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D-BRANES AND CLOSED STRING FIELD THEORY

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We construct solitonic states in the OSp invariant string field theory, which are BRST invariant in the leading order of regularization parameter. One can show that these solitonic states describe D-branes and ghost D-branes, by calculating the scattering amplitudes.

Keywords: String Field Theory; D-branes; BRST Symmetry.

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1. Introduction

D-branes have been studied for many years and used to reveal nonperturbative aspects of string theory. As A. Sen argued, D-branes can be realized as soliton solutions in open string field theory. Now some of his conjectures¹ have been proved analytically² in Witten's open string field theory.³

What we would like to discuss here is how D-branes can be realized in closed string field theory. Hashimoto and Hata⁴ studied this problem in the context of HIKKO formulation.⁵ They modified the action by adding a source term made from the boundary state of a D-brane. They showed that such a source term does not break the gauge invariance, and argued that this term corresponds to the D-brane in the closed string field theory. Unfortunately one cannot fix the normalization of the boundary state only from the gauge invariance. Namely one cannot fix the tension of the D-brane in their formulation.

However for noncritical strings, the situation is better. D-branes in noncritical string theories can be defined as in the critical ones.⁶ In Ref. 7, Fukuma and Yahikozawa showed that the D-branes can be realized as solitonic operators which commute with the Virasoro and W constraints⁸ for the noncritical string theories. In Ref. 9, it was shown that how such solitonic operators are realized in the string

2 *N. Ishibashi, Y. Baba and K. Murakami*

field theory of noncritical strings presented in Ref. 10. States in which D-branes are excited can be made by acting these solitonic operators on the vacuum.

What we would like to discuss in this article is a generalization of such a construction to the case of critical bosonic string theory. We will show that similar construction is possible^{11–13} for the OSp invariant string field theory.^{14–18}

2. OSp Invariant String Field Theory

The OSp invariant string field theory (SFT) is basically a covariantized version of the light-cone gauge SFT.¹⁹ Therefore let us first briefly review the light-cone gauge SFT.

2.1. Light-cone gauge SFT

In the light-cone gauge SFT for closed strings, the string field Φ can be considered as a functional of the variables $t, \alpha, X^i(\sigma)$ ($i = 1, \dots, 24$), where $t = x^+$ and $\alpha = 2p^+$, and X^i are the coordinates in the transverse directions. As usual we consider a state $|\Phi(t, \alpha)\rangle$ in the Fock space of X^i as a representative of the string field. The string field $|\Phi(t, \alpha)\rangle$ is taken to satisfy $\mathcal{P}|\Phi(t, \alpha)\rangle = |\Phi(t, \alpha)\rangle$, where

$$\mathcal{P} = \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta e^{i\theta(L_0 - \bar{L}_0)}. \quad (1)$$

The action can be expressed as

$$S = \int dt \left[\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} \alpha \langle \Phi(-\alpha) | \left(i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - H \right) | \Phi(\alpha) \rangle + \frac{2g}{3} \int \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} \alpha \langle \Phi(-\alpha) | \Phi * \Phi(\alpha) \rangle \right]. \quad (2)$$

Here $\langle \Phi(\alpha) |$ denotes the BPZ conjugate of $|\Phi(\alpha)\rangle$. $*$ denotes a product of the closed string fields Φ , and describes the interaction of the strings depicted in Fig. 1. The integration measure

$$\int \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} \alpha, \quad (3)$$

for α may look a little odd, but it yields the right kinetic term taking $\alpha = 2p^+$ into account. The details of the notations are given in the appendix. The light cone gauge SFT possesses nonlinearly realized $SO(25, 1)$ symmetry.

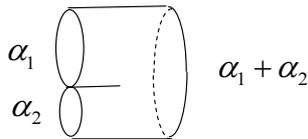


Fig. 1. Three-string interaction in the light-cone gauge

2.2. *OSp invariant SFT*

The *OSp* theory can be obtained by considering the light-cone gauge SFT on a flat supermanifold with extra coordinates $X^{25}, X^{26}, C, \bar{C}$ in addition to X^i . Here C and \bar{C} are Grassmann variables with conformal weight 0. The action for the *OSp* theory is the same as eq.(2), but now the string field $|\Phi\rangle$ is in the Fock space of C, \bar{C}, X^μ ($\mu = 1, \dots, 26$). One can prove that this theory possesses nonlinearly realized *OSp*(27, 1|2) symmetry, essentially because adding the extra variables does not change the Virasoro central charge.

X^μ being regarded as Euclidean coordinates of the 26 dimensional spacetime, the theory becomes a covariant formulation of the string theory. One can identify C and \bar{C} with the usual *bc* ghosts in the conformal gauge. Therefore the *OSp* invariant SFT can be considered as covariant SFT including extra variables t, α , which correspond to time and length of the string.

Since it is a covariant theory with ghost-like variables, we need a BRST symmetry. We regard the C^- component of the *OSp* transformations as the BRST transformation. This is given as

$$\delta_B |\Phi(\alpha)\rangle = \frac{1}{2} M^{C^-} |\Phi(\alpha)\rangle - g \mathcal{P} C(\sigma_I) |\Phi * \Phi(\alpha)\rangle, \quad (4)$$

where M^{C^-} is the first quantized *OSp* generator, which is considered as the BRST charge, and σ_I is the coordinate corresponding to the interaction point in the $*$ -product. This BRST transformation is nilpotent by construction.

It is easy to show that the string field Hamiltonian of the *OSp* theory is BRST exact. Having an extra time and BRST exact hamiltonian, this theory cannot correspond to the usual formulation of field theory. It rather looks like that for stochastic quantization. Therefore we treat the theory in the way we do in such formulation. If one calculates Green's functions of BRST invariant observables, the results essentially depend only on the 26 dimensional coordinates and can be considered as Green's functions in a 26 dimensional theory. Then we can derive the S-matrix elements from these Green's functions in the usual way. The results can be proved to coincide with the S-matrix elements derived from the light-cone gauge SFT.¹³ Thus we can use this *OSp* theory to describe bosonic strings.

3. D-brane States

The formulation of the *OSp* invariant SFT is different from that of the usual covariant SFT, but this theory has features in common with the noncritical SFT: It involves string length variables, joining-splitting interaction and the extra time variable. Because of this similarity, it is conceivable that the construction of solitonic operator is also possible in this theory. As we will show in the following, we can construct second quantized BRST invariant states corresponding to D-branes, imitating the construction of the solitonic operator in the noncritical case.

4 *N. Ishibashi, Y. Baba and K. Murakami*

3.1. Canonical quantization

Let us quantize the OSp invariant SFT, following the usual light-cone quantization. Decomposing the string field $|\Phi(\alpha)\rangle$ as

$$|\Phi(\alpha)\rangle = |\psi(\alpha)\rangle + |\bar{\psi}(\alpha)\rangle, \quad (5)$$

where

$$|\psi(\alpha)\rangle = |\Phi(\alpha)\rangle\theta(\alpha), \quad |\bar{\psi}(\alpha)\rangle = |\Phi(\alpha)\rangle\theta(-\alpha), \quad (6)$$

we consider ψ as the annihilation operator and $\bar{\psi}$ as the creation operator. The canonical commutation relation can be given as

$$[|\psi(\alpha)\rangle, \langle\bar{\psi}(\alpha')|] = \frac{4\pi}{\alpha}\delta(\alpha + \alpha')\theta(\alpha)\mathcal{P}. \quad (7)$$

Then we define the second-quantized vacuum $|0\rangle\rangle$ which satisfies

$$|\psi(\alpha)\rangle|0\rangle\rangle = 0. \quad (8)$$

Thus states in the SFT can be made by acting the creation operators on this vacuum.

3.2. Boundary states

In order to construct states describing D-branes, we need the boundary states corresponding to them. In the OSp theory, we define the boundary state $|B\rangle$ as a state in the Fock space of X^μ, C, \bar{C} . They are taken to satisfy usual conditions for X^μ , and Dirichlet conditions for C and \bar{C} . (For the convention for the normalization of $|B\rangle$, see Ref. 12 where $|B\rangle$ is denoted by $|B_0\rangle$.) Since we encounter divergences in the calculation, we modify $|B\rangle$ as

$$|B\rangle \rightarrow |B^\epsilon\rangle \equiv e^{-\epsilon H}|B\rangle, \quad (9)$$

for $\epsilon \sim 0$, to use $|B^\epsilon\rangle$ as a regularization of $|B\rangle$. Since H is BRST exact, it is a BRST invariant regularization.

Now using these operators and state, we consider a state in the following form:

$$|D\rangle\rangle \equiv \int d\zeta \exp \left[a \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} e^{\zeta\alpha} \langle B^\epsilon | \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle + F(\zeta) \right] |0\rangle\rangle, \quad (10)$$

where a is a constant. Since $\bar{\psi}$ is the creation operator, this state has the effect of inserting boundaries in worldsheets. $a, F(\zeta)$ will be fixed by requiring that this state is BRST invariant. The BRST variation of the state $|D\rangle\rangle$ can be calculated by substituting eq.(4) and using the canonical commutation relations (7), and we

obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta_B |D\rangle\rangle = & \int d\zeta \exp \left[a \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} e^{\zeta\alpha} \langle B^\epsilon | \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle + F(\zeta) \right] \\
 & \times a \left\{ \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} e^{\zeta\alpha} \langle B^\epsilon | \frac{1}{2} M^{C-} | \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle \right. \\
 & - g \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} e^{\zeta\alpha} \langle B^\epsilon | C(\sigma_I) | \bar{\psi} * \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle \\
 & \left. + ga \int_0^\infty \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} \alpha \langle \bar{\psi}(-\alpha) | C(\sigma_I) | (B^\epsilon(\zeta) * B^\epsilon(\zeta))(\alpha) \rangle \right\} |0\rangle\rangle, \quad (11)
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$|B^\epsilon(\zeta)\rangle \equiv |B^\epsilon\rangle \frac{e^{-\zeta\alpha}}{\alpha} \theta(\alpha). \quad (12)$$

3.3. Idempotency equations

In order to calculate the right hand side of eq.(11), we need the idempotency equations. The second term in the parenthesis $\{ \}$ corresponds to the process in which one boundary state splits into two, and the third term corresponds to the one in which two boundary states connect together. The states obtained from boundary states connecting together or splitting into two should be expressed by the boundary states again, as is described in Fig. 2. Thus boundary states should satisfy so-called idempotency equation, which can be roughly written as $B * B \propto B$.²⁰

In the case of the *OSp* invariant SFT, one can obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} e^{\zeta\alpha} \langle B^\epsilon | C(\sigma_I) | \bar{\psi} * \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle \\
 & \sim -2C_2 \int \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} e^{\zeta\alpha} \langle B | i\pi_0 | \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle \int \frac{d\alpha'}{4\pi} \alpha' e^{\zeta\alpha'} \langle B | \bar{\psi}(\alpha') \rangle, \\
 & \int_0^\infty \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} \alpha \langle \bar{\psi}(-\alpha) | C(\sigma_I) | (B^\epsilon(\zeta) * B^\epsilon(\zeta))(\alpha) \rangle \\
 & \sim C_1 \int \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} \alpha e^{\zeta\alpha} \langle B | i\pi_0 | \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle, \quad (13)
 \end{aligned}$$

in the leading order in the regularization parameter ϵ . Here π_0 is the momentum zero-mode for C and C_1 and C_2 are constants given as

$$C_1 \equiv \frac{(4\pi^3)^{\frac{p+1}{2}}}{(2\pi)^{25}} \frac{4}{\epsilon^2 (-\ln \epsilon)^{\frac{p+1}{2}}}, \quad C_2 \equiv \frac{1}{(16\pi)^{\frac{p+1}{2}}} \frac{4}{\epsilon^2 (-\ln \epsilon)^{\frac{p+1}{2}}}. \quad (14)$$

6 *N. Ishibashi, Y. Baba and K. Murakami*

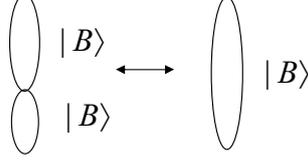


Fig. 2. Idempotency equation

3.4. States with one soliton

Substituting eq.(13) into the right hand side of eq.(11), one can easily see that

$$\delta_B |D\rangle\rangle \sim g a^2 C_1 \int d\zeta \partial_\zeta \left(\int \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} e^{\zeta\alpha} \langle B | i\pi_0 | \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle \times \exp \left[a \int \frac{d\alpha'}{4\pi} e^{\zeta\alpha'} \langle B | \bar{\psi}(\alpha') \rangle + F(\zeta) \right] |0\rangle\rangle, \quad (15)$$

provided

$$\begin{aligned} F(\zeta) &= b\zeta^2, \\ (a, b) &= \pm(A, B), \\ A &= \frac{(2\pi)^{13}}{(8\pi^2)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} \sqrt{\pi}}, \quad B = \frac{(2\pi)^{13} \epsilon^2 (-\ln \epsilon)^{\frac{p+1}{2}}}{16 \left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} \sqrt{\pi} g}. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Thus $\delta_B |D\rangle\rangle = 0$, if one takes the integration contour for ζ appropriately. a and $F(\zeta)$ is fixed by the condition that the integrand becomes a total derivative.

Therefore we have found two BRST invariant states

$$|D_\pm\rangle\rangle \equiv \int d\zeta \exp \left[\pm A \int \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} e^{\zeta\alpha} \langle B^\epsilon | \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle \pm B\zeta^2 \right] |0\rangle\rangle. \quad (17)$$

It is possible to calculate scattering amplitudes perturbatively, using these states. One can show that we obtain the amplitudes in the presence of one D-brane using $|D_+\rangle\rangle$, if one takes $g > 0$. Therefore $|D_+\rangle\rangle$ can be considered as a state with one D-brane. This result indicates that the boundaries are inserted in the worldsheet with the right weight, and we have the right value for the tension of the D-brane. $|D_-\rangle\rangle$ may be considered as a state with one ghost D-brane.²¹

3.5. States with multiple solitons

One can generalize the above procedure and construct states with multiple D-branes. In order to do so, it is convenient to notice the following fact about the variable ζ . Looking at the form of eq.(10), one can see that boundaries on the worldsheet are inserted with the weight

$$\exp(-\zeta \times \text{length of the boundary}). \quad (18)$$

Thus ζ may be identified with the constant open string tachyon background. If there exist N D-branes, it is natural to imagine that the variable ζ should become a hermitian $N \times N$ matrix T and we should consider a state in the following form:

$$\int dT \exp \left[a \int_{-\infty}^0 \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} \text{Tr} e^{T\alpha} \langle B^\epsilon | \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle + \text{Tr} F(T) \right] |0\rangle. \quad (19)$$

Starting from eq.(19), one can proceed in the same way as above, just replacing ζ by T and show that

$$|D_{N,\pm}\rangle \equiv \int dT \exp \left[\pm A \int \frac{d\alpha}{4\pi} \text{Tr} e^{T\alpha} \langle B^\epsilon | \bar{\psi}(\alpha) \rangle \pm B \text{Tr} T^2 \right] |0\rangle \quad (20)$$

are BRST invariant. It is easy to check that these states can be identified with the states with N D-branes and ghost D-branes, by calculating the scattering amplitudes.

4. Conclusion

We have constructed D-brane states in the OSp invariant SFT for closed bosonic strings, as BRST invariant states. Imposing the condition that the states are BRST invariant, we can fix the value of the tension of the D-branes.

There are many things to be pursued further. One thing is to consider similar construction for superstrings. Another thing is to study the relation between the variables ζ, T and the open string tachyon further.

The construction explained here may be useful to understand the dynamics of D-branes. For example, it may give some clue to Yoneya's "trinity",²² which is discussed by Yoneya in this conference.

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Appendix A. Notations

The notations employed here are different from those used in our original papers.¹¹⁻¹³ The string field $|\Phi\rangle$ here is a state in the Hilbert space of X^μ, C, \bar{C} including zero-modes. Therefore the inner product $\langle \Phi_1 | \Phi_2 \rangle$ here corresponds to

$$\int d''r_r \langle \Phi_1 | \Phi_2 \rangle_r \quad (A.1)$$

in those papers, where

$$d''r \equiv \frac{d^{26}p_r}{(2\pi)^{25}} i d\bar{\pi}_0^{(r)} d\pi_0^{(r)}. \quad (A.2)$$

8 *N. Ishibashi, Y. Baba and K. Murakami*

The $*$ -product $(\Phi_1 * \Phi_2)(\alpha)$ corresponds to the state

$$\frac{1}{\alpha} \int \frac{d\alpha_1}{4\pi} \int d''1 d''2 {}_{123}\langle 0 | e^{E(1,2,3)} \delta''(1, 2, 3) | \Phi_1(\alpha_1) \rangle_1 | \Phi_2(\alpha - \alpha_1) \rangle_2 |\mu(1, 2, 3)|^2, \quad (\text{A.3})$$

where $\alpha = -\alpha_3$ and

$$\delta''(1, 2, 3) = (2\pi)^{25} \delta^{26}(p_1 + p_2 + p_3) i(\bar{\pi}_0^{(1)} + \bar{\pi}_0^{(2)} + \bar{\pi}_0^{(3)})(\pi_0^{(1)} + \pi_0^{(2)} + \pi_0^{(3)}), \quad (\text{A.4})$$

and the definitions of $E(1, 2, 3)$ and $|\mu(1, 2, 3)|^2$ are given in Refs. 12 and 13. Notice that $*$ here is different from the $*$ appearing in those references.

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