

Another example which will be useful later  $\beta \gamma$

$$S = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int d^2z \beta \bar{\partial} \gamma \quad \beta, \gamma \text{ commuting with}$$

$\beta$  primary  $(h, \bar{h}) = (\lambda, 0)$       $\gamma$  primary  $(h, \bar{h}) = (1-\lambda, 0)$

$$\beta(z) \gamma(w) \sim \frac{-1}{z-w} \quad \gamma(z) \beta(w) \sim \frac{1}{z-w}$$

$$T = :(\partial\beta)\gamma: - \lambda \partial(\beta\gamma) \quad (* \text{ show this})$$

$$c = 3(2\lambda - 1)^2 - 1 \quad \leftarrow \lambda = 3/2 \text{ case will}$$

arise as Faddeev-Popov ghosts for superstring.

Return to considering Polyakov action

$$S_P = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{-\det h} h^{ab} \partial_a X^\mu \partial_b X^\nu g_{\mu\nu}$$

Take  $g_{\mu\nu}$  = spacetime metric to be flat

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & & \\ & 1 & \\ & & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{for } \mu = 0 \dots D-1$$

Take worldsheet metric  $h_{ab} = e^\phi \eta_{ab}$

And Weyl scale  $\phi$  away (no prob if  $G_T = 0$ )

$$\Rightarrow S = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int d^2z \eta_{\mu\nu} \partial X^\mu \bar{\partial} X^\nu$$

• D copies of free scalar field in 2d.

Spacetime vector index  $\mu = 0 \dots D-1 = 2d$  "flow" index. Relate to our prev. normalization of

$$\phi: \sqrt{\frac{2}{\alpha'}} X^\mu = \phi^\mu \quad \left( \text{Often take } \alpha' = 2, \text{ for closed strings} \right)$$

$$\langle X^\mu(z, \bar{z}) X^\nu(w, \bar{w}) \rangle = -\frac{\alpha'}{2} \eta^{\mu\nu} \ln |z-w|^2$$

Spacetime coords  $X^\mu =$  operators on 2d worldsheet

• Point particle limit:  $\alpha' \rightarrow 0 \quad \frac{1}{\alpha'} \langle XX \rangle \rightarrow 0$ .

String theory has non locality from  $\langle XX \rangle \neq 0$  on length scales  $L \leq \sqrt{\alpha'}$ .

Stress tensor  $T = -\frac{1}{\alpha'} \eta_{\mu\nu} \partial X^\mu \partial X^\nu$

$$\bar{T} = -\frac{1}{\alpha'} \eta_{\mu\nu} \bar{\partial} X^\mu \bar{\partial} X^\nu$$

$\Rightarrow C_X = D = \#$  of spacetime dimensions.

• For open strings: only 1 set of oscillators

$\frac{1}{\alpha'} \alpha' = 1/2$  since taking  $\bar{\alpha}_n^\mu = \alpha_n^\mu$  in closed string exps.

As before:  $X^\mu = \hat{X}^\mu - \frac{i\alpha'}{2} \hat{P}^\mu \ln|z|^2 + i\sqrt{\frac{\alpha'}{2}} \sum_{m \neq 0} \frac{1}{m} \left( \frac{\alpha_m^\mu}{z^m} + \frac{\bar{\alpha}_m^\mu}{\bar{z}^m} \right)$

$$[\alpha_m^\mu, \alpha_n^\nu] = m \delta_{m+n,0} \eta^{\mu\nu}$$

Conserved currents  $J_z^\mu = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\alpha'}} i \partial_z X^\mu$

↳ Conserved charges  $\hat{P}^\mu$

Global current/charge on worldsheet =

Spacetime momentum = gauge charge in

spacetime. General property: worldsheet

global symmetries  $\rightarrow$  spacetime gauge symmetries

$\hat{P}^\mu$  eigenstates:  $e^{iP^\mu X_\mu} =$  primary ops

with  $(h, \bar{h}) = \left( \frac{P^\mu P_\mu}{2}, \frac{\bar{P}^\mu \bar{P}_\mu}{2} \right)$ . Here

$P^\mu = \bar{P}^\mu$  but later generalize when some

$X^\mu$  are compactified e.g. circles.

General state  $\prod_i \alpha_{-n_i}^{\mu_i} |P, \bar{P}\rangle$

• hcs  $\hat{P}_\mu = P_\mu$  &  $L_0 = \frac{1}{2} P^\mu P_\mu + \sum_i n_i$

Which are primary & which are descendants?

Use  $T(z) (i \partial X^\mu) = i \frac{\partial X^\mu}{(z-w)^2} + \frac{\partial(i \partial X^\mu)}{(z-w)}$

$\Rightarrow [L_n, \alpha_m^\mu] = -m \alpha_{n+m}^\mu$

• e.g.  $\alpha_{-1}^\mu |P\rangle$  for  $|P\rangle$  primary

hcs  $L_{n>1} (\alpha_{-1}^\mu |P\rangle) = \alpha_{n-1}^\mu |P\rangle = 0$

only need to check  $L_1 (\alpha_{-1}^\mu |P\rangle)$

$= \alpha_0^\mu |P\rangle = P^\mu |P\rangle$  generally not primary.

• Also using  $L_m = \frac{1}{2} \sum_n : \alpha_{m-n}^\mu \alpha_n^\nu : \eta_{\mu\nu}$   
 $(\alpha_0^\mu \equiv P^\mu)$   
 $L_{-1} |P\rangle = \eta_{\mu\nu} P^\mu \alpha_{-1}^\nu |P\rangle$

So  $\epsilon_\mu \alpha_{-1}^\mu |p\rangle$  is only primary  
if  $\epsilon_\mu p^\mu = 0$  and is a  
descendent if  $\epsilon_\mu$  is parallel to  $p_\mu$ .

For  $p^\mu p_\mu = 0$  state can be both  
primary & descendent  $\rightarrow$  "null state".

Such states have zero norm eg

$$\begin{aligned} \| p_\mu \alpha_{-1}^\mu |p\rangle \| &= p_\mu p_\nu \langle p | \alpha_{-1}^\nu \alpha_{-1}^\mu |p\rangle \\ &= p_\mu p_\nu \eta^{\mu\nu} \| |p\rangle \| = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Since  $p_\mu p_\nu \eta^{\mu\nu} = 0$  by assumption.

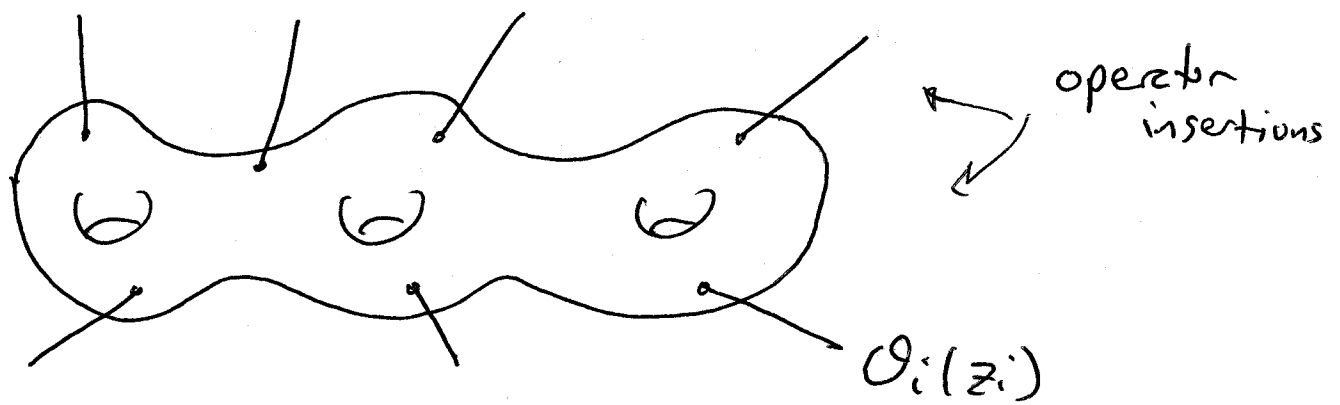
Recall generally  $\langle X | \phi \rangle = 0$

for  $|\phi\rangle$  primary &  $\langle X |$

descendent. For  $|\phi\rangle$  both primary

& descendent  $\Rightarrow \langle \phi | \phi \rangle = 0$ .

In string theory, Scattering amplitudes of physical string states are represented by correlation functions of corresponding operators on  $2d$  Worldsheet. Physical states in spacetime  $\rightarrow$  operators on  $2d$  Worldsheet



$L$  loop spacetime amplitude  $\rightarrow$   $2d$  worldsheet has  $L$  handles (eg above is 3 loop).

For now consider tree level, i.e.  $L=0$

i.e.  $2d$  worldsheet = sphere = our  $z$  plane with point at  $z=\infty$  included. Correlation

functions of operators  $\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{O}_i(z_i) \rangle$  is the

basic ingredient in constructing spacetime amplitudes. But this, as written, would depend on operator insertion points  $z_i$ , this

is no good since the  $z_i$  coords are not really physical, we must have ~~reparam~~ reparameterization thru  $(\sigma, \tau) \rightarrow (\sigma'(\sigma, \tau), \tau'(\sigma, \tau))$  for arbitrary changes of our parameterization of 2d worldsheet, i.e. arbitrary  $(z, \bar{z}) \rightarrow (f(z, \bar{z}), \bar{f}(z, \bar{z}))$ . So spacetime scattering amplitudes must be indep. of the  $(z_i, \bar{z}_i)$  operator insertion points. Sol'n: integrate over the  $(z_i, \bar{z}_i)$

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \int d^2 z_i \mathcal{O}_i(z_i, \bar{z}_i) \right\rangle$$

This has an infinity which we'll identify as the group volume of the Möbius transformations and we'll have to gauge fix this to get a finite result. Deal with that shortly. For now note that we are not yet done:  $\int d^2 z \mathcal{O}_i(\bar{z}_i, \bar{z}_i)$  is only invt. under general conformal transformations if

The operator  $\mathcal{O}_i(z, \bar{z})$  is a primary operator with  $(h, \bar{h}) = (1, 1)$ . I.e.

"marginal" in  $2d$ :  $\int d^2z \mathcal{O}_i(z, \bar{z})$

can be added to the action without spoiling  $2d$  scale invariance (since  $d^2z$  has  $(h, \bar{h}) = (-1, -1)$ ). Can deform worldsheet action with sources for physical fields.

Upshot: The physical spacetime states correspond to primary operators with  $(h, \bar{h}) = (1, 1)$  on the worldsheet.

Null states = primary & descendent give spacetime gauge invariances.

Aside:  $\int d^2z$  will correspond, in point particle  $\alpha' \rightarrow 0$  limit, to integral over

the Schwinger parameters in a Feynman diagram. For higher loops, will also have over loop size & shape.

↑  
"Vertex ops"



Consider e.g. the operator  $e^{ip_\mu X_\mu}$   
→ state  $|p_\mu\rangle$ . It is primary

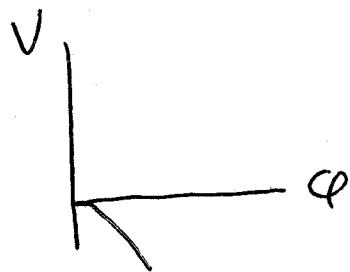
with  $h = \bar{h} = p^2/2$ . So physical

if  $h = \bar{h} = 1 \Rightarrow p^2 = -m^2 = 2$ .

Put back in  $\alpha'$ :  $m^2 = -4/\alpha'$ .

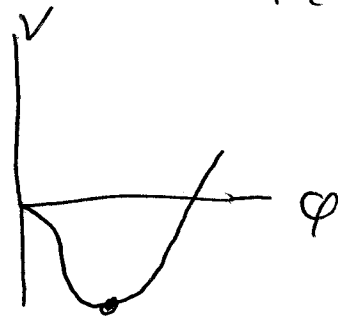
This is the "tachyon" of bosonic  
String theory  $\Rightarrow$  Vacuum instability

e.g. Potential



It could have a minimum for some field  
expectation values  $\langle \phi \rangle$ .

So not necessarily fatal.



Anyway, ~~such~~ such

tachyons are not present in superstrings.

More general states with oscillators:

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \epsilon_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_r, \bar{\mu}_1 \dots \bar{\mu}_r} = \prod_{i=1}^r \alpha_{-n_i}^{\mu_i} \prod_{\bar{i}=1}^{\bar{r}} \bar{\alpha}_{-\bar{n}_{\bar{i}}}^{\bar{\mu}_{\bar{i}}} |p\rangle$$

$\nearrow$   
 polarization tensor                      spin      0 ... r

Has  $h = N + \frac{p^2}{2}$ ,       $\bar{h} = \bar{N} + \bar{p}^2/2$

$$N \equiv \sum_{i=1}^r n_i \quad \bar{N} = \sum_{\bar{i}=1}^{\bar{r}} \bar{n}_{\bar{i}}$$

$\textcircled{1}$  left & right      "oscillator numbers"

$p = \bar{p}$  (will later generalize in compactifications)

$$h = \bar{h} = 1 \Rightarrow N = \bar{N} \text{ and}$$

or  
 $\frac{1}{\alpha'} (N-1)$   
 for  
 open strings

$$m^2 = -p^2 = 2(N-1) = \frac{4}{\alpha'} (N-1)$$

$\textcircled{1}$  Tower of massive states, separated by 

gap  $\frac{4}{\alpha'} \sim M_{\text{plank}}^2$        $p(N)$  type degeneracy.  
 (spin 0 ... N)

But not all of these states are primary.

Must verify that all  $L_{n>0}, \bar{L}_{n>0}$  ○

annihilate the state. Also freedom to shift by null states (annihilated by

$L_{n>0}, \bar{L}_{n>0}$  but still descendants

of form ~~oscillator~~  $|n\rangle = L_{-k} |X\rangle$ , which

is gauge equivalence. These conditions

put constraints on the allowed ○

polarization tensors. Use  $[L_n, \hat{\alpha}_m] = -m \hat{\alpha}_{n+m}$

to pull  $L_{n>0}$  through oscillators

$\prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \hat{\alpha}_{-n_i}^{\mu_i} \prod_{\bar{i}=1}^{\infty} \bar{\alpha}_{-\bar{n}_i}^{\bar{\mu}_i}$ . Will get zero


if any  $L_{n>0}$  or  $\hat{\alpha}_{n>0}^{\mu}$  acts on  $|p\rangle$

at end. Will find that in critical

dimension  $D=26$ ,  $D-2$  independent ○

~~oscillators~~ light cone oscillators  $\hat{\alpha}_{-n_i}^{\mu}$  values

of  $\mu$  left after imposing primary cond. & gauge inv. equiv.

Open strings : Must specify B.C. on ends of string. Want 2d worldsheet stress tensor  $T_{ab}$  to be conserved. Consider a wave pulse on string  we want the power carried

to be entirely reflected back upon hitting the end. Two choices : nail down end or leave it free. So at boundary  ~~$\sigma = 0$~~   $\sigma = 0$  or  $\sigma = \pi$  can have either :

①  $X = X_0$  fixed at boundary (no displacement)

○ so  $\frac{\partial X}{\partial \sigma} \Big|_{\sigma \text{ on bdy}} = 0$ . This is

"Dirichlet" boundary condition.  $\leftarrow$  (nailed down)

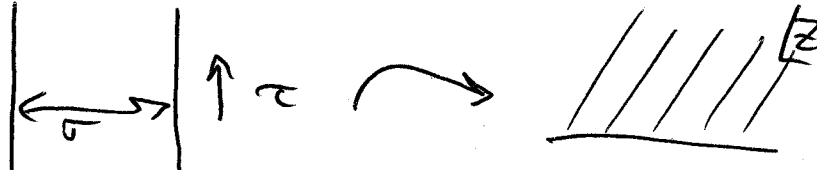
② free B.C.  $\Rightarrow \frac{\partial X}{\partial \sigma} \Big|_{\sigma \text{ on bdy}} = 0$

this is "Neumann" boundary condition.  $\leftarrow$  (free)

Write as Dirichlet D:  $t^a \partial_a X = 0$   
Neumann N:  $n^a \partial_a X = 0$

○ on boundary  $\partial \Sigma$  of 2d worldsheet,  $t^a =$  tangent to  $\partial \Sigma$  and  $n^a =$  normal to  $\partial \Sigma$

Nailing down a end breaks the spacetime translation invariance, which leads to an object known as a D brane. More on this later. For now just consider the case of free or Neumann ends.

Mapping strip 

to upper  $\frac{1}{2}$  of  $z$  plane. The boundary is the line  $z = \bar{z}$  and the B.C. is

$$\partial X(z, \bar{z}) = \bar{\partial} X(z, \bar{z}) \text{ at } z = \bar{z}.$$

(writing  $z = x + iy$ , this is  $\frac{\partial}{\partial y} X(x, y=0) = 0$ .)

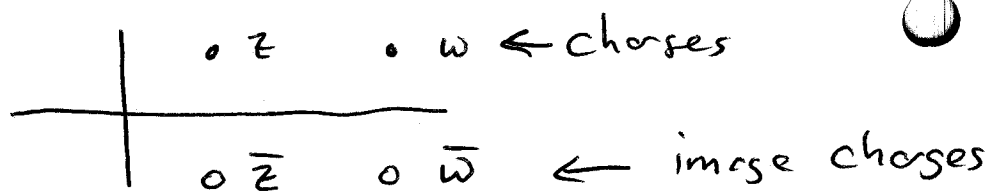
Take these BCs for all  $\mu = 0 \dots D$ .

Our closed string two point function

$$\langle X^\mu(z, \bar{z}) X^\nu(w, \bar{w}) \rangle = -\frac{\alpha'}{2} \eta^{\mu\nu} \ln |z-w|^2$$

doesn't satisfy this B.C. need image

charges



For open strings (with all  $N$  BCs)

$$\bullet \langle X^\mu(z, \bar{z}) X^\nu(w, \bar{w}) \rangle = -\frac{\alpha'}{2} \eta^{\mu\nu} \left[ h|z-w|^2 + h|\bar{z}-\bar{w}|^2 \right]$$

$$[\ ] = h(z-w) + h(\bar{z}-\bar{w}) + h(z-\bar{w}) + h(\bar{z}-w)$$

↑ Greens fn between each charges/image charges.

$$\text{Satisfies } (\partial_z - \partial_{\bar{z}}) [\ ] \Big|_{z=\bar{z}} = 0 \text{ for all } w.$$

On boundary  $z = \bar{z}, w = \bar{w}$

$$\bullet \langle X^\mu(z) X^\nu(w) \rangle = -\frac{\alpha'}{2} \eta^{\mu\nu} (4) \ln(z-w)$$



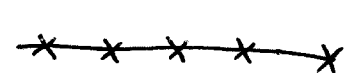
← 4 terms in [ ]

$$= -2\alpha' \eta^{\mu\nu} h(z-w)$$

∴ Similar to previous free boson formulae if we set  $\alpha' = 1/2$ , v.s. closed string where its similar if we set  $\alpha' = 2$ .

E.g.  $e^{ipX(z, \bar{z})}$  on boundary  $z = \bar{z}$

$$\bullet \text{ has } h = (2\alpha') \frac{p^2}{2} \quad \left( \text{vs } \left(\frac{\alpha'}{2}\right) \left(\frac{p^2}{2}\right) \text{ for operator in bulk.} \right)$$

Open strings scattering   $\rightarrow$    $\rightarrow$  

Physical open string states  $\rightarrow$  operators on boundary with  $\underline{h=1}$  ~~to have~~ primary to have  $\oint_{\partial\Sigma} dz V(z)$  be reparameterization

invt under  $z \rightarrow f(z)$ . E.g. boundary op  $V(z) = e^{ipX(z)}$  is primary &

has  $h = (2\alpha') \left(\frac{p^2}{2}\right) = 1$  for  $p^2 = -m^2 = 1/\alpha'$ .

"Boundary tachyon"

vs. closed string tachyon  $e^{ipX(z, \bar{z})}$  in bulk of Worldsheet with  $m^2 = -4/\alpha'$ .

More general open string boundary states:

$$\sum_{m_1 \dots m_r} \prod_{i=1}^r \alpha_{-n_i}^{m_i} |p\rangle \quad \text{spin } 0 \dots r$$

$$\text{has } h = N + \alpha' p^2 \quad N = \sum_{i=1}^r n_i$$

$h=1$  if  $m^2 = -p^2 = \frac{1}{\alpha'} (N-1)$ . Tower of massive states w/  $\frac{1}{\alpha'}$  gap. Again not all primary.

Look for solns of physical state cond for  
 $N=1$  oscillator (open) &  $N=\bar{N}=1$  (closed)

Operators:

$$\epsilon_{\mu} \partial X^{\mu} e^{ipX} \quad (\text{open})$$

$$\epsilon_{\mu\bar{\nu}} \partial X^{\mu} \bar{\partial} X^{\bar{\nu}} e^{ipX} \quad (\text{closed})$$

→ states

$$\epsilon_{\mu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} |p\rangle \quad (\text{open})$$

$$\epsilon_{\mu\bar{\nu}} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} \bar{\alpha}_{-1}^{\bar{\nu}} |p\rangle \quad (\text{closed})$$

Open case  $h=1 \leftrightarrow p^2=0$  massless

Closed  $h=\bar{h}=1 \leftrightarrow p^2=0$

Now impose primary operator / state cond:

State must be annihilated by all  $L_{n>0}$

Use  $[L_n, \alpha_m^{\mu}] = -m \alpha_{n+m}^{\mu}$

e.g.  $L_{n>0} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} |p\rangle = [L_{n>0}, \alpha_{-1}^{\mu}] |p\rangle$   
 (since  $L_{n>0} |p\rangle = 0$ )

$$= \alpha_{n-1}^{\mu} |p\rangle = P^{\mu} \delta_{n,1} |p\rangle$$

∴  $\epsilon_{\mu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} |p\rangle$  is primary  $\leftrightarrow \epsilon_{\mu} p^{\mu} = 0$

Note that this eliminates e.g.  $\epsilon_{\mu} = \delta_{\mu,10}$  which would have negative norm.



Similarly, for the closed string,  $\epsilon_{\mu\nu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} \bar{\alpha}_{-1}^{\nu} |p\rangle$  is annihilated by all  $L_{n>0} \in \bar{L}_{n>0}$

$$\Leftrightarrow \epsilon_{\mu\nu} p^{\mu} = \epsilon_{\mu\nu} p^{\nu} = 0.$$

\* Consider the open string state

$\epsilon_{\mu\nu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} \alpha_{-1}^{\nu} |p\rangle$  and find the conditions on  $\epsilon_{\mu\nu} \in p_{\mu}$  for it to be primary with  $h=1$ .

We can shift the open string state

$\epsilon_{\mu\nu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} |p\rangle$  by  $\lambda L_{-1} |p\rangle$

for any  $\lambda$  since this state is null

for  $p^2=0$  :  $L_{n>0} L_{-1} |p\rangle =$

$$[L_{n>0}, L_{-1}] |p\rangle = (n+1) L_{n-1} |p\rangle = 0$$

since  $L_{m>0} |p\rangle = 0$  and  $L_0 |p\rangle = 2\alpha' \frac{p^2}{2} = 0$

for  $p^2=0$ . Also  $L_{-1} |p\rangle$  has  $L_0$  eigenvalue  $h=1$  for  $p^2=0$ .

Using  $L_m = \frac{1}{2} \sum_n \alpha_{m-n}^{\mu} \alpha_n^{\nu} \eta_{\mu\nu}$

$$\text{and } \alpha_{m \geq 0}^{\mu} |p\rangle = p^{\mu} \delta_{m,0} |p\rangle$$

Find  $L_{-1} |p\rangle = \eta_{\mu\nu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} \alpha_0^{\nu} |p\rangle$

$$0 = p_{\mu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} |p\rangle,$$

So we can freely shift  $\epsilon_{\mu} \rightarrow \epsilon_{\mu} + \lambda p_{\mu}$   
in state  ~~$\epsilon_{\mu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} |p\rangle$~~   $\epsilon_{\mu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} |p\rangle$ .

The state  $\epsilon_{\mu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} |p\rangle$  is the massless  
photon,  $p^{\mu} \epsilon_{\mu} = 0$  is Gauss' law,

and  $\epsilon_{\mu} \rightarrow \epsilon_{\mu} + \lambda p_{\mu}$  is gauge inv.

○ So get physical photon with  $D-2$   
physical polarization compts of  $\epsilon_{\mu}$ . Correct  
Lorentz rep with ~~gauge~~ Illustrates general prop:

Spacetime gauge inv.  $\leftrightarrow$  Shifts by null states.

Similarly for closed string, can freely

Shift  $\epsilon_{\mu\nu} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} \bar{\alpha}_{-1}^{\nu} |p\rangle$  by

$$0 = a_{\mu} \bar{L}_{-1} \alpha_{-1}^{\mu} |p\rangle + b_{\bar{\nu}} L_{-1} \bar{\alpha}_{-1}^{\bar{\nu}} |p\rangle$$

Which is descendant but also primary with

$h = \bar{h} = 1$  for any  $a_{\mu}, b_{\bar{\nu}}$  and  $p^2 = 0$

$\Rightarrow$  Can freely shift  $\epsilon_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \epsilon_{\mu\nu} + a_\mu p_\nu + b_\nu p_\mu$

again, this corresponds to spacetime gauge symmetry. Write  $\epsilon_{\mu\nu}$  as 3 parts

① traceless & symmetric  $\epsilon_{\mu\nu} = S_{\mu\nu}$

$\rightarrow$  spin 2 in spacetime = graviton!

Above gauge inv = usual reparam. gauge inv.

② antisymmetric  $\epsilon_{\mu\nu} = a_{\mu\nu}$

$\rightarrow$   $B_{\mu\nu}$  gauge field with  $B_{\mu\nu} = -B_{\nu\mu}$

"two form gauge field", with gauge inv

$$B_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow B_{\mu\nu} + a_\mu p_\nu - a_\nu p_\mu \quad \text{i.e. } \underbrace{B}_{2\text{form}} \rightarrow B + d\Lambda \quad \uparrow \quad 1\text{form}$$

Just as  $A_\mu$  couples to worldline of pt particles

via  $\int A_\mu dx^\mu$ ,  $B_{\mu\nu}$  couples to string worldvolume

via  $\int B_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu$  (more soon).  $B$ 's field

strength is  $H = dB$ , i.e.  $H_{\mu\nu\rho} = \partial_\mu B_{\nu\rho}$ .

③  $\epsilon_{\mu\nu} =$  trace part =  $\eta_{\mu\nu}$  (+  $p^\mu$  terms for  $\epsilon \cdot p = 0$ )

This corresponds to the dilaton scalar  $\Phi$ .

$$\uparrow \eta_{\mu\nu} - p_\mu \bar{p}_\nu - \bar{p}_\mu p_\nu$$

with  $\bar{p} \cdot \bar{p} = 0$  &  $p \cdot \bar{p} = 0$

The physical state cond's primary with  $h = \bar{h} = 1$ , would lead to negative norm physical states if  $C_X = D > 26$

eg  $(\alpha_{-1} \cdot \alpha_{-1} + \frac{D-1}{5} p \cdot \alpha_{-2} + \frac{(D+4)}{10} (p \cdot \alpha_{-1})^2) |p\rangle$

with  $+2 + \frac{p^2}{2} = 1$ . Annihilated by all  $L_n > 0$  &  $h = \bar{h} = 1$  (need similar  $\bar{\alpha}$  ops for  $\bar{h} = 1$ , don't bother writing here)

This state has  $\langle \phi | \phi \rangle = \frac{2}{25} (D-1) (26-D) \langle p | p \rangle$

⇒ Better not have  $D > 26!$

this state is somehow eliminated)

(unless "No ghost then" for  $D \leq 26$ )

For  $D = 26$  many null states eg.

no neg norm physical states if  $D \leq 26$

$|\psi\rangle = (L_{-2} + \frac{3}{2} L_{-1}^2) |X\rangle$  is primary

& has  $h = \bar{h} = 1$  if  $|X\rangle$  is primary

with  $h = -1$ .  $|\psi\rangle =$  Primary & descendent

∴  $\langle \psi | \psi \rangle = 0$ . Null states → extra gauge symm.

For  $C_x = D \leq 26$

Find physical states

condition eliminates 1 dimension worth of oscillators  $\sim D-1$  indep oscillators.

For  $C_x = D = 26$ , Extra gauge symm of add'l null states eliminates another

dim worth of oscillators  $\rightarrow D-2 = 24$

eff. ~~as~~ indep. oscillators. Expected  $D-2$

"light cone" ~~dim~~ dimensions since

$\tau$  &  $\sigma$  worldsheet reparam inv can

be used to eliminate 2 polarization directions.

Will give better explanation soon via ghosts.

$$C_x + C_{\text{ghosts}} + C_{\text{Liouville}} = 0$$

$$C_{\text{ghosts}} = -26 \quad C_x = D$$

Can neglect  $C_{\text{Liouville}}$  if  $D=26$ . Otherwise it is the dim. not eliminated by extra gauge symms.