

UDC 530.1; 539.1

## ON MASSIVE HIGHER SPIN INTERACTIONS

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We discuss a possibility to extend a Fradkin-Vasiliev formalism of constructing consistent cubic interaction vertices to the cases where vertex contains massive and/or massless higher spin fields. As an illustration we provide application of this formalism to the gravitational interactions of massless and partially massless spin-5/2 fields.

**Keywords:** *higher spins, frame-like description, Fradkin-Vasiliev formalism.*

### 1 Fradkin-Vasiliev formalism

Let us first of all briefly remind what is Fradkin-Vasiliev formalism [1, 2] developed for the construction of consistent cubic interaction vertices among the massless higher spin fields. The main ingredient of this formalism is the so-called frame-like description of massless higher spin fields [3–5]. Its main features can be described as follows.

- Each massless higher spin field is described by a set of one-forms  $\Phi$  (physical, auxiliary and extra ones).
- Each field has its own gauge transformation

$$\delta\Phi = D\xi + \dots$$

where dots stand for the terms without derivatives.

- For each field a gauge invariant object (two-form) can be constructed

$$\mathcal{R} = D \wedge \Phi + \dots$$

where again dots stand for the terms without derivatives.

- Using these objects the free Lagrangian can be rewritten in an explicitly gauge invariant form

$$\mathcal{L}_0 \sim \sum \mathcal{R} \wedge \mathcal{R}.$$

There exist three types of possible cubic vertices:

- trivial:  $\mathcal{L} \sim \mathcal{R} \wedge \mathcal{R} \wedge \mathcal{R}$ , i.e. constructed using gauge invariant two-forms only and thus trivially gauge invariant (hence the name);
- abelian:  $\mathcal{L} \sim \mathcal{R} \wedge \mathcal{R} \wedge \Phi$ , which contain one-form and whose gauge invariance (up to total derivative) follows from the Bianchi identities;

- non-abelian:  $\mathcal{L} \sim \mathcal{R} \wedge \Phi \wedge \Phi$ , which look similar to the ones in the Yang-Mills theories and whose gauge invariance requires introduction of non-trivial corrections to the gauge transformations.

All the non-abelian vertices can be constructed by the following deformation procedure:

- take the most general quadratic deformation of curvatures in the form:  $\Delta\mathcal{R} \sim \Phi \wedge \Phi$ ;
- take the most general linear deformation of gauge transformations  $\delta\Phi \sim \Phi\xi$ ;
- require that deformed curvatures transform covariantly, i.e.  $\delta\hat{\mathcal{R}} \sim \mathcal{R}\xi$ ;
- extract cubic vertex as a part of interacting Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L} \sim \sum \hat{\mathcal{R}} \wedge \hat{\mathcal{R}}$ , which is just the free Lagrangian but with the initial curvatures replaced by the deformed ones.

Vasiliev has shown [6] that any non-trivial cubic vertex for massless completely symmetric fields with spins  $s_1$ ,  $s_2$  and  $s_3$  having up to

$$N = s_1 + s_2 + s_3 - 2$$

derivatives can be obtained as a linear combination of abelian and non-abelian vertices.

The Fradkin-Vasiliev formalism was initially developed and effectively applied for the construction of cubic vertices for the massless higher spin fields (see e.g. [7–12]). As we have seen the two main ingredients of this formalism are frame-like description and gauge invariance. But frame-like gauge invariant description exists for the massive higher spin fields as well [13, 14]. Thus it seems natural to extend this formalism to the case of cubic vertices containing massive and/or massless fields. Some examples for electromagnetic and gravitational interactions of massive fields already exist [15–18]. In what follows we apply such formalism for gravitational interaction of partially massless spin-5/2 field as a simplest non-trivial fermionic case.

Note that in the frame-like description most of the auxiliary and extra fields are mixed symmetry (spin-) tensors ( $\gamma$ -traceless in fermionic cases)

$$\Phi^{a_1 \dots a_{s-1}, b_1 \dots b_k}$$

and this make all calculations rather involved (especially in the fermionic cases). One of the possible ways to simplify investigations is to restrict ourselves with particular space-time dimension  $d = 4$  and use a multispinor frame-like formalism where all fields are still one forms but with all local indices replaced by spinor ones  $a \rightarrow (\alpha\dot{\alpha})$ . For the spin  $\frac{5}{2}$  case we are interested in here it means for example:

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi^\alpha, \quad (\gamma\Psi) = 0 &\Leftrightarrow \Psi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}}, \Psi^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, \\ \Omega^{[ab]}, \quad \gamma_a \Omega^{ab} = 0 &\Leftrightarrow \Omega^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \Omega^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma}}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus in what follows we will work in  $(A)dS_4$  space with background frame  $e^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}$  and covariant derivative  $D$  normalized so that  $(\Lambda = -\lambda^2)$

$$D \wedge D\xi^\alpha = 2\lambda^2 E^{\alpha\beta} \xi_\beta, \quad E^{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2} e^\alpha_{\dot{\alpha}} \wedge e^{\beta\dot{\alpha}}.$$

## 2 Massless spin $\frac{5}{2}$

In this section we begin with the massless case that will be useful for the comparison. The free Lagrangian in  $AdS_4$  space can be written as follows [13]:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_0 = & \psi_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} e^\alpha_{\dot{\beta}} D\psi^{\beta\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} + \frac{3\lambda}{2} \psi_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} E^\alpha_{\dot{\beta}} E^\alpha_{\dot{\gamma}} \psi^{\beta\gamma\dot{\alpha}} \\ & - \frac{\lambda}{2} \psi_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} E^\alpha_{\dot{\beta}} \psi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\beta}} + h.c. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

This Lagrangian is invariant under the following local gauge transformations:

$$\delta_0 \psi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\gamma}} = D\xi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\gamma}} + e_\gamma^{\dot{\gamma}} \eta^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + \lambda e^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\delta}} \xi^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\delta}}. \quad (2)$$

We will need also an auxiliary field  $\Omega^{\alpha\beta\gamma}$  (though it does not enter the free Lagrangian) with the corresponding gauge transformations:

$$\delta_0 \Omega^{\alpha\beta\gamma} = D\eta^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + \lambda^2 e^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\delta}} \xi^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\delta}}. \quad (3)$$

Following the general procedure we construct two gauge invariant objects (similar to the curvature and torsion in the spin-2 case):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} &= D\Omega^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + \lambda^2 e^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\delta}} \psi^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\delta}}, \\ \mathcal{T}^{\alpha\beta\dot{\gamma}} &= D\psi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\gamma}} + \lambda e^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\delta}} \psi^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\delta}} + e_{\dot{\delta}}^{\dot{\gamma}} \Omega^{\alpha\beta\dot{\delta}}. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Note that there is an essential difference between spin-2 and spin-5/2 cases as far as the zero torsion condition is concerned. In the spin-2 case this condition simply allows one to express Lorentz connection in terms of

physical frame field, while in spin-5/2 case it also put physical field on shell:

$$\mathcal{T} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Omega = \Omega(\psi) \quad \oplus \quad \frac{\delta S}{\delta \psi} = 0.$$

Using these gauge invariant objects the free Lagrangian can be rewritten in the form:

$$\mathcal{L}_0 = a_1 \mathcal{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \mathcal{R}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + a_2 \mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta\dot{\gamma}} \mathcal{T}^{\alpha\beta\dot{\gamma}} + h.c., \quad (5)$$

where coefficients  $a_{1,2}$  must be adjusted so that auxiliary field  $\Omega$  do not enter.

Now let us turn to the gravitational interactions. It turns out that deformations for the spin- $\frac{5}{2}$  correspond just to the minimal substitution rules:  $\hat{D} \rightarrow D + \omega$ ,  $e \rightarrow e + h$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \mathcal{R}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} &= c_0 [\omega^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\delta}} \Omega^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\delta}} + \lambda^2 h^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\alpha}} \psi^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\alpha}}], \\ \Delta \mathcal{T}^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} &= c_0 [\omega^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\gamma}} \psi^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\alpha}} + \omega^{\dot{\alpha}}_{\dot{\beta}} \psi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\beta}} \\ &+ \lambda h^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\beta}} \psi^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} + h_{\dot{\gamma}}^{\dot{\alpha}} \Omega^{\alpha\beta\dot{\gamma}}]. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

At the same time deformations for the gravitational curvature and torsion have the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta R^{\alpha\beta} &= b_0 [\Omega^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\gamma}\dot{\delta}} \Omega^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\delta}} + 2\lambda^2 \psi^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\gamma}\dot{\alpha}} \psi^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\alpha}} \\ &+ \lambda^2 \psi^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \psi^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}], \\ \Delta T^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} &= 2b_0 [\Omega^{\alpha}_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma}} \psi^{\beta\gamma\dot{\alpha}} + 2\lambda \psi^{\alpha}_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma}} \psi^{\beta\gamma\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} + h.c.]. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

In this, non-trivial (on-shell) part of gauge transformations looks like:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \hat{\mathcal{R}}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} &= R^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\delta}} \eta^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\delta}}, \\ \delta \hat{\mathcal{T}}^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} &= R^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\gamma}} \xi^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\alpha}} + R^{\dot{\alpha}}_{\dot{\beta}} \xi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\beta}}, \\ \delta \hat{R}^{\alpha\beta} &= 2b_0 R^{(\alpha}_{\dot{\delta}} \eta^{\beta\gamma)\dot{\delta}}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Now we consider the following interacting Lagrangian, which is just the sum free spin-5/2 and spin-2 Lagrangians with the initial curvatures replaced by the deformed ones:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & a_1 \hat{\mathcal{R}}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \hat{\mathcal{R}}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + a_2 \hat{\mathcal{T}}_{\alpha\beta\dot{\gamma}} \hat{\mathcal{T}}^{\alpha\beta\dot{\gamma}} \\ & + a_0 \hat{R}_{\alpha\beta} \hat{R}^{\alpha\beta} + h.c. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

For the Lagrangian (9) to be invariant under the transformations (8) we have to put:

$$3a_1 c_0 = 4a_0 b_0.$$

Note that the cubic vertex extracted from this Lagrangian contains terms with up to 2 derivatives in agreement with [19–21].

### 3 Partially massless spin $\frac{5}{2}$

Now let us turn to the partially massless spin- $\frac{5}{2}$  (recall that in four dimensions such field has four physical degrees of freedom corresponding to helicities  $\pm\frac{5}{2}, \pm\frac{3}{2}$ ). Correspondingly, gauge invariant description requires two fields (main and Stueckelberg ones) and the free Lagrangian has the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_0 &= \psi_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} e^{\alpha}_{\beta} D\psi^{\beta\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} - \psi_{\alpha} e^{\alpha}_{\dot{\alpha}} D\psi^{\dot{\alpha}} \\ &+ \frac{\alpha_1}{2} [3\psi_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} E^{\alpha}_{\gamma} \psi^{\beta\gamma\dot{\alpha}} - \psi_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} E^{\dot{\alpha}}_{\beta} \psi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\beta}}] \\ &+ 3\alpha_2 [\psi_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} E^{\alpha\beta} \psi^{\dot{\alpha}} - \psi_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} E^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \psi^{\alpha}] \\ &- 3\alpha_1 \psi_{\alpha} E^{\alpha}_{\beta} \psi^{\beta} + h.c. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Here  $\alpha_1^2 = \frac{\lambda^2}{4}$ ,  $\alpha_2^2 = -\frac{5\lambda^2}{12}$ . This Lagrangian is invariant under the following gauge transformations:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_0 \psi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} &= D\xi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} + \alpha_1 e^{\alpha}_{\beta} \xi^{\beta\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \\ &+ e_{\gamma}^{\dot{\alpha}} \eta^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + \alpha_2 e^{\dot{\alpha}(\alpha} \xi^{\beta)}, \\ \delta_0 \psi^{\alpha} &= D\xi^{\alpha} + 3\alpha_2 e_{\beta\dot{\alpha}} \xi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} + 3\alpha_1 e^{\alpha}_{\dot{\alpha}} \xi^{\dot{\alpha}}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Correspondingly, we will need two auxiliary fields (note that  $V^{\alpha\beta\gamma}$  is a zero form):

$$\delta_0 \Omega^{\alpha\beta\gamma} = D\eta^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \quad \delta V^{\alpha\beta\gamma} = 6\alpha_2 \eta^{\alpha\beta\gamma}. \quad (12)$$

Each of these four fields has its own gauge invariant object:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} &= D\Omega^{\alpha\beta\gamma} - \frac{4\alpha_2}{5} E^{\alpha}_{\delta} V^{\beta\gamma\delta}, \\ \mathcal{T}^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} &= D\psi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} + e_{\gamma}^{\dot{\alpha}} \Omega^{\alpha\beta\gamma} \\ &+ \alpha_1 e^{\alpha}_{\beta} \psi^{\beta\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} + \alpha_2 e^{\dot{\alpha}(\alpha} \psi^{\beta)}, \\ \Psi^{\alpha} &= D\psi^{\alpha} + 3\alpha_2 e_{\beta\dot{\alpha}} \psi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} \\ &+ 3\alpha_1 e^{\alpha}_{\dot{\alpha}} \psi^{\dot{\alpha}} - E_{\beta\gamma} V^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \\ \mathcal{V}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} &= DV^{\alpha\beta\gamma} - 6\alpha_2 \Omega^{\alpha\beta\gamma}. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Similarly to the massless case, the zero torsion conditions not only allows one to express auxiliary fields in terms of physical ones, but simultaneously put physical fields on shell:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{T} = 0 &\Rightarrow \Omega = \Omega(\psi) \oplus \frac{\delta S}{\delta \psi} = 0, \\ \Psi = 0 &\Rightarrow V = V(\psi) \oplus \frac{\delta S}{\delta \psi} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

At last, the free Lagrangian in terms of these gauge invariant objects looks as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_0 &= a_1 \mathcal{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \mathcal{R}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + a_2 \mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} \mathcal{T}^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} \\ &+ a_3 \Psi_{\alpha} \Psi^{\alpha} + a_4 \mathcal{V}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} E^{\gamma}_{\delta} \mathcal{V}^{\alpha\beta\delta} \\ &+ a_5 \mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} e_{\gamma}^{\dot{\alpha}} \mathcal{V}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + h.c. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Note that there is an ambiguity in the choice of coefficients due to identity:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &\approx D(\mathcal{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \mathcal{V}^{\alpha\beta\gamma}) \\ &= D\mathcal{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \mathcal{V}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + \mathcal{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} D\mathcal{V}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} \\ &= -6\alpha_2 \mathcal{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \mathcal{R}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + \frac{12\alpha_2}{5} \mathcal{V}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} E^{\gamma}_{\delta} \mathcal{V}^{\alpha\beta\delta}. \end{aligned}$$

Now let us turn to the gravitational interactions. Deformations for partially massless spin  $\frac{5}{2}$  again correspond to the minimal substitution rules  $D \rightarrow D + \omega$ ,  $e \rightarrow e + h$ , while deformations for the gravitational curvature and torsion are defined up to the possible field redefinitions:

$$h^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \Rightarrow h^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} + \kappa_1 e^{\beta\dot{\alpha}} V^{\alpha\gamma\delta} V_{\beta\gamma\delta} + \kappa_2 e^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} V^{\beta\gamma\delta} V_{\beta\gamma\delta} + \dots$$

Non-trivial (on-shell) part of gauge transformations looks like:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \hat{R}^{\alpha\beta} &= 2b_1 \mathcal{R}^{\alpha}_{\gamma\delta} \eta^{\beta\gamma\delta} + b_2 \mathcal{R}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} \xi_{\gamma} + \dots \\ \delta \hat{\mathcal{R}}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} &= c_0 R^{\alpha}_{\delta} \eta^{\beta\gamma\delta} \\ \delta \hat{\mathcal{T}}^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} &= c_0 R^{\alpha}_{\gamma} \xi^{\beta\gamma\dot{\alpha}} + c_0 R^{\dot{\alpha}}_{\beta} \xi^{\alpha\beta\dot{\beta}}. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

The interacting Lagrangian is just the sum of free Lagrangians with deformed curvatures plus one possible abelian vertex:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_0 &= a_1 \hat{\mathcal{R}}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \hat{\mathcal{R}}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + a_2 \hat{\mathcal{T}}_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\mathcal{T}}^{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} \\ &+ a_3 \hat{\Psi}_{\alpha} \hat{\Psi}^{\alpha} + a_4 \hat{\mathcal{V}}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} E^{\gamma}_{\delta} \hat{\mathcal{V}}^{\alpha\beta\delta} \\ &+ a_5 \hat{\mathcal{T}}_{\alpha\beta\dot{\alpha}} e_{\gamma}^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\mathcal{V}}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} + ia_0 \hat{R}_{\alpha\beta} \hat{R}^{\alpha\beta} \\ &+ a_6 R_{\alpha\beta} \mathcal{V}^{\alpha\beta\gamma} \psi_{\gamma} + h.c. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Gauge invariance fixes all the coefficients in deformations as well as coefficient  $a_6$  of abelian vertex in terms of gravitational coupling constant  $c_0$  hence we obtained one non-trivial vertex only. As in the massless case cubic vertex contains terms with up to two derivatives in agreement with [19].

### Conclusion

Thus the Fradkin-Vasiliev formalism allows one systematically investigate cubic vertices for massless, partially massless and massive fields (in any combination). Here we use the multispinor frame-like formalism. Thus means a restriction to  $d = 4$  case, but allows us to describe bosonic and fermionic fields on equal footing with possible generalization to arbitrary spins. Let us stress some points where good understanding is still lacking:

- ambiguities in the choice of free Lagrangians in terms of gauge invariant objects;
- admissible field redefinitions;
- on-shell equivalence of some vertices.

### Acknowledgement

This research has been supported by RFBR grant No. 14-02-01172.

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Received 04.11.2012

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## О ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЯХ МАССИВНЫХ ПОЛЕЙ С ВЫСШИМИ СПИНАМИ

Мы обсуждаем возможность расширить формализм Фрадкина-Васильева построения непротиворечивых кубических вершин взаимодействия на случаи, когда вершина содержит массивные и/или безмассовые поля высших спинов. В качестве иллюстрации мы даем применение этого формализма к гравитационному взаимодействию безмассовых и частично безмассовых полей со спином  $5/2$ .

**Ключевые слова:** *высшие спины, реперный формализм, формализм Фрадкина-Васильева.*

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