sigma, \mathfrak{l}X)$ L_{∞} -algebra valued mapping space =differential forms cocycle space of X-cohomology on Σ Lo de Rhan theorem (flat/closed) rationalization datacter $\operatorname{Maps}(\Sigma, X_{\mathbb{R}})$ rationalized (real-ified)

top. space

smooth manifold

 $X_{\rm conn}(\Sigma)$

cocycle space of differential X-cohomology/ higher gauge fields

Homotopy

homotopy fiber product

loop topological L_{∞} -algebra space $Maps(\Sigma, X)$ $\Omega_{\rm cl}(\Sigma, \mathfrak{l}X)$ L_{∞} -algebra valued mapping space =differential forms cocycle space of X-cohomology on Σ Lo de Rhan theorem (flat/closed) rationalization diagochet $Maps(\Sigma, X_{\mathbb{R}})$ rationalized (real-ified)

top. space

Geometry









Geometry

 $\begin{array}{c} X_{\rm conn} \\ {}_{\rm moduli\ stack\ of} \\ {}_{\rm differential\ X-cohomology/} \\ {}_{\rm higher\ gauge\ fields} \end{array}$

Homotopy

X

У

classifying space of X-cohomology

Geometry

 $\begin{array}{c} X_{\rm conn} \\ {}_{\rm moduli\ stack\ of} \\ {}_{\rm differential\ X-cohomology/} \\ {}_{\rm higher\ gauge\ fields} \end{array}$

Homotopy

X

У

classifying space of X-cohomology

 \square

$\{ \infty - \text{groupoids} \}$











(1) Brane Charge in Cohomotopy implied by

Hypothesis H with Pontrjagin-Thom Theorem

Sati-Schreiber 19a [arXiv:1909.12277]

back to top



Dirac charge quantization – The topological sector of the electromagnetic field is a cocycle in degree-2 ordinary cohomology, with classifying/coefficient space BU(1).



charge = homotopy class

Atiyah-Hitchin charge quantization – The moduli space of SU(2) Yang-Mills monopoles is the cocycle space of complexrational Cohomotopy of any sphere enclosing them.



Strominger-Witten: Monopoles are wrapped M5-branes and the elusive non-perturbative Yang-Mills theory is in M-theory. → Open problem: Wherein is M5-brane charge quantization?



Hypothesis H (Fiorenza-Sati-Schreiber 19): *C-field is charge-quantized in J-twisted Cohomotopy theory.*



Cohomotopy charge of normally framed submanifolds is represented by the submanifold's *asymptotic distance function*, traditionally known as the *Pontrjagin-Thom collapse*.



Cohomotopy charge of 0-dimensional submanifolds (traditionally known as "electric field map" or scanning map) exhibits net brane/anti-brane charge in \mathbb{Z} .



is exhibited, under Hypothesis H, by normally framed cobordism.



Cohomotopy charge vanishing at ∞ on Euclidean *n*-space is equivalently the Cohomotopy charge of the *n*-sphere and hence takes values in homotopy groups of spheres.

(2)

Brane charge in Equivariant Cohomotopy implied by

Hypothesis H with Equivariant Hopf Degree Theorem

Sati-Schreiber 19a [arXiv:1909.12277]

back to top



The equivariant Hopf degree theorem

says that \mathbb{Z}_2 -equivariant Cohomotopy charges near singularities are sourced by, possibly, a charge attached to the singularity and any integer number of twice this charge located nearby.



Stabilization & linearization of equivariant Cohomotopy lands in equivariant K-theory. In this approximation virtual Gsets of (anti-)branes map to virtual permutation representations.



Equivariant Cohomotopy on toroidal orbifolds glued from local cocycles in the vicinity of singularities. By the equivariant Hopf degree theorem, all global cocucles are obtained this way.



Figure O – Pushforward in equivariant Cohomotopy from the vicinity of a singularity to the full toroidal orientifold is an isomorphism on brane charges and an injection on O-plane charges, by Prop. 3.18 Shown is a case with $G = \mathbb{Z}_4$, as in *Figure M*.



Equivariant Cohomotopy implies local tadpole cancellation by the combined unstable and stable version of the equivariant Hopf degree theorem.



Super-differential equivariant Cohomotopy implies global tadpole cancellation by forcing the charge to vanish at global Elmendorf stage, and only there.

(3)

Brane charge in Differential Cohomotopy

implied by

Hypothesis H with May-Segal Theorem

Sati-Schreiber 19c [arXiv:1912.10425]

back to top

Cohomotopy cocycle space pointed mapping space

$$\pi^4(X) := \operatorname{Maps}^{*/}(X, S^4)$$

boldface!

$$\pi_{0}(\boldsymbol{\pi}^{4}(X)) = \begin{cases} \text{Cohomotopy} \\ \text{cohomology} \\ \text{classes} \end{cases} = \pi^{4}(X) \quad \overset{\text{Cohomotopy}}{\text{set}}$$
$$\pi_{1}(\boldsymbol{\pi}^{4}(X)) = \begin{cases} \text{Cohomotopy} \\ \text{gauge} \\ \text{transformations} \end{cases}$$
$$\pi_{2}(\boldsymbol{\pi}^{4}(X)) = \begin{cases} \text{Cohomotopy} \\ \text{gauge of gauge} \\ \text{transformations} \end{cases}$$
$$\vdots$$

Cohomotopy cocycle space vanishing at ∞ on Euclidean 3-space

May-Segal theorem



hence: a form of differential Cohomotopy assigns configuration spaces:

$$\boldsymbol{\pi}^{4} \big((\mathbb{R}^{d})^{\mathrm{cpt}} \wedge (\mathbb{R}^{4-d})_{+} \big) \stackrel{\text{hmtpy}}{\longleftarrow} \boldsymbol{\pi}^{4}_{\mathrm{diff}} \big((\mathbb{R}^{d})^{\mathrm{cpt}} \wedge (\mathbb{R}^{4-d})_{+} \big) := \mathrm{Conf} \big(\mathbb{R}^{d}, \mathbb{D}^{4-d} \big)$$









assuming Hypothesis H:



0) Nonabelian Differential Cohomology

Brane charge in...

- 1) Twisted Cohomotopy theory
- 2) Equivariant Cohomotopy theory
- 3) Differential Cohomotopy theory

implies...

- 4) Hanany-Witten Theory
- 5) Chan-Paton Data
- 6) BMN Matrix Model States
- 7) M2/M5 Brane Bound States

(4)

Hanany-Witten Theory

implied by

Hypothesis H with Fadell-Husseini Theorem

Sati-Schreiber 19c [arXiv:1912.10425]

back to top



Horizontal chord diagrams form **algebra under concatenation of strands**.



This is universal enveloping algebra of the infinitesimal braid Lie algebra (Kohno): (i) the 2T relations:



(ii) the 4T relations



Consider the subspace of skew-symmetric co-observables,

denote elements as follows:



$$= t_{45} \wedge t_{35} \wedge t_{25} \wedge t_{15} \wedge t_{14} \wedge t_{24}$$

In the subspace of skew-symmetric co-observables we find:

the 2T relations become the ordering constraint

skew-symmetry becomes the s-rule

the 4T relations become the breaking rule



these are the rules of Hanany-Witten theory for NS5 \perp Dp \perp D(p + 2)-brane intersections

if we identify horizontal chord diagrams as follows:

- (i) strands as D(p+2)-branes;
- (ii) chords as D*p*-branes, stretching between D(p+2)s;
- (iii) green dots as NS5-branes;
- (iv) gray lines as Dp-branes, stretching from NS5 to D(p+2).



(5)

Chan-Paton data

implied by

Hypothesis H with Bar-Natan theorem

Sati-Schreiber 19c [arXiv:1912.10425]

back to top





are horizontal weight systems:



All horizontal weight systems $w : \mathcal{A}^{\text{pb}} \to \mathbb{C}$ come from Chan-Paton data:

1) metric Lie representations ρ 2) stacks of coincident strands 3) winding monodromies:



Data of metric Lie representation	Category notation	Penrose notation	Index notation
Lie bracket	$ \begin{array}{c} \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} \\ f \\ \downarrow \\ \mathfrak{g} \end{array} $	g g g	$f_{ab}{}^{c}$
Jacobi identity	$ \begin{array}{c c} \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} & \xrightarrow{\mathrm{id} \otimes f - f \otimes \mathrm{id}} & \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} \\ \overset{\sigma_{213}}{\underset{(\mathrm{id} \otimes f)}{\circ}} & & \downarrow f \\ \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} & \xrightarrow{f} & \mathfrak{g} \end{array} $	$ \begin{bmatrix} f \\ f \\ f \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} f \\ f \\ f \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} f \\ f \end{bmatrix} $	$f_{ae}{}^{d}f_{bc}{}^{e} - f_{be}{}^{d}f_{ac}{}^{e}$ $= f_{ec}{}^{d}f_{ab}{}^{e}$
Lie action	$ \begin{array}{c} \mathfrak{g} \otimes V \\ \downarrow^{\rho} \\ \downarrow^{V} \\ V \end{array} $	g V P V	ρ _a i _j
Lie action property	$ \begin{array}{c c} \mathfrak{g} \otimes \mathfrak{g} \otimes V \xrightarrow{\mathrm{id} \otimes \rho - f \otimes \mathrm{id}} \mathfrak{g} \otimes V \\ \overset{\sigma_{213}}{\overset{\circ}{(\mathrm{id} \otimes \rho)}} \downarrow & \downarrow \rho \\ \mathfrak{g} \otimes V \xrightarrow{\rho} V \end{array} $		$\rho_a{}^j{}_l \rho_b{}^l{}_i - \rho_b{}^j{}_l \rho_a{}^l{}_i$ $= f_{ab}{}^c \rho_c{}^j{}_i$
Metric	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	g g , g	gab , g ^{ab}
	$ \begin{array}{ c c c c c } \hline V \otimes V & 1 \\ \downarrow k & , & \downarrow k^{-1} \\ \downarrow & & V \\ \hline 1 & V \otimes V \\ \end{array} $		k _{ij} , k ^{ij}

(6)

BMN Matrix Model States

implied by

Hypothesis H

back to top





 $\rho \in \mathfrak{su}(2)_{\mathbb{C}}$ MetricReps equivalently identified with:

0) configuration of concentric fuzzy 2-spheres
1) fuzzy funnel state in DBI model for Dp⊥D(p+2)
2) susy state in BMN matrix model for M2/M5

corresponding weight systems $w_{(\rho,\sigma)} : \mathcal{A}^{\mathrm{pb}} \to \mathbb{C}$ are:

 $\begin{array}{l} 0) \text{ radius fluctuation amplitudes of fuzzy 2-spheres} \\ 1) \\ 2) \text{ invariant multi-trace observables in } \begin{cases} \text{DBI model} \\ \text{BMN model} \end{cases}$

0) Radius fluctuation observables on N-bit fuzzy 2-spheres S_N^2 are $\mathbf{N} \in \mathfrak{su}(2)_{\mathbb{C}}$ MetricReps weight systems on chord diagrams:

$$\int_{S_N^2} (R^2)_{\bigotimes}^2$$
$$= \frac{4\pi}{\sqrt{N^2 - 1}} \operatorname{Tr} \left(X_a \cdot X_b \cdot X^a \cdot X^b \right)$$

,



$$\int_{S_N^2} (R^2)^3_{\bigcirc} \qquad X_a \qquad X_a \qquad X_b \qquad X_c \qquad X_b$$
$$= \frac{4\pi}{\sqrt{N^2 - 1}} \operatorname{Tr} \left(X_a \cdot X^a \cdot X_b \cdot X_c \cdot X^b \cdot X^c \right) \qquad X_a \qquad X_c \qquad X_c$$



1,2) weight system w_{ρ} is the observable aspect of matrix model state ρ :

weight systems on linear combinations of horizontal chord diagrams finite-dim $\mathfrak{su}_{\mathbb{C}}\text{-representations}$ $\rho \mapsto w_{\rho}$ $_{*}\mathcal{W}^{\mathrm{pb}}$ $\operatorname{Span}(\mathfrak{su}(2)_{\mathbb{C}}\operatorname{MetricReps})$ states of DBI model / BMN matrix mode naive funnel- / susy-states of as observed by invariant multi-trace observables DBI model / BMN matrix model

(7)

M2/M5 Brane Bound States

implied by

Hypothesis H

back to top

Given a *sequence* of susy states in the BMN matrix model



this is argued to converge to macroscopic M2- or M5-branes depending on how the sequence behaves in the large N limit:

	M2-branes	M5-branes	
If for all i	$\overline{N_i^{(\mathrm{M5})} \to \infty}$	$N_i^{(\mathrm{M2})} \to \infty$	$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{the relevant} \\ \text{large } N \text{ limit} \end{array}\right)$
with fixed	$N_i^{(\mathrm{M2})}$	$N_i^{(\mathrm{M5})}$	$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{the number of coincident branes} \\ \text{in the } i \text{th stack} \end{array}\right)$
and fixed	$N^{(\mathrm{M2})}_i/N$	$N^{ m (M5)}_i / N$	$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{the charge/light-cone momentum}\\ \text{carried by the }i\text{th stack} \end{array}\right)$

Stacks of macroscopic...

Given a *sequence* of susy states in the BMN matrix model

$$\underbrace{\overset{M2/M5-\text{brane state}}{(\text{finite-dim }\mathfrak{su}(2)_{\mathbb{C}}\text{-rep})}_{(V,\rho)} := \underbrace{\bigoplus_{i}^{M2/M5-\text{brane charge in }i\text{th stack}}_{(i\text{th irrep with multiplicity})} \underbrace{(M2)_{\mathbb{C}} MetricReps_{/\sim}}_{i}$$

$$\underbrace{\bigoplus_{i}^{(M2)} \cdot \mathbf{N}_{i}^{(M5)}}_{i} \in \mathfrak{su}(2)_{\mathbb{C}} MetricReps_{/\sim}$$

$$\underbrace{\text{stacks of coincident branes}}_{(\text{direct sum over irreps})}$$

the large
$$N$$
 but
limit does *not* exist does exist in weight systems
here:
 $p \mapsto w_{\rho} \longrightarrow \mathcal{W}^{pb}$

if we normalize by the scale of the fuzzy 2-sphere geometry:

$$\underbrace{\frac{4\pi \, 2^{2n}}{\left(\left(N^{(M5)}\right)^2 - 1\right)^{1/2 + n}} w_{\mathbf{N}^{(M5)}}}_{\mathbf{N}^{(M5)}}$$

Single M2-brane state in BMN model (multiple of $\mathfrak{su}_{\mathbb{C}}$ -weight system)

 $\in \mathcal{W}^{\mathrm{pb}}$

states as seen by multi-trace observables (weight systems on chord diagrams)



finite number of M2-branes in their large-N limit

End.

back to top