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Biquaternion Construction of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ Yang-Mills Instantons

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Abstract. We use biquaternion to construct $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ ADHM Yang-Mills instantons. The solutions contain $16k-6$ moduli parameters for the k th homotopy class, and include as a subset the $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ (M, N) instanton solutions constructed previously. In contrast to the $SU(2)$ instantons, the $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ instantons inherit jumping lines or singularities which are not gauge artifacts and can not be gauged away.

1. Introduction

The classical exact solutions of Euclidean $SU(2)$ (anti)self-dual Yang-Mills (SDYM) equation were intensively studied by pure mathematicians and theoretical physicists in 1970s. The first BPST 1-instanton solution [1] with 5 moduli parameters was found in 1975. The CFTW k -instanton solutions [2] with $5k$ moduli parameters were soon constructed, and then the number of moduli parameters of the solutions for each homotopy class k was extended to $5k + 4$ (5, 13 for $k = 1, 2$) [3] based on the conformal symmetry of massless pure YM equation. The complete solutions with $8k - 3$ moduli parameters for each k -th homotopy class were finally worked out in 1978 by mathematicians ADHM [4] using theory in algebraic geometry. Through an one to one correspondence between anti-self-dual $SU(2)$ -connections on S^4 and holomorphic vector bundles on CP^3 , ADHM converted the highly nontrivial anti-SDYM equations into a much more simpler system of quadratic algebraic equations in quaternions. The explicit closed form of the complete solutions for $k = 2, 3$ had been worked out [5].

There are many important applications of instantons to algebraic geometry and quantum field theory. One important application of instantons in algebraic geometry was the classification of four-manifolds [6]. On the physics side, the non-perturbative instanton effect in QCD resolved the $U(1)_A$ problem [7]. Another important application of YM instantons in quantum field theory was the introduction of θ - vacua [8] in nonperturbative QCD, which created the strong CP problem.

In addition to $SU(2)$, the ADHM construction has been generalized to the cases of $SU(N)$ SDYM and many other SDYM theories with compact Lie groups [5, 9]. In this talk we are going to consider the classical solutions of non-compact $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ SDYM system. YM theory based on $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ was first discussed in 1970s [10, 11]. It was found that the complex $SU(2)$ YM field configurations can be interpreted as the real field configurations in $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ YM theory. However, due to the non-compactness of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$, the Cartan-Killing form or group metric of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ is not positive definite. Thus the action integral and the Hamiltonian of non-compact $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ YM theory may not be positive. Nevertheless, there are still important motivations to



study $SL(2, C)$ SDYM theory. For example, it was shown that the 4D $SL(2, C)$ SDYM equation can be dimensionally reduced to many important 1 + 1 dimensional integrable systems [12], such as the KdV equation and the nonlinear Schrodinger equation.

2. $SL(2, C)$ SDYM Equation

We first briefly review the $SL(2, C)$ YM theory. It was shown that [10] there are two linearly independent choices of $SL(2, C)$ group metric

$$g^a = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & -I \end{pmatrix}, g^b = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.1)$$

where I is the 3×3 unit matrix. In general, we can choose

$$g = \cos \theta g^a + \sin \theta g^b \quad (2.2)$$

where $\theta =$ real constant. Note that the metric is not positive definite due to the non-compactness of $SL(2, C)$. On the other hand, it was shown that $SL(2, C)$ group can be decomposed such that [13]

$$SL(2, C) = SU(2) \cdot P, P \in H \quad (2.3)$$

where $SU(2)$ is the maximal compact subgroup of $SL(2, C)$, $P \in H$ (not a group) and $H = \{P|P \text{ is Hermitian, positive definite, and } \det P = 1\}$. The parameter space of H is a noncompact space R^3 . The third homotopy group is thus [13]

$$\pi_3[SL(2, C)] = \pi_3[S^3 \times R^3] = \pi_3(S^3) \cdot \pi_3(R^3) = Z \cdot I = Z \quad (2.4)$$

where I is the identity group, and Z is the integer group.

On the other hand, Wu and Yang [10] have shown that a complex $SU(2)$ gauge field is related to a real $SL(2, C)$ gauge field. Starting from $SU(2)$ complex gauge field formalism, we can write down all the $SL(2, C)$ field equations. Let

$$G_\mu^a = A_\mu^a + iB_\mu^a \quad (2.5)$$

and, for convenience, we set the coupling constant $g = 1$. The complex field strength is defined as

$$F_{\mu\nu}^a \equiv H_{\mu\nu}^a + iM_{\mu\nu}^a, a, b, c = 1, 2, 3 \quad (2.6)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\mu\nu}^a &= \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + \epsilon^{abc}(A_\mu^b A_\nu^c - B_\mu^b B_\nu^c), \\ M_{\mu\nu}^a &= \partial_\mu B_\nu^a - \partial_\nu B_\mu^a + \epsilon^{abc}(A_\mu^b B_\nu^c - A_\mu^c B_\nu^b), \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

then $SL(2, C)$ Yang-Mills equation can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\mu H_{\mu\nu}^a + \epsilon^{abc}(A_\mu^b H_{\mu\nu}^c - B_\mu^b M_{\mu\nu}^c) &= 0, \\ \partial_\mu M_{\mu\nu}^a + \epsilon^{abc}(A_\mu^b M_{\mu\nu}^c - B_\mu^b H_{\mu\nu}^c) &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

The $SL(2, C)$ SDYM equations are

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\mu\nu}^a &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} H_{\alpha\beta}, \\ M_{\mu\nu}^a &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} M_{\alpha\beta}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

The Yang-Mills Equation above can be derived from the following Lagrangian

$$L_\theta = \frac{1}{4}[F_{\mu\nu}^i]^T g_{ij}[F_{\mu\nu}^j] = \cos \theta \left(\frac{1}{4} H_{\mu\nu}^a H_{\mu\nu}^a - \frac{1}{4} M_{\mu\nu}^a M_{\mu\nu}^a \right) + \sin \theta \left(\frac{1}{2} H_{\mu\nu}^a M_{\mu\nu}^a \right) \quad (2.10)$$

where $F_{\mu\nu}^k = H_{\mu\nu}^k$ and $F_{\mu\nu}^{3+k} = M_{\mu\nu}^k$ for $k = 1, 2, 3$. Note that L_θ is indefinite for any real value θ . We shall only consider the particular case for $\theta = 0$ in this talk, i.e.

$$L = \frac{1}{4} (H_{\mu\nu}^a H_{\mu\nu}^a - M_{\mu\nu}^a M_{\mu\nu}^a), \quad (2.11)$$

for the action density in discussing the homotopic classifications of our solutions.

3. Biquaternion construction of $SL(2, C)$ YM Instantons

Instead of quaternion in the $Sp(1)$ ($= SU(2)$) ADHM construction, we will use *biquaternion* to construct $SL(2, C)$ SDYM instantons. A quaternion x can be written as

$$x = x_\mu e_\mu, \quad x_\mu \in R, \quad e_0 = 1, e_1 = i, e_2 = j, e_3 = k \quad (3.12)$$

where e_1, e_2 and e_3 anticommute and obey

$$e_i \cdot e_j = -e_j \cdot e_i = \epsilon_{ijk} e_k; \quad i, j, k = 1, 2, 3, \quad (3.13)$$

$$e_1^2 = -1, e_2^2 = -1, e_3^2 = -1. \quad (3.14)$$

A (ordinary) biquaternion (or complex-quaternion) z can be written as

$$z = z_\mu e_\mu, \quad z_\mu \in C, \quad (3.15)$$

which will be used in this talk. Occasionally z can be written as

$$z = x + yi \quad (3.16)$$

where x and y are quaternions and $i = \sqrt{-1}$, not to be confused with e_1 in Eq.(3.12). For biquaternion, the biconjugation [14]

$$z^\circledast = z_\mu e_\mu^\dagger = z_0 e_0 - z_1 e_1 - z_2 e_2 - z_3 e_3 = x^\dagger + y^\dagger i, \quad (3.17)$$

will be heavily used in this talk. In contrast to the real number norm square of a quaternion, the norm square of a biquaternion used in this talk is defined to be

$$|z|_c^2 = z^\circledast z = (z_0)^2 + (z_1)^2 + (z_2)^2 + (z_3)^2 \quad (3.18)$$

which is a *complex* number in general as a subscript c is used in the norm.

We are now ready to proceed the construction of $SL(2, C)$ instantons. We begin by introducing the $(k+1) \times k$ biquaternion matrix $\Delta(x) = a + bx$

$$\Delta(x)_{ab} = a_{ab} + b_{ab} x, \quad a_{ab} = a_{ab}^\mu e_\mu, b_{ab} = b_{ab}^\mu e_\mu \quad (3.19)$$

where a_{ab}^μ and b_{ab}^μ are complex numbers, and a_{ab} and b_{ab} are biquaternions. The biconjugation of the $\Delta(x)$ matrix is defined to be

$$\Delta(x)_{ab}^\circledast = \Delta(x)_{ba}^\mu e_\mu^\dagger = \Delta(x)_{ba}^0 e_0 - \Delta(x)_{ba}^1 e_1 - \Delta(x)_{ba}^2 e_2 - \Delta(x)_{ba}^3 e_3. \quad (3.20)$$

In contrast to the of $SU(2)$ instantons, the quadratic condition of $SL(2, C)$ instantons reads

$$\Delta(x)^{\otimes} \Delta(x) = f^{-1} = \text{symmetric, non-singular } k \times k \text{ matrix for } x \notin J, \quad (3.21)$$

from which we can deduce that $a^{\otimes} a, b^{\otimes} a, a^{\otimes} b$ and $b^{\otimes} b$ are all symmetric matrices. We stress here that it will turn out the choice of *biconjugation* operation is crucial for the follow-up discussion in this work. On the other hand, for $x \in J, \det \Delta(x)^{\otimes} \Delta(x) = 0$. The set J is called singular locus or "jumping lines" in the mathematical literatures and was discussed in [15]. In contrast to the $SL(2, C)$ instantons, there are no jumping lines for the case of $SU(2)$ instantons. In the $Sp(1)$ quaternion case, the symmetric condition on f^{-1} means f^{-1} is real. For the $SL(2, C)$ biquaternion case, however, it can be shown that symmetric condition on f^{-1} implies f^{-1} is *complex*.

To construct the self-dual gauge field, we introduce a $(k + 1) \times 1$ dimensional biquaternion vector $v(x)$ satisfying the following two conditions

$$v^{\otimes}(x) \Delta(x) = 0, \quad (3.22)$$

$$v^{\otimes}(x) v(x) = 1. \quad (3.23)$$

Note that $v(x)$ is fixed up to a $SL(2, C)$ gauge transformation

$$v(x) \longrightarrow v(x)g(x), \quad g(x) \in 1 \times 1 \text{ Biquaternion.} \quad (3.24)$$

Note also that in general a $SL(2, C)$ matrix can be written in terms of a 1×1 biquaternion as

$$g = \frac{q_{\mu} e_{\mu}}{\sqrt{q^{\otimes} q}} = \frac{q_{\mu} e_{\mu}}{|q|_c}. \quad (3.25)$$

The next step is to define the gauge field

$$G_{\mu}(x) = v^{\otimes}(x) \partial_{\mu} v(x), \quad (3.26)$$

which is a 1×1 biquaternion. Note that, unlike the case for $Sp(1)$, $G_{\mu}(x)$ needs not to be anti-Hermitian.

We can now define the $SL(2, C)$ field strength

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu} G_{\nu}(x) - \partial_{\nu} G_{\mu}(x) + G_{\mu}(x)G_{\nu}(x) - [\mu \longleftrightarrow \nu]. \quad (3.27)$$

To show that $F_{\mu\nu}$ is self-dual, one first show that the operator

$$P = 1 - v(x)v^{\otimes}(x) \quad (3.28)$$

is a projection operator $P^2 = P$, and can be written in terms of Δ as

$$P = \Delta(x) f \Delta^{\otimes}(x). \quad (3.29)$$

The self-duality of $F_{\mu\nu}$ can now be proved as following

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\mu\nu} &= \partial_{\mu}(v^{\otimes}(x) \partial_{\nu} v(x)) - \partial_{\nu}(v^{\otimes}(x) \partial_{\mu} v(x)) + v^{\otimes}(x) \partial_{\mu} v(x) v^{\otimes}(x) \partial_{\nu} v(x) - [\mu \longleftrightarrow \nu] \\ &= v^{\otimes}(x) b(e_{\mu} e_{\nu}^{\dagger} - e_{\nu} e_{\mu}^{\dagger}) f b^{\otimes} v(x) \end{aligned} \quad (3.30)$$

where we have used Eqs.(3.19),(3.22) and (3.29). Finally the factor $(e_\mu e_\nu^\dagger - e_\nu e_\mu^\dagger)$ above can be shown to be self-dual

$$\sigma_{\mu\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{4i}(e_\mu e_\nu^\dagger - e_\nu e_\mu^\dagger) = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}\sigma_{\alpha\beta}, \tag{3.31}$$

$$\bar{\sigma}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4i}(e_\mu^\dagger e_\nu - e_\nu^\dagger e_\mu) = -\frac{1}{2}\epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}\bar{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta}. \tag{3.32}$$

This proves the self-duality of $F_{\mu\nu}$. We thus have constructed many $SL(2, C)$ SDYM field configurations.

To count the number of moduli parameters for the $SL(2, C)$ k -instantons we have constructed, one uses transformations which preserve conditions Eq.(3.21), Eq.(3.22) and Eq.(3.23), and the definition of G_μ in Eq.(3.26) to bring b and a in Eq.(3.19) into a simple canonical form

$$b = \begin{bmatrix} 0_{1 \times k} \\ I_{k \times k} \end{bmatrix}, \tag{3.33}$$

$$a = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_{1 \times k} \\ -y_{k \times k} \end{bmatrix} \tag{3.34}$$

where λ and y are biquaternion matrices with orders $1 \times k$ and $k \times k$ respectively, and y is symmetric

$$y = y^T. \tag{3.35}$$

The constraints for the moduli parameters are

$$a_{ci}^{\otimes} a_{cj} = 0, i \neq j, \text{ and } y_{ij} = y_{ji}. \tag{3.36}$$

The total number of moduli parameters for k -instanton can be calculated through Eq.(3.36) to be

$$\# \text{ of moduli for } SL(2, C) \text{ } k\text{-instantons} = 16k - 6, \tag{3.37}$$

which is twice of that of the case of $Sp(1)$. Roughly speaking, there are $8k$ parameters for instanton "biquaternion positions" and $8k$ parameters for instanton "sizes". Finally one has to subtract an overall $SL(2, C)$ gauge group degree of freedom 6. This picture will become more clear when we give examples of explicit constructions of $SL(2, C)$ instantons in the next section.

4. Examples of $SL(2, C)$ instantons and Jumping lines

In this section, we will explicitly construct examples of $SL(2, C)$ YM instantons to illustrate our prescription given in the last section. Example of $SL(2, C)$ instantons with jumping lines will also be given.

4.1. The $SL(2, C)$ (M, N) Instantons

In this first example, we will reproduce from the ADHM construction the $SL(2, C)$ (M, N) instanton solutions constructed in [13]. We choose the biquaternion λ_j in Eq.(3.34) to be $\lambda_j e_0$ with λ_j a complex number, and choose $y_{ij} = y_j \delta_{ij}$ to be a diagonal matrix with $y_j = y_{j\mu} e_\mu$ a quaternion. That is

$$\Delta(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & \lambda_2 & \dots & \lambda_k \\ x - y_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & x - y_2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & x - y_k \end{bmatrix}, \tag{4.38}$$

which satisfies the constraint in Eq.(3.36). One can calculate the gauge potential as

$$\begin{aligned} G_\mu &= v^\otimes \partial_\mu v = \frac{1}{4} [e_\mu^\dagger e_\nu - e_\nu^\dagger e_\mu] \partial_\nu \ln \left(1 + \frac{\lambda_1^2}{|x - y_1|^2} + \dots + \frac{\lambda_k^2}{|x - y_k|^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4} [e_\mu^\dagger e_\nu - e_\nu^\dagger e_\mu] \partial_\nu \ln(\phi) \end{aligned} \quad (4.39)$$

where

$$\phi = 1 + \frac{\lambda_1^2}{|x - y_1|^2} + \dots + \frac{\lambda_k^2}{|x - y_k|^2}. \quad (4.40)$$

For the case of $Sp(1)$, λ_j is a real number and $\lambda_j \lambda_j^\dagger = \lambda_j^2$ is a real number. So ϕ in Eq.(4.40) is a complex-valued function in general. If we choose $k = 1$ and define $\lambda_1^2 = \frac{\alpha_1^2}{1+i}$, then

$$\phi = 1 + \frac{\alpha_1^2}{|x - y_1|^2}. \quad (4.41)$$

The gauge potential is

$$\begin{aligned} G_\mu &= \frac{1}{4} [e_\mu^\dagger e_\nu - e_\nu^\dagger e_\mu] \partial_\nu \ln \left(1 + \frac{\alpha_1^2}{|x - y_1|^2} \right) = \frac{1}{4} [e_\mu^\dagger e_\nu - e_\nu^\dagger e_\mu] \partial_\nu \ln \left(1 + \frac{\alpha_1^2}{|x - y_1|^2} + i \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [e_\mu^\dagger e_\nu - e_\nu^\dagger e_\mu] \frac{-\alpha_1^2 (x - y_1)_\nu}{|x - y_1|^4 + (|x - y_1|^2 + \alpha_1^2)^2} \left[\frac{|x - y_1|^2 + \alpha_1^2}{|x - y_1|^2} - i \right] \end{aligned} \quad (4.42)$$

which reproduces the $SL(2, C)$ $(M, N) = (1, 0)$ solution calculated in [13]. It is easy to generalize the above calculations to the general (M, N) cases, and it can be shown that the topological charge of these field configurations is $k = M + N$ [13].

4.2. $SL(2, C)$ CFTW k -instantons and jumping lines

For another subset of k -instanton field configurations, one chooses $\lambda_i = \lambda_i e_0$ (with λ_i a complex number) and y_i to be a *biquaternion* in Eq.(4.38). It is important to note that for these choices, the constraints in Eq.(3.36) are still satisfied *without* turning on the off-diagonal elements y_{ij} in Eq.(3.34). It can be shown that, for these field configurations, there are non-removable singularities which are zeros ($x \in J$) of

$$\phi = 1 + \frac{\lambda_1 \lambda_1^\otimes}{|x - y_1|_c^2} + \dots + \frac{\lambda_k \lambda_k^\otimes}{|x - y_k|_c^2}, \quad (4.43)$$

or

$$\det \Delta(x)^\otimes \Delta(x) = |x - y_1|_c^2 |x - y_2|_c^2 \cdots |x - y_k|_c^2 \phi = P_{2k}(x) + iP_{2k-1}(x) = 0. \quad (4.44)$$

For the k -instanton case, one encounters intersections of zeros of $P_{2k}(x)$ and $P_{2k-1}(x)$ polynomials with degrees $2k$ and $2k - 1$ respectively

$$P_{2k}(x) = 0, \quad P_{2k-1}(x) = 0. \quad (4.45)$$

These new singularities can not be gauged away and do not show up in the field configurations of $SU(2)$ k -instantons. Mathematically, the existence of singular structures of the non-compact $SL(2, C)$ SDYM field configurations is consistent with the inclusion of "sheaves" by Frenkel-Jardim [16] recently, rather than just the restricted notion of "vector bundles", in the one to one correspondence between ASDYM and certain algebraic geometric objects.

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