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Non-abelian Fermionic T-duality in Supergravity

Based on:

[2101.08206](#) with E.T. Musaev and I.V. Bakhmatov

Radial symmetry of closed string

Consider the closed bosonic string in space $\mathcal{S}^1 \times \mathcal{R}^{1,24}$ (KK compactification on radius R) and find its energy spectrum. One can show that the masses of the quantum string states take the values

$$M^2 = \frac{m^2}{R^2} + \frac{n^2 R^2}{\alpha'^2} + \frac{2}{\alpha'}(N + \tilde{N} - 2),$$

where N and \tilde{N} are the number operators for right- and left-moving oscillation modes of the string.

Immediately notice that mass squared M^2 is invariant under

$$m \leftrightarrow n, \quad R \leftrightarrow \frac{\alpha'}{R}.$$

Conclusions:

- Two strings compactified on the circles with T-dual radii R and $\frac{\alpha'}{R}$ have identical spectra (for $m \leftrightarrow n$)
- Spectra of the T-dual theories coincide at any order of the string perturbation theory

Busher's procedure

Consider the Polyakov action for bosonic string in conformal gauge

$$S = \int d^2z [g_{mn}(x) + b_{mn}(x)] \partial x^m \bar{\partial} x^n. \quad (1)$$

it is written in terms of complex worldsheet coordinates.

Choose the coordinates $\{x_1, x_i\}$, $i > 1$ in such a way that the direction alongside x_1 is an **isometry**, so fields g and b do not depend on x_1 . The dual background fields are related to the original ones by:

$$S' = \int d^2z [g_{11}A\bar{A} + l_{1i}A\bar{\partial}x^i + l_{i1}\partial x^i\bar{A} + l_{ij}\partial x^i\bar{\partial}x^j + \tilde{x}^1(\partial\bar{A} - \bar{\partial}A)], \quad (2)$$

where $l_{mn} = g_{mn} + b_{mn}$.

Here we make a substitution

$$(\partial x^1, \bar{\partial} x^1) \rightarrow (A, \bar{A}).$$

The last term in (2) imposes the constraint $F = dA = 0$ via the Lagrange multiplier \tilde{x}^1 .

Busher's procedure

Exclude the field A by using its [equations of motion](#)

$$\begin{aligned}A &= g_{11}^{-1} (\partial \bar{x}^1 - l_{i1} \partial x^i), \\ \bar{A} &= -g_{11}^{-1} (\bar{\partial} \tilde{x}^1 + l_{1i} \bar{\partial} x^i),\end{aligned}$$

then we obtain [the dual theory](#), which action

$$S'' = \int d^2 z \left[\tilde{g}_{mn}(x) + \tilde{b}_{mn}(x) \right] \partial y^m \bar{\partial} y^n$$

is written in coordinates $y_m = \{\tilde{x}_1, x_i\}$. The [Lagrange multiplier in \(2\)](#) acts as a [dual coordinate](#), and the dual theory is again isometric in the \tilde{x}_1 direction. The dual background fields are related to the original ones by:

$$\tilde{g}_{11} = (g_{11})^{-1}, \quad \tilde{g}_{1i} = (g_{11})^{-1} b_{1i}, \quad \tilde{b}_{1i} = (g_{11})^{-1} g_{1i},$$

$$\tilde{g}_{ij} = g_{ij} - (g_{11})^{-1} (g_{i1} g_{1j} + b_{i1} b_{1j}), \quad \tilde{b}_{ij} = b_{ij} - (g_{11})^{-1} (g_{i1} b_{1j} + b_{i1} g_{1j}).$$

At the [quantum level](#) adding the [dilaton](#) in the action this manipulation carried at the same manner. Consider the path integral:

$$\int \mathcal{D}A \mathcal{D}\bar{A} \mathcal{D}x^i \mathcal{D}\tilde{x}^1 e^{-S'[\tilde{x}, x, A]}. \quad (3)$$

Integrating out A brings in a Jacobian factor in the path integral and results to the [dilaton shift](#):

$$\phi' = \phi - \frac{1}{2} \log g_{11}. \quad (4)$$

Pure spinor formalism

Consider the action in pure spinor formalism:

$$\begin{aligned}
 S = & \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int d^2z \left[L_{MN}(Z) \partial Z^M \bar{\partial} Z^N + P^{\alpha\hat{\beta}}(Z) d_\alpha \hat{d}_{\hat{\beta}} + E_M^\alpha(Z) d_\alpha \bar{\partial} Z^M \right. \\
 & + E_M^{\hat{\alpha}}(Z) \partial Z^M \hat{d}_{\hat{\alpha}} + \Omega_{M\alpha}^\beta(Z) \lambda^\alpha w_\beta \bar{\partial} Z^M + \hat{\Omega}_{M\hat{\alpha}}^{\hat{\beta}}(Z) \partial Z^M \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} \hat{w}_{\hat{\beta}} \\
 & + C_\alpha^{\beta\hat{\gamma}}(Z) \lambda^\alpha w_\beta \hat{d}_{\hat{\gamma}} + \hat{C}_{\hat{\alpha}}^{\hat{\beta}\gamma}(Z) d_\gamma \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} \hat{w}_{\hat{\beta}} + S_{\alpha\hat{\gamma}}^{\beta\hat{\delta}} \lambda^\alpha w_\beta \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\gamma}} \hat{w}_{\hat{\delta}} + w_\alpha \bar{\partial} \lambda^\alpha + \hat{w}_{\hat{\alpha}} \partial \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} \left. \right] \\
 & + \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2z \Phi(Z) \mathcal{R}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Superfield $P_{\alpha\hat{\beta}}$ consist of RR-fields:

$$P^{\alpha\hat{\beta}}|_{\theta=\hat{\theta}=0} = \frac{i}{16} e^\phi F^{\alpha\hat{\beta}}, \quad (5)$$

$$F_{IIA}^{\alpha\hat{\beta}} = m + \frac{1}{2} (\gamma^{m_1 m_2})^{\alpha\beta} F_{m_1 m_2} + \frac{1}{4!} (\gamma^{m_1 \dots m_4})^{\alpha\beta} F_{m_1 \dots m_4}, \quad (6)$$

$$F_{IIB}^{\alpha\hat{\beta}} = (\gamma^m)^{\alpha\beta} F_m + \frac{1}{3!} (\gamma^{m_1 m_2 m_3})^{\alpha\beta} F_{m_1 m_2 m_3} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{5!} (\gamma^{m_1 \dots m_5})^{\alpha\beta} F_{m_1 \dots m_5}. \quad (7)$$

E_M^α and $E_M^{\hat{\alpha}}$ are the parts of **supervielbein**, consist of **ordinary vielbein** and **gravitini** ψ_m^α and $\psi_m^{\hat{\alpha}}$. Lowest $\theta = \hat{\theta} = 0$ order components of Ω , C , and S are **spin connection** mixed with NSNS 3-form $H = db$, **gravitino field strength tensor**, and **Riemann tensor** also mixed with H , correspondingly.

Fermionic T-duality

We can carry out the Buscher's procedure for the Berkovitz action. Obtain the **new superfields**:

$$\begin{aligned}P'^{\alpha\hat{\beta}} &= P^{\alpha\hat{\beta}} - (B_{11})^{-1} E_1^\alpha E_1^{\hat{\beta}}, \\E_1'^{\alpha} &= (B_{11})^{-1} E_1^\alpha, \quad E_1'^{\hat{\alpha}} = (B_{11})^{-1} E_1^{\hat{\alpha}}, \\E_M'^{\alpha} &= E_M^\alpha - (B_{11})^{-1} L_{1M} E_1^\alpha, \quad E_M'^{\hat{\alpha}} = E_M^{\hat{\alpha}} - (B_{11})^{-1} E_1^{\hat{\alpha}} L_{M1}, \\ \phi' &= \phi + \frac{1}{2} \log(B_{11})|_{\theta=0}.\end{aligned}\tag{8}$$

The supervielbein **index 1 in these formulae is spinorial**, corresponding to the isometry coordinate θ_1 . Taking the $\theta = \hat{\theta} = 0$ components one can establish that fermionic T-duality transformation leaves invariant the **NSNS tensor fields** g_{mn} and b_{mn} . What does transform are the **RR fluxes and the dilaton**:

$$\frac{i}{16} e^{\phi'} F'^{\alpha\hat{\beta}} = \frac{i}{16} e^{\phi} F^{\alpha\hat{\beta}} - \epsilon^\alpha \hat{\epsilon}^{\hat{\beta}} C^{-1}, \quad \phi' = \phi + \frac{1}{2} \log C,\tag{9}$$

where we denote

$$C = B_{11}|_{\theta=\hat{\theta}=0}, \quad (\epsilon^\alpha, \hat{\epsilon}^{\hat{\alpha}}) = (E_1^\alpha, E_1^{\hat{\alpha}})|_{\theta=\hat{\theta}=0}.\tag{10}$$

Fermionic T-duality

The superspace torsion constraints help us to find an **expression for C in terms of $(\epsilon^\alpha, \hat{\epsilon}^{\hat{\alpha}})$** :

$$\partial_m C = i \left(\bar{\epsilon} \Gamma_m \epsilon - \bar{\hat{\epsilon}} \Gamma_m \hat{\epsilon} \right) = \begin{cases} i (\epsilon \bar{\gamma}_m \epsilon + \hat{\epsilon} \gamma_m \hat{\epsilon}) & \text{(IIA) ,} \\ i (\epsilon \bar{\gamma}_m \epsilon - \hat{\epsilon} \gamma_m \hat{\epsilon}) & \text{(IIB) .} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

So, we **set the spinors $(\epsilon, \hat{\epsilon})$, find the function C** , and then we can explicitly find dual fields in the following way:

$$\frac{i}{16} e^{\phi'} F'^{\alpha\hat{\beta}} = \frac{i}{16} e^{\phi} F^{\alpha\hat{\beta}} - \epsilon^\alpha \hat{\epsilon}^{\hat{\beta}} C^{-1},$$

$$\phi' = \phi + \frac{1}{2} \log C.$$

Non-abelian Fermionic T-duality

Anticommutation constraint for the **Killing spinors** is given by the **vanishing** of the **Killing vector field**

$$\tilde{K}^m = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \epsilon \bar{\gamma}^m \epsilon - \hat{\epsilon} \gamma^m \hat{\epsilon} \quad (\text{IIA}) \\ \epsilon \bar{\gamma}^m \epsilon + \hat{\epsilon} \bar{\gamma}^m \hat{\epsilon} \quad (\text{IIB}) \end{array} \right\} \stackrel{!}{=} 0 \quad \text{abelian constraint.} \quad (12)$$

Similarly to the previous expression introduce

$$\partial_m C = iK_m = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} i(\epsilon \bar{\gamma}_m \epsilon + \hat{\epsilon} \gamma_m \hat{\epsilon}) \quad (\text{IIA}), \\ i(\epsilon \bar{\gamma}_m \epsilon - \hat{\epsilon} \bar{\gamma}_m \hat{\epsilon}) \quad (\text{IIB}). \end{array} \right.$$

One can show that $\tilde{K}^m K_m = 0$ from Fierz identities for chiral $d = 10$ spinors ϵ and $\hat{\epsilon}$.

Next, using the Killing equations, one can obtain $\nabla_m \tilde{K}^m = 0$.

These observations suggest that the non-abelian fermionic T-dual background can be defined using the same transformation rules, but with the **modified prescription for the scalar parameter C** :

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \partial_m C = iK_m - ib_{mn} \tilde{K}^n, \\ \tilde{\partial}^m C = i\tilde{K}^m, \end{array} \right.$$

where $\tilde{\partial}^m$ denotes derivative with respect to the dual coordinate \tilde{x}_m of double field theory, and b_{mn} term is added in order to make the two equations consistent. Also the constraints on C from double field theory for such choice of K_m and \tilde{K}^m are satisfied:

$$\partial_m C \tilde{\partial}^m C = 0, \quad \partial_m \tilde{\partial}^m C = 0.$$

Double field theory

This approach introduces usual coordinates x^m together with dual coordinates \tilde{x}_m combined into $\mathbb{X}^M = (x^m, \tilde{x}_m)$ and also covariant constraint

$$\eta^{MN} \partial_M \bullet \partial_N \bullet = 0, \quad \eta^{MN} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \delta_m^n \\ \delta_n^m & 0 \end{bmatrix}. \quad (13)$$

This [section constraint](#) efficiently [eliminates half of the coordinates](#) ensures closure of the algebra of local coordinate transformations.

The [action](#) of ten-dimensional supergravity on such doubled space can be made manifestly [covariant](#) under the [global \$O\(d, d; \mathcal{R}\)\$ T-duality rotations](#) as well as the local generalized diffeomorphisms:

$$S = S_{NSNS} + S_{RR} = \int d^{10}x d^{10}\tilde{x} \left(e^{-2d} \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{H}, d) + \frac{1}{4} (\not{\partial}\chi)^\dagger S \not{\partial}\chi \right), \quad (14)$$

where the NSNS degrees of freedom are encoded by the invariant dilaton d and the [generalized metric \$\mathcal{H}_{MN}\$](#) with its [spin representative \$S \in \text{Spin}\(d, d\)\$](#) , while the RR field strengths are contained in the spinorial variable χ .

The invariant dilaton d is simply

$$d = \phi - \frac{1}{4} \log g, \quad (15)$$

where $g = \det g_{mn}$. The [generalized metric of DFT is an element of the coset space \$O\(d, d\)/O\(d\) \times O\(d\)\$](#) and in terms of the background fields is defined as follows

$$\mathcal{H}_{MN} = \begin{bmatrix} g_{mn} - b_{mp} g^{pq} b_{qn} & b_{mp} g^{pl} \\ -g^{kp} b_{pn} & g^{kl} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (16)$$

Examples

Geometric example

Consider **Minkowski flat space** in **IIB theory**. This is **maximally supersymmetric** supergravity solution, thus there are **16 ϵ** and **16 $\hat{\epsilon}$ constant** Killing spinors. They form 32d vector spinor space $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$ in $d = 1 + 9$, where we choose basis $\{\epsilon_i, \hat{\epsilon}_i\}$, $i \in \{1, \dots, 16\}$ as follows

$$(\epsilon_i)^\alpha = \delta_i^\alpha, \quad (\hat{\epsilon}_i)^{\hat{\alpha}} = \delta_i^{\hat{\alpha}}.$$

As an example consider the fermionic T-duality in the direction set up by the spinors

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_1 - i\hat{\epsilon}_9, \quad \hat{\epsilon} = -\hat{\epsilon}_1 - i\epsilon_9.$$

We find **function C** :

$$C = 4(x^8 + i\tilde{x}_9).$$

and **RR-fields**:

$$F_0 = -2iC^{-3/2},$$

$$F_{089} = F_{127} = -F_{134} = -F_{156} = F_{235} = -F_{246} = F_{367} = F_{457} = -2C^{-3/2},$$

$$F_{01236} = F_{01245} = -F_{01357} = F_{01467} = -F_{02347} = -F_{02567} = F_{03456} =$$

$$F_{12789} = -F_{13489} = -F_{15689} = F_{23589} = -F_{24689} = F_{36789} = F_{45789} = 2iC^{-3/2}.$$

Examples

Non-geometric example

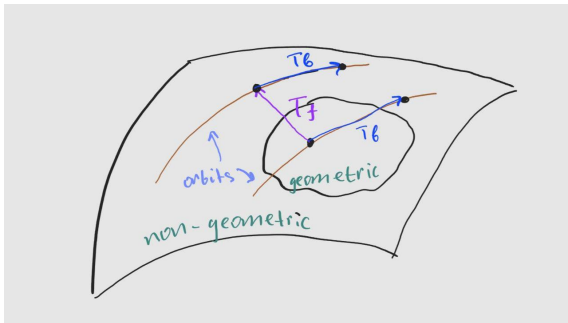
Next, consider fermionic T-duality generated by only one spinor:

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\epsilon_1 + i\epsilon_9), \quad \hat{\epsilon} = 0.$$

Hence

$$C = -x^8 - \tilde{x}_8 + i(x^9 + \tilde{x}_9)$$

so our dual background has **vanishing** $F_{(p)} = 0$ and **cannot be bosonically T-dualized** into some **geometric** background.



Examples

D-brane

Supergravity solution **IIB Dp-brane** as a solitonic background, $p < 7$, has a metric

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \left(H_{D_p}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \eta_{ij}, H_{D_p}^{\frac{1}{2}} \delta_{mn} \right), \quad H_{D_p} = 1 + \frac{Q}{(\delta_{mn} x^m x^n)^{\frac{7-p}{2}}},$$

where i, j and m, n denote **brane coordinates** and **transverse coordinates** correspondingly.

From **BPS** condition there are only **16** independent Killing spinors, parameterized by the **constant** ϵ_0 :

$$\epsilon = H_{D_p}^{-\frac{1}{8}} \epsilon_0, \quad \hat{\epsilon} = -\gamma^{0\bar{1}\dots p} \epsilon = -H_{D_p}^{-\frac{1}{8}} \gamma^{0\bar{1}\dots p} \epsilon_0.$$

One can obtain that for the **Dp-brane** we can choose **certain** ϵ_0 to consider C in the following way:

$$C = 2(x_m + i\tilde{x}_j), \quad (17)$$

where m can be only **from $p + 1$ to 10** and j can be only **from 0 to $p + 1$** , i.e. C cannot depend on coordinates dual to the transverse directions.

Examples

D3-brane

For concreteness consider **D3-brane**, choose the constant spinor

$$\hat{\epsilon}_0^\alpha = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} e^{\frac{i\pi}{4}} (-\delta_1^\alpha + i\delta_2^\alpha + \delta_{15}^\alpha + i\delta_{16}^\alpha)$$

Next,

$$C = x^4 + i\hat{x}_1,$$

and RR-fields:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{(1)} &= -\frac{e^{-\phi_0}}{2C^{3/2}} dx^6, \\ F_{(3)} &= \frac{ie^{-\phi_0}}{2C^{3/2}} \left[dx^0 (H^{-1} dx^{23} + dx^{58} - dx^{79}) - dx^{146} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + idx^2 (dx^{57} + dx^{89}) + idx^3 (dx^{59} + dx^{78}) \right], \\ F_{(5)} &= -\frac{e^{-\phi_0}}{2C^{3/2}} \left[\sum_{k=4}^9 \frac{1}{H} (\delta_k^4 + \frac{2C}{H} \partial_k H) dx^{0123k} + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + dx^{014} (dx^{58} - dx^{79}) - idx^{06} (dx^2 (dx^{59} + dx^{78}) + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + dx^3 (dx^{57} + dx^{89})) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Examples

Fundamental string

Consider the simplest background with **non-vanishing Kalb-Ramond field** b_{mn} . Proceed with the background of the **Type II fundamental string**, given by

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= H^{-1}(-dt^2 + dy^2) + dx_{(8)}^2, \\ B_{ty} &= H^{-1} - 1, \quad e^{-2\phi} = He^{-2\phi_0}, \\ H &= 1 + \frac{h}{|x_{(8)}|^6}. \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

This background preserves half of the total supersymmetry and the corresponding **Killing spinors** are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon \\ \hat{\epsilon} \end{pmatrix} &= H^{-\frac{1}{4}} \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_0 \\ \hat{\epsilon}_0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1 + \Gamma^{01} \mathcal{O}) \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_0 \\ \hat{\epsilon}_0 \end{pmatrix} = 0, \\ \mathcal{O} &= \begin{cases} \Gamma_{11}, & IIA, \\ \sigma^3, & IIB. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

The **general expression for the function** C :

$$C = \frac{1}{2}(A + B)(x^1 + \tilde{x}_0) + \frac{1}{2}(A - B)(x^0 - \tilde{x}_1), \tag{20}$$

where A, B are the sums of squared Killing spinors components. C depends only on string coordinates.

Examples

Type IIA fundamental string

Choose such Killing spinors, that $A = B = 1$, so

$$C = x^1 + \tilde{x}_0, \quad (21)$$

and obtain the T-duals:

$$e^{-2\phi} = \frac{H e^{-2\phi_0}}{x^1 + \tilde{x}_0},$$
$$m = 0,$$

$$F_{(2)} = -\frac{e^{-\phi_0}}{2C^{3/2}} \left[dx^{67} + dx^{38} + dx^{49} - dx^{25} \right],$$

$$F_{(4)} = \frac{e^{-\phi_0}}{2C^{3/2}} \left[\frac{1}{H} dx^{01} (dx^{67} - dx^{25} + dx^{38} + dx^{49}) + \right. \\ \left. + (dx^{89} - dx^{34})(dx^{26} + dx^{57}) + (dx^{39} - dx^{48})(dx^{27} - dx^{56}) \right].$$

In this case we obtain formally **real background** by the virtue of dual time. This example is noteworthy with only possibility Roman's **mass to be independent on dual coordinate**.

Generalized SUGRA appearance

Now consider **fundamental Type IIB string** with the following function C ($A = -B = 1$):

$$C = x^0 - \tilde{x}_1. \quad (22)$$

Make **bosonic T-duality along x_1** for this fermionic T-dual IIB background example.

After bosonic T-duality **NSNS-fields and dilaton** are:

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= -(2 - H)dt^2 + Hdy^2 + 2(1 - H)dtdy + dx_{(8)}^2, \\ B &= 0, \quad e^{-2\phi'} = \frac{e^{-2\phi_0}}{x^0 - x^1}, \\ H &= 1 + \frac{h}{|x_{(8)}|^6}. \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

From the **rule** $\epsilon^{\phi'} F' = \sqrt{g_{11}} e^{\phi} F \cdot \gamma_1$ we can find the **RR-fields**:

$$m = 0,$$

$$F_{(2)} = \frac{ie^{-\phi_0}}{2C^{3/2}} dx^4(dx^1 - dx^0),$$

$$F_{(4)} = \frac{ie^{-\phi_0}}{2C^{3/2}} \left[(dx^1 - dx^0)(dx^{356} + dx^{327} - dx^{268} - dx^{578} + dx^{259} - dx^{679} - dx^{389}) \right].$$

Should we obtain some **IIA supergravity theory**? The answer is **surprising**.

Generalized SUGRA appearance

Check the following **generalised IIA SUGRA** equations for the dualized fields on the previous slide:

$$R_{mn} - \frac{1}{4} H_{mkl} H_n{}^{kl} - T_{mn} + D_m X_n + D_n X_m = 0, \quad (24)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} D^k H_{kmn} + \frac{1}{2} m F_{mn} + \frac{1}{8} F_{mnpq} F^{pq} = X^k H_{kmn} + D_m X_n - D_n X_m = 0, \quad (25)$$

$$R - \frac{1}{12} H^2 + 4D_m X^m - 4X_m X^m = 0, \quad (26)$$

where $X_m = \mathcal{I}_m + \partial_m \phi' - B_{mn} \mathcal{I}^m$ and \mathcal{I}^m satisfies

$$\mathcal{I}^m \partial_m \phi' = 0 \quad (27)$$

and

$$D_m \mathcal{I}_n + D_n \mathcal{I}_m = 0. \quad (28)$$

It appears that these equations become the **equations on Killing vector \mathcal{I}^m only** with the following solution with an **arbitrary smooth function f** :

$$\mathcal{I}^0 = \mathcal{I}^1 = f(x_0 - x_1), \quad \mathcal{I}^2 = \dots = \mathcal{I}^9 = 0. \quad (29)$$

Is it **feature of the initial B -field**? Will we **obtain the generalized supergravity** within this scheme in general?

Results and discussion

- The mechanism of non-abelian fermionic T-duality takes us out of the ordinary supergravity solutions. What is the **general DFT formulation of NAFTD**?
- There is **connection between SUGRA and generalized SUGRA** through the combination of two dualities. Is it general? Is there any connection between **genuinely non-geometric backgrounds** and generalized supergravity?
- Does NAFTD have any connection with **fermionic TsT-deformation**?
- What if we take **two different Killing spinors**, can we obtain the **true real background**?

Thank you for attention!