

K_{27} as a Symmetry of Closed Strings and Branes

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Introduction: The E_{11} Program

Dimensional reduction of 11D SUGRA on a torus down to $11 - n$ dimensions gives Kaluza-Klein scalars generating a coset space possessing the following 'exceptional symmetries'

Dimension	Exceptional Symmetry Group	Coset Space
10 (IIA)	$O(1, 1)$	-
10 (IIB)	$SL(2)$ ●	$SL(2)/SO(2)$
9	$GL(2)$ ● _R	$GL(2)/SO(2)$
8	$E_3 \sim A_2 \times A_1$ ●●●	$SL(3) \times SL(2)/SO(3) \times SO(2)$
7	$E_4 \sim A_4$ ●●●●	$SL(5)/SO(5)$
6	$E_5 \sim D_5$ ●●●●● ●	$SO(5, 5)/SO(5) \times SO(5)$
5	E_6 ●●●●● ●	$E_6/Sp(8)$
4	E_7 ●●●●●● ●	$E_7/SU(8)$
3	E_8 ●●●●●●● ●	$E_8/SO(16)$
2	E_9 ●●●●●●●● ●	$E_9/I_c(E_9)$
1	E_{10} ●●●●●●●●● ●	$E_{10}/I_c(E_{10})$

The Kac-Moody Algebra K_{27}

In 2001 it was also conjectured [1] that the Kac-Moody algebra K_{27}

$$\begin{array}{cccccccccccc} \bullet & - & \bullet & - & \bullet & - & \bullet & - & \dots & - & \bullet & - & \bullet & - & \bullet \\ 1 & & 2 & & 3 & & 4 & & & & 23 & & 24 & & 25 \\ & & & & & & \uparrow & & & & & & \uparrow & & \\ & & & & & & 26 & & & & & & 27 & & \end{array} \quad (3)$$

is a symmetry of the 26D closed bosonic string.

In this talk we will show [3] that the low energy effective action of the 26D closed bosonic string arises from the non-linear realization of

$$K_{27} \otimes_s l_1 / l_c(K_{27}) \quad (4)$$

The Kac-Moody Algebra K_{27}

K_{27} possesses generators R^α given by ($a = 1, \dots, 26$)

$$\begin{aligned} K^a{}_b, R; R^{a_1 a_2}, R^{a_1 \dots a_{22}}; R_{a_1 a_2}, R_{a_1 \dots a_{22}}; \\ R^{a_1 \dots a_{24}}, R^{a_1 \dots a_{23}, b}, R^{a_1 \dots a_{25}, b_1 \dots b_{19}}; \dots \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

These generators satisfy an algebra of the form

$$\begin{aligned} [K^a{}_b, R] = 0, \quad [K^a{}_b, R^{c_1 c_2}] = 2\delta^{[c_1}{}_b R^{a|c_2]}, \quad [R^{a_1 a_2}, R^{b_1 b_2}] = 0, \\ [R^{a_1 a_2}, R^{b_1 \dots b_{22}}] = R^{a_1 a_2 b_1 \dots b_{22}} + R^{b_1 \dots b_{22} [a_1, a_2]}, \dots \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

We associate fields A_α to the K_{27} generators of equation (5)

- $h_a{}^b$ — Graviton
- ϕ — Dilaton
- $A_{a_1 a_2}$ — Kalb-Ramond
- $A_{a_1 \dots a_{22}}$ — Dual Kalb-Ramond
- $A_{a_1 \dots a_{24}}$ — Dual Scalar
- $h_{a_1 \dots a_{23}, b}$ — Dual Graviton

Involution Invariant Subalgebra of K_{27}

We now define the subalgebra $I_c(K_{27})$.

The Serre relations are preserved by the involution I_c

$$I_c(E_A) = \eta_{AB} F_B \quad , \quad I_c(F_A) = \eta_{AB} E_B \quad , \quad I_c(H_A) = \eta_{AB} H_B \quad , \quad (7)$$

$$I_c(AB) = I_c(A)I_c(B) \quad . \quad (8)$$

We can define involution invariant combinations, which generate $I_c(K_{27})$.

The $I_c(K_{27})$ subalgebra is explicitly generated by

$$J_{a_1 a_2} = \eta_{a_1 e} K^e_{a_2} - \eta_{a_2 e} K^e_{a_1} \quad ; \quad (9)$$

$$S_{a_1 a_2} = R^{b_1 b_2} \eta_{b_1 a_1} \eta_{b_2 a_2} - R_{a_1 a_2} \quad ,$$

$$S_{a_1 \dots a_{22}} = R^{b_1 \dots b_{22}} \eta_{b_1 a_1} \dots \eta_{b_{22} a_{22}} - R_{b_1 \dots b_{22}} \quad ; \quad (10)$$

$$S_{a_1 \dots a_{24}} = R^{b_1 \dots b_{24}} \eta_{b_1 a_1} \dots \eta_{b_{24} a_{24}} + R_{b_1 \dots b_{24}} \quad , \quad \dots$$

Vector Representation of K_{27}

The vector representation of K_{27} is denoted l_1 and possesses generators l_A given by

$$P_a ; Q^a , Z^{a_1 \dots a_{21}} ; Z_{\{1\}}^{a_1 \dots a_{23}} , Z_{\{2\}}^{a_1 \dots a_{23}} , \\ Z^{a_1 \dots a_{22}, b} , Z^{a_1 \dots a_{24}, b_1 \dots b_{19}} , Z^{a_1 \dots a_{25}, b_1 \dots b_{18}} ; \dots \quad (11)$$

The higher coordinates represent charges of higher branes in the theory.

They generate a '**generalized space-time**' with coordinates x^A given by

$$x^a , y_a ; x_{a_1 \dots a_{21}} , \dots \quad (12)$$

The x^a, y_a are the D_{26} coordinates of *Double Field Theory* (DFT).

Vector Representation of K_{27}

The $R^{a_1 \dots a_{22}}$ sends P_a into $Z^{a_1 \dots a_{21}}$ via $[R^{a_1 \dots a_{21}}, P_b] = 21 \delta_b^{[a_1} Z^{a_2 \dots a_{22}]}$, and Q^a into the $Z^{a_1 \dots a_{23}}$ under a similar relation. This implies that we will have to introduce branes into our eventual closed string theory.

It is thought [2] that the higher coordinates may reflect the breakdown of space-time near a black hole, giving an approximate description of more fundamental degrees of freedom.

“Space-time is doomed” in the E_{11} program, we must extend the usual x^μ into a ‘generalized space-time’ x^Π .

Nonlinear Realisation of $K_{27} \otimes_s I_1/I_C(K_{27})$

The non-linear realisation of $K_{27} \otimes_s I_1/I_C(K_{27})$ begins from a **group element**

$$\begin{aligned}g &= g_l g_{K_{27}} \quad , \\g_l &= \exp(x^a P_a + y_a Q^a + \dots) \quad , \\g_{K_{27}} &= \Pi_\alpha \exp(A_\alpha R^\alpha) = \dots \exp(A_{a_1 a_2} R^{a_1 a_2}) \exp(h_a{}^b K^a{}_b).\end{aligned}\tag{13}$$

We then compute the **Maurer-Cartan form**

$$\Omega \equiv g^{-1} dg = dx^\Pi E_\Pi{}^A (I_A + G_{A,\alpha} R^\alpha)\tag{14}$$

- $E_\Pi{}^A$ is the **generalized vielbein** of a **generalized geometry** on the generalized space-time.
- G_α are **generalized covariant derivatives** of the goldstone fields A_α .

Note the $G_\alpha = dx^\Pi E_\Pi{}^A G_{A,\alpha}$ involve derivatives ∂_A w.r.t. the generalized coordinates x^A .

Nonlinear Realisation of $K_{27} \otimes_s I_1/I_C(K_{27})$

The **generalized vielbein** is given explicitly by

$$E_{\Pi}^A = (\det e)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} e_{\mu}^a & -2e^{-\phi} A_{\mu a} & -22e^{\phi} A_{\mu a_1 \dots a_{21}} & \dots \\ 0 & e^{-\phi} e_a^{\mu} & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & e^{\phi} e_{a_1 \dots a_{21}}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{21}} & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

The covariant derivatives G_{α} are given explicitly by ($e_a^b \equiv (e^h)_a^b$)

$$G_a^b = (e^{-1} de)_a^b \quad , \quad G = d\phi \quad ;$$

$$G_{a_1 a_2} = e^{-\phi} e_{\mu_1}^{a_1} e_{a_2}^{\mu_2} dA_{\mu_1 \mu_2} \quad ,$$

$$G_{a_1 \dots a_{22}} = e^{+\phi} e_{a_1}^{\mu_1} \dots e_{a_{22}}^{\mu_{22}} dA_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{22}} \quad ;$$

$$G_{a_1 \dots a_{24}} = e_{a_1}^{\mu_1} \dots e_{a_{24}}^{\mu_{24}} (dA_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{24}} - dA_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_{22}} A_{\mu_{23} \mu_{24}]}) \quad (16),$$

$$G_{a_1 \dots a_{23}, b} = e_{a_1}^{\mu_1} \dots e_{a_{23}}^{\mu_{23}} e_b^{\nu} (dh_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{23}, \nu} - dA_{[\mu_1 \dots \mu_{22}} A_{\mu_{23}] \nu} + dA_{[\mu_1 \dots a_{22}} A_{\mu_{23} \nu]}) \quad ,$$

\vdots

Nonlinear Realisation of $K_{27} \otimes_s \mathfrak{h}_1 / I_c(K_{27})$

The group element of $K_{27} \otimes_s \mathfrak{h}_1 / I_c(K_{27})$ satisfies $g \equiv g' = gh$ for $h \in I_c(K_{27})$.

Under the local $h \in I_c(K_{27})$ transformations $g \rightarrow gh$, the covariant derivatives transform covariantly since

$$\Omega \rightarrow \Omega' = h^{-1}(\Omega)h + h^{-1}dh \quad (17)$$

In other words, the covariant derivatives of (16) transform under (17) into linear combinations of one another.

The set of all covariant derivatives form a trivial irrep of $K_{27} \otimes_s \mathfrak{h}_1 / I_c(K_{27})$.

Setting $h = I - \Lambda^{a_1 a_2} S_{a_1 a_2} - \Lambda^{a_1 \dots a_{22}} S_{a_1 \dots a_{22}} + \dots$ they transform as

$$\delta G_a^b = 4\Lambda^{eb} \bar{G}_{ea} - \frac{1}{6} \Lambda^{e_1 e_2} \bar{G}_{e_1 e_2} \delta^b_a + (22)^2 21! \Lambda^{e_1 \dots e_{21} b} G_{e_1 \dots e_{21} a} - \frac{11}{12} 22! \Lambda^{e_1 \dots e_{22}} G_{e_1 \dots e_{22}} \delta^b_a ,$$

$$\delta G = \frac{1}{3} \Lambda^{e_1 e_2} \bar{G}_{e_1 e_2} - \frac{22!}{6} \Lambda^{e_1 \dots e_{22}} G_{e_1 \dots e_{22}} ; \quad (18)$$

$$\delta \bar{G}_{a_1 a_2} = 2 \cdot 2 \Lambda_{e[a_1} G_{(a_2)]^e} - 2 \Lambda_{a_1 a_2} G + \frac{24!}{12} \Lambda^{e_1 \dots e_{22}} G_{e_1 \dots e_{22} a_1 a_2} + \dots ,$$

$$\delta G_{a_1 \dots a_{22}} = 2 \cdot 22 \Lambda_{e[a_1 \dots a_{21}} G_{(a_{22})}^e] + 2 \Lambda_{a_1 \dots a_{22}} G - 4 \cdot 23 \Lambda^{e_1 e_2} G_{e_1 e_2 a_1 \dots a_{22}} + \dots ,$$

$$\delta G_{a_1 \dots a_{24}} = \Lambda_{[a_1 a_2} G_{a_3 \dots a_{24}]} - \Lambda_{[a_1 \dots a_{22}} G_{a_{23} a_{24}]} + \dots ,$$

$$\delta G_{a_1 \dots a_{23}, b} = G_{[a_1 \dots a_{22}} \Lambda_{a_{23}] b} - G_{[a_1 \dots a_{22}} \Lambda_{a_{23} b]} - \Lambda_{[a_1 \dots a_{22}} G_{a_{23}] b} + \Lambda_{[a_1 \dots a_{22}} G_{a_{23} b]} .$$

The transformations in equation (17) are on the differential forms as a whole.

In $\Omega = dx^\Pi E_\Pi^A (I_A + G_{A,\alpha} R^\alpha)$, the A index will change under $\Omega' = h^{-1}\Omega h + h^{-1}dh$ and must be compensated via the A in E_Π^A .

This means that the A in ∂_A varies, so derivatives rotate into one another.

To level one we have derivatives $\partial_a, \hat{\partial}^a, \hat{\partial}^{a_1 \dots a_{21}}$, and the Cartan form coefficients $G_{A,\alpha}$ transform under (24) in the A index as

$$\begin{aligned} \delta G_{a,\alpha} &= -2\Lambda_{ae} \hat{G}^e_{,\alpha} - 22\Lambda_{ae_1 \dots e_{21}} G^{e_1 \dots e_{21}}_{,\alpha} , & (19) \\ \delta \hat{G}^a_{,\alpha} &= -10\Lambda^{ae} G_{e,\alpha} , \quad \delta G^{a_1 \dots a_{21}}_{,\alpha} = -11 \cdot 21! \Lambda^{a_1 \dots a_{21} e} G_{e,\alpha} . \end{aligned}$$

First Order Duality Relations

We now construct a non-trivial irrep of $K_{27} \otimes_s h_1 / I_c(K_{27})$.

Seek linear combinations of covariant derivatives that transform covariantly into one another under $I_c(K_{27})$.

These are **first order duality relations**

$$\begin{aligned} D_a &\equiv G_a + \frac{1}{12} \varepsilon_a^{c_1 \dots c_{25}} G_{c_1, c_2 \dots c_{25}} \\ \bar{D}_{a_1 a_2 a_3} &\equiv G_{[a_1, a_2 a_3]} + \frac{1}{6} \varepsilon_{a_1 a_2 a_3}^{c_1 \dots c_{23}} G_{c_1, c_2 \dots c_{23}} \\ D_{a, b_1 b_2} &\equiv (\det e)^{1/2} \omega_{a, b_1 b_2} - \varepsilon_{b_1 b_2}^{c_1 \dots c_{24}} G_{c_1, c_2 \dots c_{24}, a} \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

- D_a is the dilaton duality,
- $\bar{D}_{a_1 a_2 a_3}$ is the Kalb-Ramond duality,
- $D_{a, b_1 b_2}$ is the gravity dual-gravity duality.

We are finding a formulation of the 26D Closed Bosonic String in terms of First Order duality relations.

First Order Duality Relations

However, the derivatives in say

$$\bar{D}_{a_1 a_2 a_3} \equiv G_{[a_1, a_2 a_3]} + \frac{1}{6} \varepsilon_{a_1 a_2 a_3}{}^{c_1 \dots c_3} G_{c_1, c_2 \dots c_3}$$

also vary under $\Omega' = h^{-1} \Omega h + h^{-1} dh$

In order to construct a consistent irrep, we must generalize (20) to include higher level derivative contributions.

First Order Duality Relations

We must generalize $\bar{D}_{a_1 a_2 a_3}$ to a duality involving level one derivative contributions

$$\bar{D}_{a_1 a_2 a_3} \equiv \bar{G}_{[a_1 a_2 a_3]} + \frac{1}{6} \varepsilon_{a_1 a_2 a_3}{}^{e_1 \dots e_{23}} \mathcal{G}_{e_1 e_2 \dots e_{23}} \quad , \quad (21)$$

where now

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{G}_{[a_1 a_2 a_3]} \equiv & \bar{G}_{[a_1, a_2 a_3]} + \frac{1}{5} \hat{G}_{[a_1, a_2 a_3]} + \frac{4 \cdot 22 \cdot 23}{3} \hat{G}^{e_1 \dots e_{21}},_{e_1 \dots e_{21} a_1 a_2 a_3} \\ & + 2 \cdot 22 \cdot 23 \hat{G}^{e_1 \dots e_{21}},_{e_1 \dots e_{21} [a_1 a_2, a_3]} \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_{[a_1 a_2 \dots a_{23}]} \equiv & G_{[a_1, a_2 \dots a_{23}]} + (2/21!) \hat{G}_{[a_1 \dots a_{21}, a_{22} a_{23}]} - (4/5) \hat{G}^c,_{c a_1 \dots a_{23}} \\ & + (2/5) \hat{G}^c,_{a_1 \dots a_{23}, c} \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

First Order Duality Relations

Similarly

$$D_a \equiv G_a + \frac{1}{12} \varepsilon_a^{c_1 \dots c_{25}} G_{c_1, c_2 \dots c_{25}} \quad ,$$

generalises into

$$\mathcal{D}_a \equiv \mathcal{G}_a + e_1 \varepsilon_a^{b_1 \dots b_{25}} G_{b_1, b_2 \dots b_{25}} \quad (24)$$

where we have

$$\mathcal{G}_a \equiv G_a + \frac{1}{15} \hat{G}^e_{ea} - \frac{22}{3} \hat{G}^{e_2 \dots e_{22}}_{e_2 \dots e_{22} a} \quad (25)$$

$D_{a,b_1 b_2}$ gets a similar modification into $\mathcal{D}_{a,b_1 b_2}$ [3].

We call the $\mathcal{D}_{a,\alpha}$ analog of $D_{a,\alpha}$ the l_1 -extension of $D_{a,\alpha}$.

First Order Duality Relations

Under the transformations of equation (18) and (19), the l_1 -extended duality relations get sent into

$$\begin{aligned}\delta\mathcal{D}_a &= \frac{1}{2}\Lambda^{e_1 e_2}\bar{D}_{ae_1 e_2} + \dots \\ \delta\bar{\mathcal{D}}_{a_1 a_2 a_3} &= -2D_{[a}\Lambda_{b_1 b_2]} + 2\Lambda^c_{[a_1}D_{|c|, a_2 a_3]} + \dots \\ \delta\mathcal{D}_{a, b_1 b_2} &= -\frac{11}{12}\varepsilon_{b_1 b_2}{}^{c_1 \dots c_{24}}\Lambda_{ac_1 \dots c_{21}}\bar{D}_{c_{22} c_{23} c_{24}} \\ &\quad + \frac{11}{8}\varepsilon_{b_1 b_2}{}^{c_1 \dots c_{24}}\Lambda_{c_1 \dots c_{22}}\bar{D}_{c_{23} c_{24} a} + \dots\end{aligned}\tag{26}$$

The first order duality relations along with their l_1 -extensions and higher level contributions form an irreducible representation of $K_{27} \otimes_s l_1 / I_c(K_{27})$.

We can thus consistently set all duality relations in the representation, and their l_1 -extensions, to zero, and indeed interpret them as duality relations.

Second-Order Equations of Motion

We can use the first-order duality relations in equation (20) to form **second-order equations of motion** (eom).

We do this by projecting out one of the two fields using derivatives:

$$\begin{aligned} E &= \partial_\mu [(\det e)^{1/2} D^\mu] \\ E^{\nu_1 \nu_2} &= \partial_\mu [(\det e)^{\frac{1}{2}} \overline{D}^{\mu, \nu_1 \nu_2}] \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

We can then form h_1 -extended versions of (27) and vary these under (19) and (20).

Second-Order Equations of Motion

For example, E gets l_1 -extended into

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{E} = & \{(\det e)^{\frac{1}{2}} e_a^\mu \partial_\mu G^a - G_{c,a}{}^c G^a + \frac{1}{2} G_{a,c}{}^c G^a\} \\
 & + \frac{2}{3} \frac{1}{10} \partial_\mu \{(\det e)^{\frac{1}{2}} \hat{G}^{\tau_2, \mu}\} - \frac{2}{10} \overline{G}^{[\mu, \tau_1 \tau_2]} \hat{G}_{\tau_2, (\mu \tau_1)} \\
 & - \frac{4}{10} \hat{G}^{\wedge c, \cdot, cb} G^b - 22 \frac{22!}{6 \cdot 11 \cdot 21!} \partial_\mu \{ \hat{G}^{\tau_1, \tau_2 \dots \tau_{22} \mu} \Lambda_{\tau_1 \dots \tau_{22}} (\det e)^{\frac{1}{2}} \} \\
 & \quad - \frac{21! 21}{11 \cdot 21!} \hat{G}^{e_2 \dots e_{22}, e_2 \dots e_{22} b} G^b \\
 & \quad - \frac{22}{11 \cdot 21!} \varepsilon^{a_1 \dots a_{26}} \overline{G}_{[a_1, a_2 a_3]} \hat{G}_{a_5 \dots a_{24}, [a_{25} a_{26}]} \left(\frac{1}{6 \cdot 6 e_2} \right) \\
 & \quad - e_1 \varepsilon^{e_1 \dots e_{26}} G_{e_1, e_2 e_3} G_{e_4, e_5 \dots e_{26}}
 \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

Second-Order Equations of Motion

The result of varying \mathcal{E} and $\mathcal{E}^{\nu_1\nu_2}$ is that we find the second order eom

$$E = \partial_\nu [(\det e)^{\frac{1}{2}} G^\nu] + \frac{1}{2} \bar{G}_{[c_1, c_2 c_2]} \bar{G}^{[c_1, c_2 c_3]} = 0$$

$$E^{\nu_1\nu_2} \equiv \partial_\mu [(\det e)^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{G}^{[\mu, \nu_1\nu_2]}] - G_\mu \bar{G}^{[\mu, \nu_1\nu_2]} = 0 \quad (29)$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\det e) \tilde{E}_a^b \equiv & (\det e) R_a^b - 9 \bar{G}_{[a, e_1 e_2]} \bar{G}^{[b, e_1 e_2]} + \frac{1}{4} \delta_a^b \bar{G}_{[e_1, e_2 e_3]} \bar{G}^{[e_1, e_2 e_3]} \\ & - 6 G_a G^b = 0 \end{aligned}$$

These are the familiar second order equations of motion of the closed bosonic string in 26 dimensions, coming from the action

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \int d^{26}x \det e \left\{ R - \frac{1}{6} (\partial^\mu \phi) (\partial_\mu \phi) - \frac{1}{3} e^{-\frac{2}{6} \phi} F_{\mu\nu\rho} F^{\mu\nu\rho} \right\} \\ &= \int d^{26}x \left\{ (\det e) R - \frac{1}{6} G^a G_a - 3 G_{[a, bc]} G^{[a, bc]} \right\} \quad (30) \end{aligned}$$

Second-Order Equations of Motion

The eom of the closed bosonic string arise from K_{27} symmetry being realized non-linearly.

Taken all together the eom form an irreducible representation of $K_{27} \otimes_s l_1/l_c(K_{27})$.

- The Kac-Moody algebra K_{27} is a symmetry of the theory closed bosonic strings with branes.
- Contains $O(D, D)$ DFT for $D = 26$: ignoring node 26 gives $O(26, 26)$, x^a, y_a DFT coordinates.
- Brane contributions are required in our theory of closed strings.
- Truncating the theory at any stage and throwing away higher fields or higher coordinates will cause everything to fail, there cannot be any 'consistent truncations'.

- Compute Brane dynamics: Q^a represents the charge of a string. $Z^{a_1 \dots a_{21}}$ is the charge of a 21-brane.
- Deeper relationship to E_{11} and other string theories.
- Kac-Moody Algebra interpretation of all 5 string theories at low energies? Have M-theory, IIA, IIB. Heterotic?
- Generalized Symmetries in K_{27} ?

- [1] P. West, *E₁₁ and m-theory*, Class. Quant. Grav. 18, (2001) 4443, hep-th/ 0104081.
- [2] Tumanov and P. West, *E11 must be a symmetry of strings and branes*, arXiv:1512.01644.
- [3] K. Glennon and P. West, *K₂₇ as a symmetry of closed bosonic strings and branes*, hep-th/2409.08649.