

Liverpool lectures on string theory  
26/6/09, 1 Abingdon

### Lecture 1. Why strings?

#### Motivation

The Road to Unification? Heaven & earth?

#### Modern Physics

Predict outcome of experiment

Initial conditions: mathematical model

Predicted outcome

Experiment / observations

Practical: An acceptable mathematical model is

the one most successful in accounting

for wide range of experimental observations.

Themes: Reductionism: large to small.

Celestial, Atomic, Nuclear, sub-nuclear, strings.

#### Newton

19th century  
Faraday  
Maxwell  
Einstein  
Rutherford  
Fermi  
Giffman  
Feynman  
Schwarz  
Schork  
Bjorken

Unification: encompassing mathematical model

#### Newton

Maxwell  
Einstein  
Mechanical  
Weak  
S.M. +  
Earth & heaven  
Electric  
Magnetic  
& magnetic  
E.M.  
Strong

String: Gravity + gauge  
A.F.T. (S.M./GUT)

Inventory

Forces | E.M. Weak Strong  
 spin + 1 particles

GRAVITY  
 spin 2 particle

Matter | Quarks & leptons

Strong  
 Weak  
 E.M.

Weak  
 E.M.

quarks: (up) (down) (charm) (strange) (top) (bottom)

leptons (e) (muon) (tau) (nu<sub>e</sub>) (nu<sub>muon</sub>) (nu<sub>tau</sub>)

Problem? MASS? → Spontaneous symmetry breaking.  
 → Higgs particle, LHC?

Unification GUTs e.g. SO(10) → Rank=5 D=45=10<sup>3</sup>

SO → Simple orthogonal 10 x 10 matrices, generators O<sup>T</sup> = -O (Hermitian)

symmetric  $\rightarrow$   $n^2 - n + n = n(n+1) \cdot \frac{1}{2}$

antisymmetric (Hermitian)  $\rightarrow$   $n(n-1) \cdot \frac{1}{2}$   
 $\rightarrow$   $n^2 - n$

$O^T = O$





special relativity and extra dimensions

Einstein's special relativity: 1)  $c = \text{speed of light} = \text{constant}$  in all inertial frames

$$c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$$

2) laws of physics are the same in all inertial frames

events are labeled by their time & position in

Inertial frames.  $\rightarrow$  4-vectors:  $X_\mu = (ct, \underline{X})$   
 $X^0 = ct$   $\underline{X} = (x^1, x^2, x^3) = (x, y, z)$   $\mu = 0, 1, 2, 3$

The length of four vector is given by:

$$X \cdot X = -c^2 t^2 + x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

$$= \sum_3^{\mu \nu} \eta_{\mu \nu} X^\mu X^\nu = \sum_3^{\mu \nu} \eta_{\mu \nu} X^\mu X^\nu$$

Einstein summation convention

where

$$\eta_{\mu \nu} = \begin{pmatrix} +1 & & & \\ & +1 & & \\ & & +1 & \\ & & & +1 \end{pmatrix}$$

3 space  
1 time

is the Minkowski metric

In general the scalar product of two four vectors

$X^\mu \cdot Y^\nu$  is given by  $X \cdot Y = \sum_3^{\mu \nu} \eta_{\mu \nu} X^\mu Y^\nu = X^\mu Y^\mu$

different frames:

From one inertial frame

to another

The Lorentz transformations preserve the scalar product.

$$-c^2 t^2 + x^2 = \gamma^2 (-c^2 t'^2 + x'^2) = -c^2 t'^2 + x'^2$$

where  $x$  and  $x'$  are related by  $a$

Lorentz transformation.

$$x'' = \gamma (x' - vt')$$

Think for simplicity with the more familiar case

of ordinary rotations in 3 dimensions.

$$\underline{x} \rightarrow \underline{y} = R \underline{x}$$

Rotations preserve the length of a three vector

Similarly, Lorentz transformations preserve the length of a four vector in 4 dimensional Minkowski

space-time.

Properties of Lorentz Transformations

$\gamma^2 x''^2 = \gamma^2 (x' - vt')^2 = \gamma^2 (x'^2 - 2x'vt' + v^2 t'^2)$

No change in size or shape

$$\gamma^2 x''^2 = \gamma^2 (x'^2 - 2x'vt' + v^2 t'^2) = \gamma^2 (x'^2 - 2x'vt' + v^2 t'^2)$$

$$= \gamma^2 (x'^2 - 2x'vt' + v^2 t'^2)$$

$\Rightarrow (*) \eta_{\mu\nu} \Lambda^\nu_\alpha = \eta_{\alpha\beta}$

In matrix notation  $\Lambda^T \eta \Lambda = \eta$

$\rightarrow$  Defines the Lorentz transformations

$\Rightarrow |\det \Lambda|^2 = 1 \Rightarrow \det \Lambda = \pm 1$

The physical case  $\det \Lambda = +1$

$\det \Lambda = 1 \rightarrow$  Proper Lorentz transformations

$\det \Lambda = -1 \rightarrow$  Improper Lorentz

Look at component of  $\Lambda^\mu_\nu$   $\Lambda^\nu_\mu = \eta^\mu_\nu = \eta_{\nu\mu}$

$\eta_{\mu\nu} \Lambda^\nu_\alpha = \eta_{\alpha\beta}$

$-(\Lambda^0_0)^2 + \sum_{i=1}^3 (\Lambda^i_0)^2 = -1$

$(\Lambda^0_0)^2 = 1 + \sum_{i=1}^3 (\Lambda^i_0)^2 \geq 1$

$(\Lambda^0_0)^2 \geq +1$  orthochronous

$(\Lambda^0_0)^2 \leq -1$  non-orthochronous

Examples of Lorentz transformations

1)  $\Lambda^\mu_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & -1 & & \\ & & -1 & \\ & & & -1 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow$  Proper - non-orthochronous reflection

2)

$$V_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & -1 & \\ & & & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\rightarrow$  improper  $\rightarrow$  non-orthochronous

$\bar{x} \rightarrow x$

$t \rightarrow -t$

3) Physical Lorentz transformations  $\rightarrow$

$\rightarrow$  continuously connected to the identity  $\rightarrow$

$\rightarrow$   $\text{def } \Lambda = 1 \rightarrow$  Proper.

$\text{def } \Lambda = 1 \rightarrow$  Orthochronous

Examples

$$V_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ & & & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$V_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & -1 & \\ & & & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Rotations

$$\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & \\ & 1 & & \\ & & \cos \alpha & \sin \alpha \\ & & -\sin \alpha & \cos \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

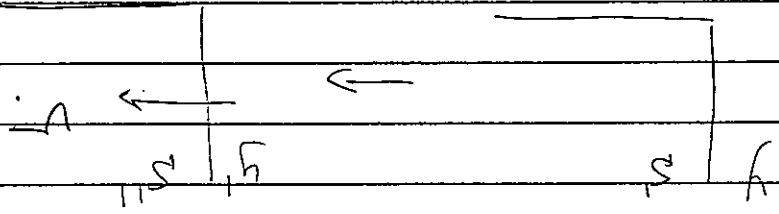
$\text{def } \Lambda = \text{def } R$

$\text{def } R = \pm 1$

$\text{def } R = 1 \rightarrow$  Proper.

2)

boosts



$$ct' = \gamma(ct - \beta x)$$

$$x' = \gamma(x - \beta ct)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}$$

$$\beta = \frac{v}{c}$$

$$y' = y$$

$$z' = z$$

or

$$x' = \gamma(x_0 - \beta x_1)$$

$$x'' = \gamma(-\beta x_0 + x_1)$$

$$x_2 = x_2$$

$$x_3 = x_3$$



or

$$\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & -\gamma\beta & 0 & 0 \\ -\gamma\beta & \gamma & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\det \Lambda = \gamma^2 - \gamma^2 \beta^2 = \gamma^2 (1 - \beta^2) = 1$$

$$\gamma_0 = \gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}} \geq 1 \text{ as } \beta = \frac{v}{c} < 1$$

The Poincare group

consider the infinitesimal relativistic line element

$$(*) \quad -c^2 ds^2 = -c^2 dt^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2$$

So far we discussed rotation & boosts

which are the Lorentz transformations,

The most general Lorentz transformations also include

translations.  $X^{\mu} \rightarrow X'^{\mu} = X^{\mu} + a^{\mu}$

where  $a^{\mu}$  is a constant 4-vector

obviously  $c/t' = dt$   $c/X'' = dx$

we have:

- 4 - translations  $dt, dx, dy, dz$
- 3 - boost  $dt dx, dt dy, dt dz$
- 3 - rotations  $dx dy, dx dz, dy dz$

These are the Poincare transformations.

→ They form the Poincare group

Representation of the Poincare group are labeled by:

- 1) spin  $\rightarrow$  label of the Lorentz group.
- 2) mass

spin	Examples	Component	angelt
spin	0	1	angelt
spin	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	Weyl spinor
spin	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	Dirac spinor
spin	1	4	= W-spinor + W-spinor
spin	+	4	vector

### Relativistic energy and momentum

Non relativistic energy-momentum relation:

$$E = p^2$$

$$E^2 = p^2 + m^2 c^2$$

$$E = \gamma m c^2$$

$$p = \gamma m v$$

relativistic

Energy-momentum 4-vector  $p^A = (E/c, p^1, p^2, p^3)$

$$p^A = (E/c, \vec{p}) = m \gamma (c, \vec{v})$$

$$\Rightarrow p^A p_A = \eta_{AB} p^A p^B = -E^2/c^2 + p^2 = -m^2 c^2 = p^2$$

$p^A p_A = -m^2 c^2 \rightarrow$  Lorentz scalar (invariant)

Time intervals are not Lorentz invariant.

Proper time - time measured in the moving-frame  
 relative to itself.

consider a particle moving along the x-axis.  
 consider  $-ds^2 = -c^2 dt^2 + dx^2 = -c^2 dt^2 (1 - \beta^2)$ .

Evaluate the interval in a frame moving with the particle.

$dx' = 0$   $dt' = dt \gamma \rightarrow$  proper time.

$ds^2 = c^2 dt_p^2 \Rightarrow ds = c dt_p = c dt \gamma$

also  $ds = c dt \sqrt{1 - \beta^2} \Rightarrow \frac{ds}{dt} = \frac{c}{\gamma}$ .

$ds \rightarrow$  Lorentz scalar  $\rightarrow$  constant in all Lorentz frames.

Velocity four vector:  $U^\mu = c \frac{dX^\mu}{ds} = c \left( \frac{dt}{ds}, \frac{dx}{ds}, \frac{dy}{ds}, \frac{dz}{ds} \right)$

eg.  $\frac{dx}{ds} = \frac{dx}{dt} \frac{dt}{ds} = v_x \frac{1}{\gamma}$

$\Rightarrow U^\mu = \gamma (c, v_x, v_y, v_z)$

$\Rightarrow P^\mu = m U^\mu$

any Lorentz 4-vector transforms under Lorentz transformations as  $X^\mu$

$P^\mu = \Lambda^\mu_\nu P^\nu$

or  $X - boost$

$$\begin{pmatrix} E'/c \\ P'_x \\ P'_y \\ P'_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma - \beta \gamma & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\beta \gamma & \gamma & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \gamma \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} E/c \\ P_x \\ P_y \\ P_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma (E/c - \beta P_x) \\ \gamma (-\beta E/c + P_x) \\ \gamma P_y \\ \gamma P_z \end{pmatrix}$$

Lorentz invariance in extra dimensions

$$-ds^2 = -c^2 dt^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2 + dw^2 + \dots$$

$$\gamma_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & & & & \\ & +1 & & & \\ & & +1 & & \\ & & & +1 & \\ & & & & +1 \end{pmatrix}$$

etc...

more components but otherwise the same.

compact extra dimensions.

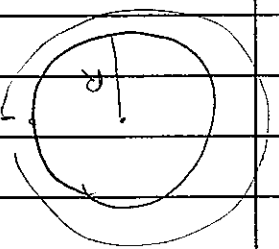
only 4- are observed.

$\Rightarrow$  Extra dimensions are compact - curled.

$$X(P_2) = X(P_1) + 2\pi R n$$

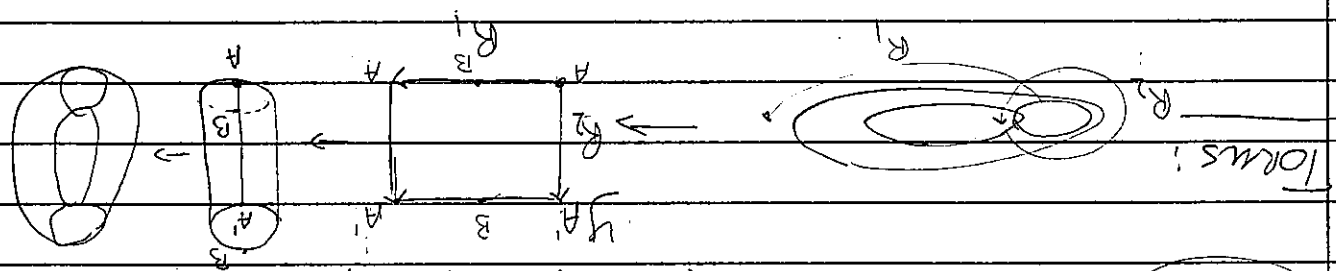
$\begin{matrix} \circ \\ | \\ P_1 \\ | \\ P_2 \end{matrix}$

$n$  - integer  
 $R$  - constant



$$X \sim X + 2\pi R n \quad \leftarrow \text{circle}$$

$0 \leq X < 2\pi R$  - fundamental domain.



$$X \sim X + 2\pi R_1 n \quad Y \sim Y + 2\pi R_2 n$$

consider the real line  $-\infty \leq x \leq \infty$

impose the condition  $x \sim -x$ .

points are identified under the  $z_2$  reflection.

The fundamental domain is now  $x \geq 0$

$x=0$  is a fixed point

This is the orbifold  $R_1 / Z_2$

The orbifold is singular at the fixed point.

Quantum mechanics and the square well

Planck constant expresses the relation between the energy of a photon and its angular frequency  $E = \hbar \omega$

it is the fundamental constant of quantum mechanics

it appears in the basic commutation relations of quantum mechanics

$$[x, p] = i\hbar$$

and the limit  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$  gives the classical limit

From  $E = \hbar \omega$  its units are  $[E] = [M] \cdot [L]^2 \cdot [T]^{-2} = [X] \cdot [T]^{-1} \cdot [T]^{-1} = [X] \cdot [T]^{-2}$

action in Lagrangian mechanics