

Ic-instanton exact solution

Érica E. Leite* and **Luiz A. Ferreira**

Instituto de Física Teórica - IFT

E-mail: erica@ift.unesp.br, laf@ift.unesp.br

Loriano Bonora

SISSA

E-mail: bonora@he.sissa.it

Clisthenis P. Constantinidis

UFES

E-mail: clisthen@verao.cce.ufes.br

ABSTRACT: We have obtained an exact solution of a supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory, constructed with the aid of the algebraic Leznov-Saveliev method. A particular set of equations - namely the sinh-Gordon model ones - is achieved by looking for BPS states. The classical solutions, knowed as IC-INSTANTONS, interpolates initial and final string configuration.

1. Introduction

The $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory ($\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM) in $4d$ is well known by its self-duality properties. In their work, Bonora et. al. [1] study classical solutions of this theory, putting on evidence an unexplored non-perturbative sector based on a new type of instanton. These new type of solution is knowed as *interaction-carrying instanton* or IC-INSTANTON, and emerge outside the context of duality as BPS classical instantons that connect distinct closed string configurations. In the strong coupling regime, these solutions correspond to $2d$ complex manifolds which asymptotically has boundaries represented by one dimensional manifolds. This furnish an interpretation in terms of string scattering. By the same way that the instantons represent solutions interpolating distinct vacua in a theory, the IC-INSTANTON connect initial and final scattering states of strings.

For what follows, we consider the theory described by the action

$$\mathcal{S} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int d^2w \text{Tr} \left(D_w X^i D_{\bar{w}} X^i - \frac{1}{4g^2} F_{w\bar{w}}^2 - \frac{g^2}{2} [X^i, X^j]^2 \right. \\ \left. + i(\theta_s^- D_{\bar{w}} \theta_s^- + \theta_c^+ D_w \theta_c^+) + ig \theta^T \Gamma_i [X^i, \theta] \right) \quad (1.1)$$

*Speaker.

that came out from the compactification in a cylinder of a type IIA string theory in 10 dimensions (see [1]). The euclidean version of this action is invariant under the the supersymmetric transformations

$$\begin{aligned}\delta X^i &= \frac{i}{g}(\epsilon_s^- \gamma^i \theta_c^+ + \epsilon_c^+ \tilde{\gamma}^i \theta_s^-) \\ \delta \theta_s^- &= \left(-\frac{i}{2g^2} F_{w\bar{w}} + \frac{1}{2}[X^i, X^j] \gamma_{ij}\right) \epsilon_s^- - \frac{1}{g} D_w X^i \gamma_i \epsilon_c^+ \\ \delta \theta_c^+ &= \left(\frac{i}{2g^2} F_{w\bar{w}} + \frac{1}{2}[X^i, X^j] \tilde{\gamma}_{ij}\right) \epsilon_c^+ - \frac{1}{g} D_{\bar{w}} X^i \tilde{\gamma}_i \epsilon_s^- \\ \delta A_w &= -2\epsilon_s^- \theta_s^-, \quad \delta A_{\bar{w}} = -2\epsilon_c^+ \theta_c^+\end{aligned}$$

The BPS IC-INSTANTONS appears as classical solutions that preserves half of supersymmetry, what means that we search for solutions that satisfy the conditions

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\frac{i}{2g^2} F_{w\bar{w}} + \frac{1}{2}[X^i, X^j] \tilde{\gamma}_{ij}\right) \epsilon_c^+ &= 0 & D_w X^i \gamma_i \epsilon_c^+ &= 0 \\ \left(-\frac{i}{2g^2} F_{w\bar{w}} + \frac{1}{2}[X^i, X^j] \gamma_{ij}\right) \epsilon_s^- &= 0 & D_{\bar{w}} X^i \tilde{\gamma}_i \epsilon_s^- &= 0\end{aligned}$$

After some manipulations, taking $X^i = 0$ for all i except two of them (suppose $X^i \neq 0$ for $i = 1, 2$), and defining $X \equiv X^1 + iX^2$, the equations of motion of the theory take the form

$$F_{w\bar{w}} + ig^2[X, \bar{X}] = 0 \quad (1.2)$$

$$D_w X = 0, \quad D_{\bar{w}} \bar{X} = 0 \quad (1.3)$$

We can also think of these equations as a reduction to two dimensions of the self duality conditions in four dimension. For instance, the self duality equations in $4d$ are

$$F_{y\bar{y}} + F_{z\bar{z}} = 0 \quad F_{yz} = 0 = F_{\bar{y}\bar{z}} \quad (1.4)$$

Imposing that nothing depends on the extra dimensions, i.e. $\partial_z = 0 = \partial_{\bar{z}}$, and making the identification $A_z \equiv X$ $A_{\bar{z}} \equiv \bar{X}$ we get the same system as in 1.2 and 1.3.

From a mathematical point of view, 1.2, 1.3 can be identified with a Hitchin system on a cylinder (or in a sphere with two punctures). The solutions of 1.2, 1.3 consist of two parts: a branched covering of the cylinder through the characteristic polynomial relative to X ; and a pure group factor that contains the coupling constant g .

2. Two dimensional case

We consider the two dimensional case of theory 1.1, where we take $U(2)$ ($N = 2$) as gauge group. We look for a pair (A, X) – gauge potential and branched covering – that satisfies 1.2, 1.3. In order to do this we take the *ansatz*

$$X = Y^{-1}MY; \quad A_w = \partial_w Y^\dagger (Y^{-1})^\dagger. \quad (2.1)$$

In this *ansatz*, we parametrize $(\bar{M})M$ with (anti)-holomorphic functions $(\bar{a}(\bar{w})) - a(w)$, which furnish a map for the covering; and the group element Y is parametrized by a scalar field φ . More specifically

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & a \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} e^{\frac{\varphi}{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-\frac{\varphi}{2}} \end{pmatrix} \quad (2.2)$$

This made possible to translate the equations 1.2, 1.3 into

$$\partial_w \partial_{\bar{w}} \varphi - g^2 (e^{2\varphi} - |a| e^{-2\varphi}) = 0. \quad (2.3)$$

We can as well work with a field u , related to φ by

$$\varphi = u + \frac{1}{2} \ln |a| \quad (2.4)$$

So, for this field, the equation 2.3 reads

$$\partial_w \partial_{\bar{w}} u + \frac{1}{2} \partial_w \partial_{\bar{w}} \ln |a| = g^2 |a| \sinh 2u \quad (2.5)$$

From now on we refer to this equation as the IC-INSTANTON equation.

3. General Solution

Since we are working with the two dimensional case, it is possible to use the algebraic Leznov-Saveliev method in order to construct explicitly the solutions. This method is based on the existence of an infinite dimensional Lie algebra, the Kac-Moody algebra, from where it emerges an infinite number of conserved quantities.

In the two dimensional case, the relevant potentials for describe the Hitchin system 1.2, 1.3 as the Lax-Zakharov-Shabat conditions reads

$$A_w \equiv -\partial_w \gamma \gamma^{-1} + E_{-1} \quad A_{\bar{w}} \equiv \gamma E_1 \gamma^{-1} \quad (3.1)$$

where $\gamma \equiv e^{\varphi H^0}$ and

$$E_1 \equiv g T_+^0 + g \bar{a}(\bar{z}) T_-^1 \quad E_{-1} \equiv g a(z) T_+^{-1} + g T_-^0 \quad (3.2)$$

T_{\pm}^n are the generators of a Kac-Moody algebra $\widehat{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$. By this way, the zero curvature conditions

$$F_{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad (3.3)$$

imply the equations of motion that, translated in terms of the field contents of the model assumes the form

$$\partial_w \partial_{\bar{w}} \varphi = g^2 (e^{2\varphi} - |a|^2 e^{-2\varphi}) \quad (3.4)$$

These corresponds exactly to 2.3 (or 2.5).

As a consequence of 3.3, we can parametrized the connection by a group element

$$A_\mu \equiv -\partial_\mu W W^{-1} \quad (3.5)$$

With this, the integration depends on the path; so we can decompose W using different group elements. In particular, taking two elements g_1, g_2 we can write

$$W = g_1 = \gamma g_2 \quad \rightarrow \quad \gamma = g_1 g_2^{-1} \quad (3.6)$$

It follows from the method that

$$g_1^{-1} | \lambda \rangle \equiv \text{function of } w \quad \langle \lambda | g_2 \equiv \text{function of } \bar{w}. \quad (3.7)$$

Here, $| \lambda \rangle$ are highest weight states of a $\widehat{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ representation. Then, from 3.6 follows that

$$\langle \lambda | \gamma^{-1} | \lambda \rangle = \langle \lambda | g_2 g_1^{-1} | \lambda \rangle \quad (3.8)$$

Next, we use a Gauss decomposition associated to the principal grading [2] to write these two group elements as

$$g_1 \equiv N \gamma_- M_- \quad g_2 \equiv M \gamma_+ N_+ \quad (3.9)$$

The indices refers to the degree of operators that enters in the exponentiation of element, that is, X_+ only contains operators of positive degree with respect to the grading, $X_+ = e^{\mathcal{G}_+}$. In particular,

$$\gamma_+ = e^{\theta_+(\bar{w}) H^0}, \quad \gamma_- = e^{\theta_-(w) H^0} \quad (3.10)$$

This allow us to write 3.8 as

$$\langle \lambda | \gamma^{-1} | \lambda \rangle = \langle \lambda | \gamma_+(x_+) N_+(x_+) M_-^{-1}(x_-) \gamma_-^{-1}(x_-) | \lambda \rangle \quad (3.11)$$

Except for γ_\pm , the parameters N_+ and M_- are determined by relations encoded in 3.1, 3.5, 3.6.

With these ingredients we are able to write the general solution to the model. For this, two distinct maximal weight representations of $\widehat{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ are needed:

$$e^{-\varphi} = \frac{\langle \lambda_1 | N_+(x_+) M_-^{-1}(x_-) | \lambda_1 \rangle}{\langle \lambda_0 | N_+(x_+) M_-^{-1}(x_-) | \lambda_0 \rangle} e^{\theta_+ - \theta_-} \quad (3.12)$$

So, the general solution of 3.4 is given by 3.12. As we can see, this means that the solution depends on the parameters θ_\pm , and on the elements N_+, M_- . This group elements are determined by

$$\partial_{\bar{w}} N_+ N_+^{-1} = -g \left(e^{-2\theta_+} T_+^0 + \bar{a}(\bar{w}) e^{2\theta_+} T_-^1 \right) \quad (3.13)$$

$$\partial_w M_- M_-^{-1} = -g \left(a(w) e^{-2\theta_-} T_+^{-1} + e^{2\theta_-} T_-^0 \right) \quad (3.14)$$

The θ_\pm functions will be fix by imposing the boundary conditions, as we will see next.

4. Boundary Conditions

We can easily understand how to select a particular solution outside the general solution making a change of variable. Let

$$\frac{d\zeta}{dw} = \sqrt{a} \quad \frac{d\bar{\zeta}}{d\bar{w}} = \sqrt{\bar{a}} \quad (4.1)$$

We note that, in terms of this new variable, the IC-INSTANTON equation 2.5 (3.4) is equivalent to that of the sinh-Gordon model with a source

$$\partial_\zeta \partial_{\bar{\zeta}} u - 2g^2 \sinh 2u = -\frac{\pi}{4} \delta_a(a, \bar{a}) (\partial_\zeta a)(\partial_{\bar{\zeta}} \bar{a}) \quad (4.2)$$

The source has the effect of impose boundary conditions; in other words, the solutions u satisfies the sinh-Gordon homogeneous equations together with the boundary conditions

$$u \sim -\frac{1}{2} \log |a| \quad \varphi \sim \text{finite} \quad a \sim 0 \quad (4.3)$$

The solution u diverges logarithmically at the zeros of a , implying that φ must be finite at the same point. Apart this, far from the zeros of a we have

$$u \sim \text{finite} \quad \varphi \sim \frac{1}{2} \log |a| \quad a \sim \infty \quad (4.4)$$

4.1 The ζ variable

Here, it should be appropriate to do a comment about the role of the branched covering M . We must have this in mind when dealing with the changes of variable performed and, in particular, with the equation 4.2. More details can be found in [6].

The matrix M represents a branched covering of the cylinder spanned by the coordinate w . It is convenient now to pass to a new coordinate $z = e^w$, which maps the cylinder into the complex z -plane with two punctures at $z = 0$ and $z = \infty$. The eigenvalues of M , which are the roots of the algebraic equation $X^2 = a$ can be thought of as the sheets of a double covering of the cylinder. Each sheet is a copy of the complex z -plane, so, each eigenvalue spans a sheet. The points where the eigenvalues coincide are the branched points. Let us consider the equation for an hyper-elliptic Riemann surface Σ

$$y^2 = a(z) = (z - z_1)(z - z_2) \dots (z - z_n) \quad (4.5)$$

There are branch points at $z = z_1, \dots, z = z_n$. y and z are coordinates of two complex planes, but, of course they can be considered as function over Σ . The coordinate z is not a good coordinate near a branch point. A good local coordinate near a branch point z_i is $\xi_i = \sqrt{z - z_i}$. I.e., near z_i we have $z = z_i + \xi_i^2$.

Since near a branch point, neither y or z are good coordinates, the usual delta function is given by $\delta(\xi, \bar{\xi})$. But, after some considerations, we see that we have the relations

$$\delta_a(a, \bar{a}) \sim 2 \delta(\xi, \bar{\xi}), \quad \delta_\zeta(\zeta, \bar{\zeta}) \sim 3 \delta(\xi, \bar{\xi}) \quad (4.6)$$

This provide us with a way of transform **locally** the delta $\delta_a(a, \bar{a})$ in a function of ζ variable, using 4.6. We must take into account the Jacobian factor due to the change of coordinates, what lead us to the relation

$$\delta_\zeta(\zeta, \bar{\zeta}) = \frac{3}{2} \delta_a(a, \bar{a})(\partial_\zeta a)(\partial_{\bar{\zeta}} \bar{a}) \quad (4.7)$$

We return to 4.2 and get

$$\partial_\zeta \partial_{\bar{\zeta}} u - 2g^2 \sinh 2u = -\frac{\pi}{6} \delta_\zeta(\zeta, \bar{\zeta}) \quad (4.8)$$

This means that near a branch point, via the local coordinate ξ , we can solve the equation for u as a function of ζ ; the a dependence is restored via 4.1. We will in this way obtain some sort of “partials” solutions, localized around a branched point, that we must be able to patch together in order to it spreads out globally. Actually, we did not yet completely understood the way of gluing this regions.

5. Choice of θ

Now we have the necessary elements to fix the θ parameters:

$$\theta_+ = -\frac{1}{4} \ln \bar{a} \quad \theta_- = \frac{1}{4} \ln a \quad (5.1)$$

We can substitute this expression in 2.4, 3.12 to get

$$e^{-u} = \frac{\langle \lambda_1 | N_+ M_-^{-1} | \lambda_1 \rangle}{\langle \lambda_0 | N_+ M_-^{-1} | \lambda_0 \rangle} \quad (5.2)$$

This choice of θ also simplifies the integration of elements N_+, M_- . Indeed, 3.13, 3.14 becomes

$$\partial_{\bar{w}} N_+ N_+^{-1} = -g \sqrt{\bar{a}(\bar{w})} b_1 \quad \partial_w M_- M_-^{-1} = -g \sqrt{a(w)} b_{-1}. \quad (5.3)$$

The operators b_1 and b_{-1} are elements of a Heisenberg sub-algebra of the $\widehat{sl}(2)$ Kac-Moody algebra. That is like an algebra of harmonic oscillators, i.e. they are generated by

$$b_{2n+1} \equiv T_+^n + T_-^{n+1} \quad [b_{2m+1}, b_{2n+1}] = C(2m+1) \delta_{m+n+1,0} \quad (5.4)$$

We can then integrate 5.3

$$N_+ = e^{I_+ b_1} h_+ \quad I_+ = -g \int d\bar{w} \sqrt{\bar{a}(\bar{w})} \quad (5.5)$$

$$M_- = e^{I_- b_{-1}} h_- \quad I_- = -g \int dw \sqrt{a(w)} \quad (5.6)$$

5.1 IC-INSTANTON *insight*

We come to a crucial point, that will permit us to point out the exact expression for the IC-INSTANTON. The Leznov-Saveliev method provide us the general expression for the solution. The boundary conditions fixes the parameters of a particular class of solutions. At this stage, according to 5.2, 5.5, 5.6, we must solve

$$\langle \lambda | N_+ M_-^{-1} | \lambda \rangle = \langle \lambda | g(x) \mathbf{h} g^{-1}(x) | \lambda \rangle \quad (5.7)$$

where $\mathbf{h} \equiv h_+ h_-^{-1}$ is the integration constant, and $g(x)$ is the group element

$$g(x) = e^{I_- b_-^{-1}} e^{I_+ b_1}. \quad (5.8)$$

The peculiarity of IC-INSTANTON solution is the particular choice of the integration constant \mathbf{h} . Usually, for the sinh-Gordon theory, the one soliton solution is obtained taking \mathbf{h} to be the exponential of a vertex operator, $\mathbf{h} = e^{V(\mu)}$, where $V(\mu)$ is an element of the Kac-Moody algebra which is an eigenvector of the adjoint action of the oscillators $b_{\pm 1}$, i.e.,

$$[b_{2n+1}, V(\mu)] = -2\mu^{2n+1}V(\mu) \quad (5.9)$$

So, to take $\mathbf{h} = e^{V(\mu)}$ produces a one soliton solution [3], [5], [6]. In the same way, the n -soliton solution is obtained by taking \mathbf{h} as a product of those exponentials, $\mathbf{h} = \prod_{i=1}^n e^{V(\mu_i)}$. But here, to obtain the IC-INSTANTON solution we must take a continuous infinite product of those exponentials

$$h_+ h_-^{-1} \equiv \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} e^{V(\mu_i)} \quad (5.10)$$

This means that we have an N -soliton solution, with $N \rightarrow \infty$; this is some sort of soliton condensate [4].

At this point, we determined all elements present in the construction of solution. Now, we have to do two more things: *i*) evaluate the expected value 5.7 for that appear in the expression for the solution for $N \rightarrow \infty$; *ii*) and take the continuous limit for the soliton condensate.

So, first, let us deal with the expected value 5.7. After this choice of the constant \mathbf{h} we can rewrite 5.7 as a Fredholm determinant (see [6])

$$\langle \lambda_0 | N_+ M_-^{-1} | \lambda_0 \rangle = \det(1 + \mathcal{W}) \quad (5.11)$$

$$\langle \lambda_1 | N_+ M_-^{-1} | \lambda_1 \rangle = \det(1 - \mathcal{W}) \quad (5.12)$$

where \mathcal{W} is the infinite matrix

$$\mathcal{W}_{ij} = e^{\frac{\beta(\mu_i)}{2}} \frac{\sqrt{4\mu_i \mu_j}}{\mu_i + \mu_j} e^{\frac{\beta(\mu_j)}{2}}. \quad (5.13)$$

The $\beta(\mu)$'s are functions of I_{\pm} that appears in 5.5,5.6:

$$\beta(\mu_i) = -2 \left(\mu_i I_+ + \frac{I_+}{\mu_i} \right) \quad (5.14)$$

Due the considerations in section 4.1, we are able to evaluate I_{\pm} for regions around a zero of $a(w)$; that is, near the zeros of $a(w)$ we get

$$\beta(\mu_i) = 2g \left(\mu_i \bar{\zeta} + \frac{\zeta}{\mu_i} \right) \quad \text{once that} \quad I_+ = -g \bar{\zeta}; \quad I_- = -g \zeta \quad \text{as} \quad a \sim 0 \quad (5.15)$$

So, according to 5.2 and 5.11, 5.12, we get

$$u = \ln \left(\frac{\det(1 + \mathcal{W})}{\det(1 - \mathcal{W})} \right) = \text{Tr} \ln \frac{1 + \mathcal{W}}{1 - \mathcal{W}} \quad (5.16)$$

This means that we then have an infinite series of powers of \mathcal{W} matrix

$$u = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\text{Tr} \mathcal{W}^{2n+1}}{2n+1} \quad (5.17)$$

We pass now to the second step, that is, take the continuous limit. This can be achieved by transforming the matrix indices of \mathcal{W} into continuous ones; this means that, to take the trace we must perform integrations instead of summations. This passage has some subtle aspects, and we must take some care (see [6] for further details). In this procedure, we introduce a scaling factor (Λ) in the integration measure, that have to be fixed correctly in order to satisfy the boundary conditions. We then pass from 5.17 to

$$u = 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(2\Lambda)^{2n+1}}{2n+1} I_{2n+1} \quad (5.18)$$

In this expression, I_{2n+1} are the integrals

$$I_{2n+1} = \frac{1}{2^{2n}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\phi_1 \dots d\phi_{2n} \frac{K_0 \left(4 |g| |\zeta| \sqrt{w_{2n+1}(\phi)} \right)}{\cosh \left(\frac{\phi_1}{2} \right) \dots \cosh \left(\frac{\phi_{2n}}{2} \right) \cosh \left(\sum_{i=1}^{2n} \frac{\phi_i}{2} \right)} \quad (5.19)$$

where the variables ϕ 's are related to the μ 's, and the functions w_N are

$$w_N(\phi) = N + 2 \sum_{l=0}^{N-2} \sum_{m=1}^{N-l-1} \cosh \sum_{n=m}^{m+l} \phi_n \quad (5.20)$$

The solution 5.18 with a free parameter Λ satisfies the equation 4.2 in all regions, except near the singularities. In this region, we can expand the equation in terms of powers of Λ , what give us an infinite number of differential non-linear equations

$$\begin{aligned} I_3'' + \frac{1}{x} I_3' - I_3 &= 8I_1^3 \\ I_5'' + \frac{1}{x} I_5' - I_5 &= \frac{40}{3} I_1^2 I_3 + \frac{32}{3} I_1^5 \\ I_7'' + \frac{1}{x} I_7' - I_7 &= \frac{224}{9} I_1^4 I_3 + \frac{56}{9} I_1 I_3^2 + \frac{56}{5} I_1^2 I_5 + \frac{256}{45} I_1^7 \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

These relations are verified, as we can see in [7]. So, 5.18 is indeed a solution.

We analyze the behavior of 5.18 near the regions where we have to obey the boundary conditions. So, by imposing that 4.3, 4.4 be satisfied, we determine the value of Λ :

$$\Lambda = \frac{1}{4\pi}. \quad (5.21)$$

Therefore from 5.18, the desired solution to is given by

$$u = 2 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{2n+1}} \frac{I_{2n+1}}{2n+1} \quad (5.22)$$

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