

Principal Chiral Model without and with WZ term: Symmetries and Poisson-Lie T-Duality

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Duality properties of the SU(2) Principal Chiral Model are investigated starting from a oneparameter family of its equivalent Hamiltonian descriptions generated by a non-Abelian deformation of the cotangent space $T^*SU(2) \simeq SU(2) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^3$. The corresponding dual models are obtained through O(3,3) duality transformations and result to be defined on the group $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$, which is the Poisson-Lie dual of SU(2) in the Iwasawa decomposition of the Drinfel'd double $SL(2,\mathbb{C}) = SU(2) \bowtie SB(2,\mathbb{C})$. These dual models provide an explicit realization of Poisson-Lie T-duality. A doubled generalized parent action is then built on the tangent space $TSL(2,\mathbb{C})$. Furthermore, a generalization of the SU(2) PCM with a WZ term is shortly discussed.

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1. Introduction

T-duality provides a powerful tool for investigating the structure of the spacetime from the string point of view by relating, in the usual sigma-model approach, backgrounds which otherwise would be considered different [1, 2, 3]. It sheds light on the short distance behavior of string theory, still exotic at least from the perspective of quantum field theory. It is also a clear indication that ordinary geometric concepts can break down at the string scale.

T-duality has been a valuable guide for finding new phenomena such as D-branes, mirror symmetry or exotic solutions. In the case of compactification of the space coordinate x^a on a circle of radius R, T-duality is encoded, for bosonic closed strings, in the simultaneous transformations $R \leftrightarrow \alpha'/R$ and $p_a \leftrightarrow w^a/\alpha'$ under which the string coordinate $X^a = X_L^a + X_R^a$ is transformed in the dual coordinate $\tilde{X}_a \equiv X_L^a - X_R^a$, being p_a the quantized momentum along x^a and w^a the corresponding winding mode which plays the role of momentum for \tilde{X}_a . More generally, T-duality allows to build new string backgrounds which could not be addressed otherwise and generally go under the name of *non-geometric backgrounds* (see e.g. [4] for a recent review on the subject).

On a *d*-torus T^d , with constant backgrounds provided by the tensor metric field G_{ab} and the Kalb-Ramond field B_{ab} , T-duality is described by $O(d,d;\mathbb{Z})$ transformations. By exchanging momentum and winding modes, it implies that the short distance behavior is governed by the long distance behavior in the dual torus \tilde{T}^d .

It has to be observed that, already at the classical level, the indefinite orthogonal group $O(d,d;\mathbb{R})$ naturally appears in the Hamiltonian description of the bosonic string with a world-sheet embedded into a *d*-dimensional target space *M* together with two peculiar structures, the *generalized metric* \mathcal{H} and the O(d,d) invariant metric η [5].

With * the Hodge operator with respect to h = diag(-1, 1), the usual Polyakov world-sheet action for a bosonic string reads as:

$$S[X;G,B] = \frac{T}{2} \int \left[G_{ab}(X)(*dX^a) \wedge dX^b + B_{ab}(X)dX^a \wedge dX^b \right]$$

with G a Riemannian metric on the target space and B a two-form. Varying S with respect to X^a yields the equation of motion:

$$d * dX^{a} + \Gamma^{a}_{bc} dX^{b} \wedge * dX^{c} = \frac{1}{2} G^{am} H_{mbc} dX^{b} \wedge dX^{c}$$

with H = dB and $\Gamma^a_{bc} = \frac{1}{2}G^{am}(\partial_b G_{mc} + \partial_c G_{mb} - \partial_m G_{bc})$ the coefficients of the Levi-Civita connection.

The dynamics of the theory is determined by the equations of motion for the coordinates X^a accompanied with the constraints (in the conformal gauge):

$$G_{ab}(\dot{X}^{a}\dot{X}^{b} + X^{\prime a}X^{\prime b}) = 0 \quad ; \quad G_{ab}\dot{X}^{a}X^{\prime b} = 0 \tag{1.1}$$

deriving from the vanishing of the energy-momentum tensor $T_{\alpha\beta} \equiv \frac{\delta S}{\delta h^{\alpha\beta}} = 0$, i.e. from the equation of motion for a general world-sheet metric *h*.

The Hamiltonian density *H* is given by a Legendre transformation with respect to the canonical momentum $P_a = \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{X}^a} = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \left(G_{ab} \dot{X}^b + B_{ab} X'^b \right)$ and \dot{X}^a , but results also from a Legendre transformation with respect to the canonical winding $W_a = \frac{\partial L}{\partial X'^a} = -\frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \left(G_{ab} X'^b + B_{ab} \dot{X}^b \right)$ and X'^a since the first constraint in eq. (1.1) implies $P_a \dot{X}^a = W_a X'^a$.

The Hamiltonian density $H = \frac{1}{4\pi \alpha'} G_{ab} (\dot{X}^a \dot{X}^b + X'^a X'^b)$ can be rewritten as:

$$H = \frac{1}{4\pi\alpha'} \begin{pmatrix} \partial_{\sigma}X\\ 2\pi\alpha'P \end{pmatrix}^{t} \mathscr{H}(G,B) \begin{pmatrix} \partial_{\sigma}X\\ 2\pi\alpha'P \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= \frac{1}{4\pi\alpha'} \begin{pmatrix} \partial_{\tau}X\\ -2\pi\alpha'W \end{pmatrix}^{t} \mathscr{H}(G,B) \begin{pmatrix} \partial_{\tau}X\\ -2\pi\alpha'W \end{pmatrix}$$

where the generalized metric is introduced:

$$\mathscr{H}(G,B) \equiv \begin{pmatrix} G - BG^{-1}B \ BG^{-1} \\ -G^{-1}B \ G^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

Generalized vectors A_P and A_W can be then defined in $TM \bigoplus T^*M$ as follows:

$$A_P(X) = \partial_{\sigma} X^a rac{\partial}{\partial x^a} + 2\pi lpha' P_a dx^a$$

 $A_W(X) = \partial_{\tau} X^a rac{\partial}{\partial x^a} - 2\pi lpha' W_a dx^a$

Hence, one can see that *H* results to be proportional to the squared length of the generalized vectors A_P and A_W as measured by the generalized metric \mathcal{H} .

In particular, in terms of A_P the constraints in eq. (1.1) respectively become:

$$A_P^t \mathscr{H} A_P = 0 \quad A_P^t \eta A_P = 0.$$

The first sets *H* to zero while the second completely determines the dynamics, rewritten in terms of the O(d,d) invariant metric: $\eta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. This group is defined by the $d \times d$ matrices \mathscr{T} satisfying the condition $\mathscr{T}^t \eta \mathscr{T} = \eta$. The generalized metric itself is an element of $O(d,d;\mathbb{R})$, since it satisfies: $\eta \mathscr{H} \eta = \mathscr{H}^{-1}$, i.e. $\mathscr{H}^t \eta \mathscr{H} = \eta$.

All the admissible generalized vectors satisfying the constraint $A_P^t \eta A_P = 0$ are related by an $O(d,d;\mathbb{R})$ transformation via $A'_P = \mathscr{T}A_P$. Then, for A'_P to solve the first constraint, a compensating transformation \mathscr{T}^{-1} has to be applied to \mathscr{H} ., i.e. $\mathscr{H}' = (\mathscr{T}^{-1})^t \mathscr{H}(\mathscr{T}^{-1})$.

 \mathscr{H} and its inverse \mathscr{H}^{-1} can be rewritten in products:

$$\mathscr{H}(G,B) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & B \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} G & 0 \\ 0 & G^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -B & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\mathscr{H}^{-1}(G,B) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ B & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} G^{-1} & 0 \\ 0 & G \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -B \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

This indeed shows that the background *B* can be created from the *G*-background through a transformation involving *B*, hence named *B*-transformation. Further examples of *B*-transformations will be introduced later when the Principal Chiral Model will be discussed.

In the case of compactification on the *d*-torus $T^d O(d,d;\mathbb{R}) \to O(d,d;\mathbb{Z})$.

On T^d , where G_{ab} and B_{ab} constant, with its isometries $U(1)^d$, the e.o.m.'s for the string coordinates are a set of conservation laws on the world-sheet [6]:

$$\partial_{\alpha}J^{\alpha}_{a} = 0$$
 with $J^{\alpha}_{a} = h^{\alpha\beta}G_{ab}\partial_{\beta}X^{b} + \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta}B_{ab}\partial_{\beta}X^{b}h \equiv \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta}\partial_{\beta}\tilde{X}_{a}$

Through the use of auxiliary fields, one gets the dual Polyakov action $\tilde{S}[\tilde{X}; \tilde{G}, \tilde{B}]$ on \tilde{T}^d written in terms of the dual string coordinates \tilde{X}_a and connected to S[X; G, B] by $X^a \to \tilde{X}_a$ and suitable transformations of $(G, B) \to (\tilde{G}, \tilde{B})$ through the so-called Büscher rules [7, 8]. More specifically, in terms of the coordinates \tilde{X}_a 's, one can introduce the action involving auxiliary fields U^a_{α} [6]:

$$S[U;G,B] = \int d^2 \sigma \left\{ \left[h^{\alpha\beta} U^a_{\alpha} U^b_{\beta} G_{ab} + \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} U^a_{\alpha} U^b_{\beta} B_{ab} \right] + \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} \partial_{\alpha} \tilde{X}_a U^a_{\beta} \right\}$$

Varying with respect to \tilde{X}_a gives $\varepsilon^{\alpha\beta}\partial_{\alpha}U^a_{\beta} = 0$, while the U^a_{α} equation of motion is:

$$h^{lphaeta}U^b_eta G_{ab}+arepsilon^{lphaeta}U^b_eta B_{ab}-arepsilon^{lphaeta}\partial_eta ilde X_a=0.$$

This can be used to solve for U_a^{α} yielding:

$$U^a_lpha = \left(oldsymbol{arepsilon}^{\ eta}_{lpha} ilde{G}^{ab}_{lpha} + \delta^eta_{lpha}^{\ eta} ilde{B}^{ab}_{\ eta}
ight) \partial_eta ilde{X}_b$$

$$\tilde{S}[\tilde{X};\tilde{G},\tilde{B}] = \frac{T}{2} \int \left[\tilde{G}_{ab} d\tilde{X}^a \wedge *d\tilde{X}^b + \tilde{B}_{ab}(X) d\tilde{X}^a \wedge d\tilde{X}^b \right]$$

being $\tilde{G} = (G - BG^{-1}B)^{-1}$ and $\tilde{B} = -G^{-1}B\tilde{G}$.

In this case one refers to *Abelian T-duality* for stressing the presence of global Abelian isometries in the target spaces of both the paired sigma models.

For closed strings, toroidal compactification on T^d implies the following periodicity conditions:

$$X^a(\boldsymbol{\sigma}, \tau) \equiv X^a(\boldsymbol{\sigma} + \pi, \tau) + 2\pi L^a \quad L^a = \sum_{i=1}^d w^i R_i e_i^a$$

with w^i being the winding numbers and e_i^a vector basis on T^d . In this case, $O(d,d;\mathbb{R})$ gets into $O(d,d;\mathbb{Z})$ and this constitutes the T-duality group of the toroidal compactification that provides a symmetry not only of the mass spectrum and the vacuum partition function but also of the scattering amplitudes.

It results very natural to require the string world-sheet sigma model to be, therefore, manifestly O(d,d) invariant (we will omit, in the following, the specification \mathbb{R} or \mathbb{Z}) [3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13]. Such formulation is based on a *doubling* of the string coordinates along the compact directions of the target space, i.e. on the introduction of both the usual coordinates X^a and their respective duals \tilde{X}_a . The equations of motion for the *doubled* coordinates $\mathbb{X}^A \equiv (X^a, \tilde{X}_a)$ ($A = 1, \ldots 2d$), ($a = 1, \ldots d$) can be combined into a single O(d, d)-invariant equation [3]:

$$\mathscr{H}\partial_{\alpha}\mathbb{X} = \eta \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}\partial^{\beta}\mathbb{X}$$

For $G_{ab} = \eta_{ab}$ and B = 0, these reproduce the well-known Hodge duality conditions: $\partial_{\alpha} X^{a} = \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} \partial^{\beta} \tilde{X}^{a}$.

After doubling the coordinates, i.e. putting the coordinates X^a and the dual ones \tilde{X}_a in the *generalized* vector \mathbb{X}^A above introduced, it is natural to replace the standard world-sheet action of string theory based on *G* and *B* by an action written in terms of η and \mathcal{H} and that could be manifestly invariant under Abelian T-duality.

The action proposed in ref. [11] fulfills this requirement and, for constant backgrounds, highlights the role of the generalized vector X and of the two metrics:

$$S = -\frac{T}{2} \int d\tau d\sigma \left[\partial_{\tau} \mathbb{X}^{A} \partial_{\sigma} \mathbb{X}^{B} \eta_{AB} - \partial_{\sigma} \mathbb{X}^{A} \partial_{\sigma} \mathbb{X}^{B} \mathscr{H}_{AB} \right]$$
(1.2)

This provides a manifestly T-duality O(d,d) symmetric formulation that may be considered as a natural generalization *at the string scale* of the usual Polyakov action that can be actually reproduced at compactification radius $R >> \alpha'$ while its dual can be obtained at $R << \alpha'$. The new action, therefore, embodies the core of T-duality on flat compact target spaces: the short distance behavior is governed by the long distance behavior in the dual space. One refers to it as the *doubled world-sheet action* [14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23]. From a manifestly T-dual invariant two-dimensional string world-sheet, Double Field Theory (DFT) [24] should emerge out as a low-energy limit. DFT developed as a way to encompass the Abelian T-duality in field theory with Generalized and Doubled Geometry underlying it [25, 26, 27].

The doubled world-sheet action in ref. (1.2) can be also understood in terms of *Born geometry* that is based on the concept of Born reciprocity principle [28]. Briefly, this latter states that the validity of Quantum Mechanics implies a fundamental symmetry between space and momentum that is broken by General Relativity because it is states that spacetime is curved, while energy-momentum space, i.e. the cotangent space, is linear and flat. The simple but radical idea proposed by Max Born, is that in order to unify Quantum Mechanics and General Relativity one should also allow the phase space, and thus momentum space, to carry curvature. The action in (1.2) is defined on the phase space with coordinates $\mathbb{X}^A \equiv (X^a, \tilde{X}_a)$ where the two metrics η and \mathscr{H}_{AB} have been introduced. When the corresponding sigma-model can be relaxed away from constant η and \mathscr{H}_{AB} , this means that not only will space-time become curved, but momentum space as well. This then will lead to an implementation of Born reciprocity.

Beyond the Abelian T-duality, one could ask if there are similar aspects in more general settings, for instance, when target space is curved or non-compact and what is the role played by the existence of group isometries. The answer to this question is provided by the introduction of two other kinds of T-dualities: non-Abelian T-duality and Poisson-Lie T-duality. Non-Abelian Tduality refers to the existence of a global Abelian isometry on the target space of one of the two sigma models and of a global non-Abelian isometry on the other [29, 2, 30]. In particular, in ref. [29], the authors gauged the non-Abelian isometries of the sigma-models and constrained the field strength F to vanish. The dual action was obtained by integrating out the gauge fields with the Lagrange multipliers becoming coordinates of the dual manifold. The resulting non-Abelian dual turned out to lack the isometry that would make it possible to perform the duality transformation back to the original model. But, even without isometries, this dual is still equivalent to an apparently different sigma-model. The notion of non-Abelian T-duality is still lacking some of the key features of its Abelian counterpart. The non-Abelian isometry group of the dual space was always smaller. A canonical procedure is still missing that would yield the original theory if one is given its non-Abelian dual. The Poisson-Lie T-duality [31, 32] generalizes the previous definition to all the other possible cases. The relevant algebraic structure for the existence of a non-Abelian T-duality and a Poisson-Lie T-duality is not necessarily the existence of the group of isometries of the background, but some other structure that shows up only in special cases as an isometry group. In particular, a category of models that reveal themselves to be very helpful in understanding the above mentioned T-dualities is provided by sigma models whose target configuration space is a Lie group G manifold. Particularly interesting among these models are the ones having as a target space a Lie group D whose Lie algebra \mathfrak{d} can be decomposed into a pair of maximally isotropic subalgebras with respect to a non-degenerate invariant bilinear form on \mathfrak{d} . Such a structure is the Drinfel'd double [33], in which the duality transformation simply exchanges the roles of the two groups forming the double. In this case it is said that the models are indeed dual in the sense of the Poisson-Lie T-Duality. We are going to analyze, from this perspective, the Principal Chiral Models (PCM) [34, 35] mostly without a Wess-Zumino term. Some final considerations will be made however also in the case of the presence of this latter [36]. In fact, the Wess-Zumino-Witten model is involved in several interesting applications of string theory. In particular, it can describe strings propagating on a Lie group manifold, which are especially relevant backgrounds since they are Ricci flat and also represent the appropriate setting to analyze T-duality generalizations. The WZW model on $SL(2,\mathbb{R})$ has been used to construct bosonic string theories on AdS_3 [37, 38, 39], or having PSU(1,1|2) as target space it describes superstring theories on $AdS_3 \times S^3$ geometries [40]. Another important application is provided by having a non semi-simple Lie group as target space, as the latter revealed to be particularly relevant as string backgrounds [41, 42, 43].

2. Principal Chiral Model

A Principal Chiral Model is defined by a sigma-model whose target space is a Lie group G. Studying this kind of models has led to abandoning the requirement of the existence of isometries for the target space as the condition for the existence of dual counterparts. Indeed, the relevant structure in this case reveals to be the one of Drinfel'd double for G together with the well-established notion of Poisson-Lie symmetries [44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53].

The Drinfel'd double of a Lie group G is defined as a Lie group D, with dimension twice the one of G, such that its Lie algebra \mathfrak{d} can be decomposed into a pair of maximally isotropic subalgebras, $\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}$ with respect to a non-degenerate invariant bilinear form on \mathfrak{d} , with $\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g}$ respectively the Lie algebra of G and its dual algebra. The dual algebra is endowed with a Lie bracket which has to be compatible with existing structures.

Any such triple, $(\mathfrak{d}, \mathfrak{g}, \tilde{\mathfrak{g}})$, is referred to as a Manin triple. By exponentiation of $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}}$ one gets the dual Lie group \tilde{G} such that locally $D \simeq G \times \tilde{G}$. The simplest example is provided by the cotangent bundle of any *d*-dimensional Lie group $G, T^*G \simeq G \ltimes \mathbb{R}^d$ which can be named *the classical double*, with trivial Lie bracket for the dual algebra $\tilde{\mathfrak{g}} \simeq \mathbb{R}^d$. For every decomposition of the Drinfel'd double D into dually related subgroups G, \tilde{G} , it is possible to define a couple of PCM's having as target configuration space either of the two subgroups. Every PCM has its dual counterpart for which the role of G and its dual \tilde{G} is interchanged : $G \leftrightarrow \tilde{G}$. The set of all decompositions $(\mathfrak{d}, \mathfrak{g}, \tilde{\mathfrak{g}})$, plays the role of the modular space of sigma models mutually connected by an O(d, d) transformation which turns to play the role of a duality transformation. The standard Abelian T-

duality refers to the presence of Abelian isometries $U(1)^d$ in both the dual sigma models and they can be composed into $U(1)^{2d}$, the simplest example of a Drinfel'd double and its modular space is in one-to-one correspondence with O(d,d) [32].

2.1 SU(2) Principal Chiral Model

Let us consider, in particular, an SU(2) Principal Chiral Model, that is to say a sigma model with target space SU(2) and source space $\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$ endowed with the metric $h_{\alpha\beta} = \text{diag}(1,-1)$.

It can be shown that the target phase space of the SU(2) PCM can actually be replaced by the Drinfel'd double of SU(2), namely the group $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$, without modifying the dynamics [54, 55].

This observation makes such model very interesting, since it allows to discuss Poisson-Lie T-duality in a framework in which it is a true symmetry of the undeformed dynamics.

2.2 Lagrangian formalism

In the Lagrangian approach the action may be written in terms of fields $\phi : (t, \sigma) \in \mathbb{R}^{1,1} \to g \in SU(2)$ and Lie algebra valued left-invariant one-forms with pull-back to $\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$ given by

$$\phi^*(g^{-1}\mathrm{d}g) = (g^{-1}\partial_t g)\,\mathrm{d}t + (g^{-1}\partial_\sigma g)\,\mathrm{d}\sigma \tag{2.1}$$

so to have:

$$S = \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \operatorname{Tr} \left[\phi^*(g^{-1} \mathrm{d}g) \wedge * \phi^*(g^{-1} \mathrm{d}g) \right]$$
(2.2)

where trace is understood as the Cartan-Killing scalar product in the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{su}(2)$, and the Hodge star operator acting as $*dt = d\sigma, *d\sigma = dt^{-1}$, yielding:

$$S = \frac{1}{4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} dt d\sigma \operatorname{Tr} \left[\{ (g^{-1} \partial_t g)^2 - (g^{-1} \partial_\sigma g)^2 \right]$$
(2.3)

A remarkable property of the model is that its Euler-Lagrange equations

$$\partial_t (g^{-1} \partial_t g) - \partial_\sigma (g^{-1} \partial_\sigma g) = 0 \tag{2.4}$$

may be rewritten in terms of an equivalent system of two first order partial differential equations, introducing the so called *currents*, as it is customary in the framework of integrable systems:

$$A^{i} = \operatorname{Tr}(g^{-1}\partial_{t}g)e_{i}, \quad J^{i} = \operatorname{Tr}(g^{-1}\partial_{\sigma}g)e_{i}, \tag{2.5}$$

namely, $g^{-1}\partial_t g = 2A^i e_i$, $g^{-1}\partial_\sigma g = 2J^i e_i$, with Tr $(e_i e_j) = \frac{1}{2}\delta_{ij}$. The Lagrangian becomes:

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\sigma (A^i \delta_{ij} A^j - J^i \delta_{ij} J^j)$$
(2.6)

with

$$\partial_t A = \partial_\sigma J,$$
 (2.7)

$$\partial_t J = \partial_\sigma A - [A, J]. \tag{2.8}$$

¹We adopt the the convention $\varepsilon_{01} = 1$.

The existence of a $g \in SU(2)$ that admits the expression of the currents in the form of eq. (2.5) is guaranteed by eq. (2.8), that can be read as an integrability condition. Moreover, if the usual boundary condition for a physical field is imposed:

$$\lim_{\sigma \to \pm \infty} g(\sigma) = 1, \tag{2.9}$$

one has that g is uniquely determined from eq. (2.5)

At fixed *t*, all *g*'s satisfying this boundary condition form an infinite dimensional Lie group $SU(2)(\mathbb{R}) \equiv \operatorname{Map}(\mathbb{R}, SU(2))$, given by smooth maps $g : \sigma \in \mathbb{R} \to g(\sigma) \in SU(2)$ which are constant at infinity. Furthermore, the currents *J* and *A* take values in the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{su}(2)(\mathbb{R})$ of the group $SU(2)(\mathbb{R})$ defined as the algebra of functions from \mathbb{R} to \mathfrak{g} that are sufficiently fast decreasing at infinity to be square-integrable. This definition generalizes the one of loop algebra $\mathfrak{g}(S^1)$ and, when \mathfrak{g} is a semi-simple Lie algebra, the one of Kac-Moody algebra.

The carrier space of the dynamics of our system can be regarded as the tangent bundle of $SU(2)(\mathbb{R})$. Therefore, the tangent bundle description of the dynamics is given in terms of (J,A) with A being left generalized velocities and J left configuration space coordinates.

The infinitesimal generators of the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{su}(2)(\mathbb{R})$ can be obtained by considering the vector fields which generate the finite-dimensional Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} and replacing ordinary derivatives with functional derivatives

$$X_i({oldsymbol \sigma}) = X_i^a({oldsymbol \sigma}) rac{{oldsymbol \delta}}{{oldsymbol \delta} g^a({oldsymbol \sigma})}.$$

The following Lie bracket holds:

$$[X_i(\sigma), X_j(\sigma')] = c_{ij}^{\ k} X_k(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma')$$

where $\sigma, \sigma' \in \mathbb{R}$. This Lie bracket is $C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ -linear and $\mathfrak{su}(2)(\mathbb{R}) \simeq \mathfrak{su}(2) \otimes C^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$. The real line \mathbb{R} can be replaced by any smooth manifold M and the Lie algebras $\mathfrak{su}(2)(M) = \operatorname{Map}(M, \mathfrak{su}(2))$ are the so called *current algebras*.

2.3 Hamiltonian Formalism

The target phase space is naturally given by $T^*SU(2)$. Topologically it is the manifold $S^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$. As a group, $T^*SU(2) \simeq SU(2) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^3$, that provides a simple example of Drinfel'd double. As a Poisson manifold, it is symplectomorphic to the group SL(2,C). $T^*SU(2)$ and $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$ are both Drinfel'd doubles of the group SU(2) with the former named *classical double*. Let us introduce the conjugate variables (J^i, I_i) with J configuration space coordinates and I left generalized momenta:

$$I_i = \frac{\delta L}{\delta \ (g^{-1}\partial_t g)^i} = \delta_{ij} (g^{-1}\partial_t g)^j = \delta_{ij} A^j \ .$$

The Hamiltonian of the system is given by:

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\sigma (I_i I_j \delta^{ij} + J^i J^j \delta_{ij}) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\sigma \ I_I \ (\mathscr{H}_0^{-1})^{IJ} \ I_J$$
(2.10)

with $I_I = (I_i, J^i)$ components of the current one-form on $T^*SU(2)$ and

$$\left(\mathscr{H}_{0}^{-1}\right)^{IJ} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta^{ij} & 0\\ 0 & \delta_{ij} \end{pmatrix}$$
(2.11)

is a Riemannian metric on $T^*SU(2)$.

The Hamiltonian description of the Principal Chiral Model on SU(2) naturally involves the Riemannian generalized metric \mathscr{H}_0^{-1} on the cotangent bundle [56, 57].

The first-order Lagrangian, together with the canonical one-form and the symplectic form, allows to determine the equal-time Poisson brackets [56, 57]:

$$\{I_i(\sigma), I_j(\sigma')\} = \varepsilon_{ij}{}^k I_k(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma') \{I_i(\sigma), J^j(\sigma')\} = \varepsilon_{ki}{}^j J^k(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma') - \delta_i^j \delta'(\sigma - \sigma') \{J^i(\sigma), J^j(\sigma')\} = 0$$
 (2.12)

The *I*'s are generators of the affine Lie algebra $\mathfrak{su}(2)(\mathbb{R})$, while the *J*'s span an Abelian algebra $\mathfrak{a}(\mathbb{R})$. *I* and *J* span the infinite-dimensional current algebra $\mathfrak{c}_1 = \mathfrak{su}(2)(\mathbb{R}) \ltimes \mathfrak{a}(\mathbb{R})$. Their corresponding equations of motion are given by:

$$\partial_t I_j(\sigma) = \{H, I_j(\sigma)\} = \partial_\sigma J^k \delta_{kj}(\sigma)$$
(2.13)

$$\partial_t J^j(\sigma) = \{H, J^j(\sigma)\} = \partial_\sigma I_k \delta^{kj}(\sigma) - \varepsilon^{jl}{}_k I_l J^k(\sigma).$$
(2.14)

It is possible to give an equivalent description of the dynamics in terms of a new one-parameter family of Poisson algebras and modified Hamiltonians, with the currents playing a symmetric role [54, 55]. In particular, it is possible to deform the Poisson brackets in eq. (2.12) by introducing a purely imaginary parameter τ as follows:

$$\begin{split} &\{I_i(\sigma), I_j(\sigma')\} = (1 - \tau^2) \varepsilon_{ij}{}^k I_k(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma') \\ &\{I_i(\sigma), J^j(\sigma')\} = (1 - \tau^2) \left(J^k(\sigma) \varepsilon_{ki}{}^j \delta(\sigma - \sigma') - (1 - \tau^2)^2 \delta_i^j \delta'(\sigma - \sigma') \right) \\ &\{J^i(\sigma), J^j(\sigma')\} = (1 - \tau^2) \tau^2 \varepsilon^{ij}{}_k I_k(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma'). \end{split}$$

The factor $(1 - \tau^2)$ is never zero for imaginary τ .

The new brackets correspond to the infinite-dimensional Lie algebra $\mathfrak{c}_2 \simeq \mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$ isomorphic to the current algebra modelled on the Lorentz algebra $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})$.

The modified Hamiltonian is correspondingly:

$$H_{\tau} = \frac{1}{2(1-\tau^2)^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\sigma \ (I_i I_j \delta^{ij} + J^i J^j \delta_{ij})$$

while the equations of motion remain unmodified. Hence, one gets an alternative description of one and the same dynamics even considering deformed algebras of $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$.

The new equations of motion read then as:

$$\partial_t I_j(\sigma) = \{H_\tau, I_j(\sigma)\} = \partial_\sigma J^k \delta_{kj}$$
(2.15)

$$\partial_t J^j(\sigma) = \{H_\tau, J^j(\sigma)\} = \partial_\sigma I_k \delta^{kj} - \varepsilon^{jl}{}_k I_l J^k.$$
(2.16)

which coincide with eqs. (2.14), (2.14).

The fields I_i and J^i can be rescaled according to:

$$rac{I_i}{1- au^2}
ightarrow I_i \;\; ; \;\; rac{J^i}{1- au^2}
ightarrow J^i.$$

The rescaled Hamiltonian H_{τ} becomes identical to the undeformed one H, while the Poisson algebra acquires the form:

$$\begin{split} &\{I_i(\sigma), I_j(\sigma')\} = \varepsilon_{ij}{}^k I_k(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma'), \\ &\{I_i(\sigma), J^j(\sigma')\} = J^k(\sigma) \varepsilon_{ki}{}^j \delta(\sigma - \sigma') - \delta_i^j \delta'(\sigma - \sigma'), \\ &\{J^i(\sigma), J^j(\sigma')\} = \tau^2 \varepsilon^{ijk} I_k(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma'). \end{split}$$

New generators can be introduced at this point with the aim of showing the bi-algebra structure of $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$. Keeping the generators of $\mathfrak{su}(2)(\mathbb{R})$ unmodified, one can consider the linear combination:

$$K^{i}(\sigma) = J^{i}(\sigma) - i\tau \varepsilon^{\ell i 3} I_{\ell}(\sigma).$$

From the deformed Poisson brackets it is possible to derive the ones of the new generators:

$$\{K^{i}(\sigma), K^{j}(\sigma')\} = i\tau f^{ij}_{k}K^{k}(\sigma')\,\delta(\sigma - \sigma')$$

showing that *K*'s span the $\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$ Lie algebra, with structure constants $f^{ij}_{\ k} = \varepsilon^{ij\ell} \varepsilon_{\ell 3k}$, while for the mixed Poisson brackets one finds:

$$\{I_i(\sigma), K^j(\sigma')\} = \left(K^k(\sigma')\varepsilon_{ki}^{j} - i\tau I_k(\sigma')f^{kj}_{i}\right)\delta(\sigma - \sigma') - \delta_i^j\delta'(\sigma - \sigma').$$

We refer to $\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})$ as the Lie algebra of $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$, the Borelian subgroup of $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$ of complex 2×2 upper triangular matrices with unit determinant and real diagonal. In this way, the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{c}_2 \equiv \mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$ has been expressed as a Drinfel'd double algebra $\mathfrak{c}_2 = \mathfrak{su}(2)(\mathbb{R}) \bowtie \mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$, in the sense of a Manin triple decomposition.

On rewriting the alternative Hamiltonian in eq. (2.15) in terms of the new generators, the SU(2) chiral model is completely described by the one-parameter family of Hamiltonian functions

$$H_{\tau} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\sigma \, \left[I_{s} I_{\ell} \left(\delta_{i}^{s} \delta_{j}^{\ell} - \tau^{2} \varepsilon^{s}{}_{i3} \varepsilon^{\ell}{}_{j3} \right) \delta^{ij} + K^{i} K^{j} \delta_{ij} + 2i \tau \varepsilon^{s\ell 3} I_{s} K^{q} \delta_{\ell q} \right]$$
(2.17)

with Poisson brackets given by:

$$\{I_i(\sigma), I_j(\sigma')\} = \varepsilon_{ij}{}^k I_k(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma')$$
(2.18)

$$\{K^{i}(\sigma), K^{j}(\sigma')\} = i\tau f^{ij}_{k}K^{k}(\sigma')\delta(\sigma - \sigma')$$
(2.19)

$$\{I_i(\sigma), K^j(\sigma')\} = \left(K^k(\sigma')\varepsilon_{ki}{}^j + i\tau f^{jk}{}_i I_k(\sigma')\right)\delta(\sigma - \sigma') - \delta^j_i\delta'(\sigma - \sigma')$$
(2.20)

yielding the interesting result that the Principal Chiral Model with compact target space may be described in terms of a non-compact current algebra. This result can be traced back to the fact that the cotangent bundle of the group SU(2) is symplectomorphic to the group $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$.

3. Drinfel'd Doubles and Manin triples

As a group $T^*SU(2)$ is the semi-direct product $SU(2) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^3$ with Lie algebra $\mathfrak{su}(2) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^3$ and Lie brackets given by:

$$[L_i, L_j] = \varepsilon_{ij}^k L_k \qquad [T_i, T_j] = 0 \qquad [L_i, T_j] = \varepsilon_{ij}^k T_k .$$

Here $L_i, T_i, i = 1, 2, 3$ generate respectively the algebra $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ and \mathbb{R}^3 .

According to ref.s [54, 58, 59] the carrier space of the dynamics can be generalized to $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$, the Drinfel'd double of SU(2), which, roughly speaking, can be obtained by deforming the Abelian subgroup \mathbb{R}^3 of the semi-direct product above.

Let us give the definition of $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$ as a Drinfel'd double by starting from the properties of its Lie algebra.

The Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})$ is defined by the Lie brackets:

$$[e_i, e_j] = i\varepsilon_{ij}^k e_k ; \quad [e_i, b_j] = i\varepsilon_{ij}^k b_k ; \quad [b_i, b_j] = -i\varepsilon_{ij}^k e_k.$$

with

$$e_i = \frac{\sigma_i}{2}$$
 generators of $\mathfrak{su}(2)$
 $b_i = ie_i$ $i = 1, 2, 3$

It is equipped with two non-degenerate invariant scalar products:

$$\langle u, v \rangle = 2 \operatorname{Im}(\operatorname{Tr}(uv)) \quad \forall u, v \in \mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$$
 (3.1)

$$(u,v) = 2\operatorname{Re}(\operatorname{Tr}(uv)) \quad \forall u, v \in \mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C}).$$
(3.2)

The scalar product $\langle u, v \rangle$ defines two maximally isotropic subalgebras of $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})$

$$[e_i, e_j] = i\varepsilon_{ij}{}^k e_k, \quad [\tilde{e}^i, e_j] = i\varepsilon_{jk}{}^i \tilde{e}^k + ie_k f^{ki}{}_j, \quad [\tilde{e}^i, \tilde{e}^j] = if^{ij}{}_k \tilde{e}^k \tag{3.3}$$

spanned by $\{e_i\}$ and by the linear combination $\tilde{e}^i = b_i - \varepsilon_{ij3}e_j$ corresponding, respectively, to $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ and $\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})$ which are maximally isotropic with respect to the scalar product $\langle u, v \rangle$ since:

$$\langle e_i, e_j \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \tilde{e}^i, \tilde{e}^j \rangle = 0, \quad \langle e_i, \tilde{e}^j \rangle = \delta^j_i$$

Each subalgebra acts on the other one non-trivially by co-adjoint action according to the algebra in (3.3).

Furthermore, the Lie bracket

$$[\tilde{e}^i, e_j] = i\varepsilon^i{}_{jk}\tilde{e}^k + if^{ki}{}_j e_k$$

puts in evidence that $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$ is the Drinfel'd double of SU(2) and $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$ with polarization $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C}) = \mathfrak{su}(2) \bowtie \mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})$ and therefore $(\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C}),\mathfrak{su}(2),\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C}))$ is a Manin triple. Hence, SU(2) and $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$ are dual groups.

The following *doubled* notation can be introduced:

$$e_I = egin{pmatrix} e_i \ ilde{e}^i \end{pmatrix}, \qquad e_i \in \mathfrak{su}(2), \quad ilde{e}^i \in \mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C}) \;.$$

The scalar product (3.1) then gives:

$$(e_I, e_J) = \eta_{IJ} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \delta_i^j \\ \delta_j^i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

which is O(3,3) invariant by construction.

Instead, the scalar product (3.2) yields:

$$(e_I, e_J) = \left(egin{array}{cc} \delta_{ij} & arepsilon_{ip3} \delta^{pj} \ \delta^{ip} arepsilon_{jp3} & \delta^{ij} - arepsilon^{ik3} \delta_{kl} arepsilon^{jl3} \end{array}
ight) \;.$$

The splitting $\mathfrak{d} = C_+ \oplus C_-$ with C_+, C_- spanned by $\{e_i\}, \{b_i\}$ respectively, defines a positive definite metric \mathscr{H} on \mathfrak{d} via:

$$\mathscr{H} = (\ ,\)_{C_{+}} - (\ ,\)_{C_{-}} \tag{3.4}$$

satisfying

$$\mathscr{H}^T \eta \mathscr{H} = \eta$$

namely \mathscr{H} is a pseudo-orthogonal O(3,3) metric and η is the O(3,3) invariant metric.

It is worth to observe here that in this framework the two structures \mathcal{H} and η , that play the same role as the generalized metric and the O(d,d) invariant metric in the T-dual invariant formulation of string theory, naturally emerge out.

4. Family of models τ -dependent

Rewriting H_{τ} in eq. (2.17) in terms of $I_J = (I_j, K^j)$ shows that there exists a whole family of models, described by the Hamiltonians labelled by the parameter τ

$$H_{\tau} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\sigma I_L(\mathscr{H}_{\tau}^{-1})^{LM} I_M$$

with \mathscr{H}_{τ}^{-1} being the *Riemannian generalized metric*

$$\mathscr{H}_{\tau}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} h^{ij}(\tau) & i\tau\varepsilon^{ip3}\delta_{pj} \\ i\tau\delta_{ip}\varepsilon^{jp3} & \delta_{ij} \end{pmatrix}$$
(4.1)

where:

$$h^{ij}(\tau) = \delta^{ij} - \tau^2 \varepsilon^{ia3} \delta_{ab} \varepsilon^{jb3}$$
 .

They are related (and indeed equivalent) to the standard SU(2) chiral model by the O(3,3) transformation $K^i(\sigma) = J^i(\sigma) - i\tau \varepsilon^{li3} I_l(\sigma)$, symmetry of the dynamics because it maps solutions into solutions.

It is worth to observe how naturally the two structures η and \mathcal{H} naturally appear in this context just as they naturally appear in a T-dual invariant formulation of the string world-sheet.

5. Born Geometry and *B*-transformations

Eq. (2.10) shows that the original undeformed Hamiltonian *H* naturally involves $(\mathscr{H}_0^{-1})^{IJ}$, a Riemannian metric on $T^*SU(2)$. Such metric can be interpreted as one of the structures defining a left-invariant Born geometry on $T^*SU(2)$. In this case the transformation defining a Born geometry acts as an O(3,3) transformation of the target phase $T^*SU(2)$.

 $T^*SU(2)$ is a Drinfel'd double with Lie algebra $\mathfrak{su}(2) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^3$. Such Lie algebra has a natural (symmetric, non-degenerate) pairing $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ such that $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ and \mathbb{R}^3 are maximally isotropic subspaces with respect to it. Moreover, $\mathfrak{su}(2) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^3$ can be seen as a split vector space $\mathfrak{su}(2) \oplus \mathbb{R}^3$, thus it can be naturally endowed with a para-complex structure κ , i.e. $\kappa \in \operatorname{End}(\mathfrak{su}(2) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^3)$ such that $\kappa^2 = 1$ with $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ eigenspace of κ associated with the eigenvalue +1 and \mathbb{R}^3 eigenspace associated with the eigenvalue -1. The structures $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ and κ satisfy a compatibility condition which defines a two-form ω on $\mathfrak{su}(2) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^3$.

The defining relations for the Born structure $(\eta, \kappa, \mathscr{H}_0)$ on $T^*SU(2)$ are given by:

$$\eta^{-1}\mathscr{H}_0 = \mathscr{H}_0^{-1}\eta$$
 $\omega^{-1}\mathscr{H}_0 = -\mathscr{H}_0^{-1}\omega.$

This is the canonical Born geometry induced by the Drinfel'd double structure [60, 61].

The deformed Hamiltonian H_{τ} in eq. (4.1) also gives a Riemannian metric on $T^*SU(2)$ and is a *B*-transformation of the metric \mathscr{H}_0 .

Let us introduce the τ -dependent *B*-transformation

$$e^{B(\tau)} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & i\tau B \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in O(3,3)$$

with components of the tensor *B* given by $B^{ij} = \varepsilon^{ij3}$

 \mathscr{H}_{τ} is then obtained by the *B*-transformation acting on \mathscr{H}_{0} :

$$\mathscr{H}_{\tau} = \left(e^{-B(\tau)}
ight)^t \mathscr{H}_0 e^{B(\tau)}$$

i.e. it has components:

$$(\mathscr{H}_{\tau})_{IJ} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{ij} & i\tau\delta_{ip}\varepsilon^{jp3} \\ i\tau\varepsilon^{ip3}\delta_{pj} & \delta^{ij} - \tau^{2}\varepsilon^{is3}\delta_{sl}\varepsilon^{jl3.} \end{pmatrix}$$
(5.1)

Furthermore, the left-invariant para-Hermitian structure (η, κ) is transformed under $e^{B(\tau)}$. In particular, the only structure which changes under such transformation is the para-complex structure κ , i.e.

$$\kappa_{\tau} = e^{B(\tau)} \kappa e^{-B(\tau)} \tag{5.2}$$

with κ_{τ} still compatible with η , so that the fundamental two-form becomes $\omega_{\tau} = \eta \kappa_{\tau}$. In matrix form, the new almost para-Hermitian structure reads as:

$$\kappa_{\tau} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2i\tau B \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \eta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \omega_{\tau} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2i\tau\eta B \end{pmatrix}$$

where $\eta B \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 T^* \mathbb{R}^3)$.

The family of equivalent Hamiltonian descriptions of the SU(2) PCM can be understood in terms of a one-parameter family of Born geometries for $T^*SU(2)$, corresponding, for each choice of the parameter τ , to a specific splitting of the phase space, with the value $\tau = 0$ the canonical splitting.

6. Poisson-Lie symmetry: Definition

A coordinate transformation associated to a Lie group \mathscr{G} is a *symmetry* of the dynamics if it leaves the equations of motion unchanged in form. If it is also a symmetry for the auxiliary geometric structures which are relevant to the chosen formulation (symplectic form, Poisson brackets and Hamiltonian in the Hamiltonian approach, functional action and Lagrangian in the Lagrangian approach), namely an *isometry*, then the symmetry yields constants of motion, which are associated to conserved Nöther currents.

If a given symmetry of the dynamics under the Lie group \mathscr{G} is not a symmetry for the auxiliary geometric structures, that is not an isometry, but the violation is governed by the Maurer-Cartan structure equation of the Drinfel'd double associated to \mathscr{G} , the symmetry of the dynamics is a Poisson-Lie symmetry [62].

The PCM described by

$$H_{\tau} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\sigma \left[I_s I_l (\mathscr{H}_{\tau}^{-1})^{sl} + K^s K^l (\mathscr{H}_{\tau}^{-1})_{sl} + K^s I_l (\mathscr{H}_{\tau}^{-1})_s^l + I_s K^l (\mathscr{H}_{\tau}^{-1})^s_l \right] ,$$

together with the Poisson algebra

$$\{I_i(\sigma), I_j(\sigma')\} = \varepsilon_{ij}{}^k I_k(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma')$$
(6.1)

$$\{K^{i}(\sigma), K^{j}(\sigma')\} = i\tau f^{ij}_{\ k}K^{k}(\sigma')\delta(\sigma - \sigma')$$
(6.2)

$$\{I_i(\sigma), K^j(\sigma')\} = \left(K^k(\sigma')\varepsilon_{ki}{}^j + i\tau f^{jk}{}_iI_k(\sigma')\right)\delta(\sigma - \sigma') - \delta^j_i\delta'(\sigma - \sigma')$$
(6.3)

is a Poisson-Lie sigma-model. The Hamiltonian vector fields $X_{K^i} \cdot := \{\cdot, K^i\}$ associated to the coordinates functions K^i for $T^*SU(2)$ close a non-Abelian algebra according to the following:

$$[X_{K^{i}}, X_{K^{j}}] = X_{\{K^{i}, K^{j}\}} = i\tau f_{k}^{ij} X_{K^{k}}$$

from which one can see that, because of the non-trivial Poisson bracket in eq. (6.2), the structure constants of the dual Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})$ appear and in the limit $\tau \to 0$ the Abelian structure of the starting model over $T^*SU(2)$ is recovered.

A dual formulation of this property can be given in terms of the Hamiltonian vector fields associated with the currents I_i , say X_i , that can be seen to close the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{su}(2)$. Hence, they can be regarded as one-forms over the dual Lie algebra, which has become non-Abelian. We have then:

$$dX_i(\tilde{X}^j, \tilde{X}^k) = -X_i([\tilde{X}^j, \tilde{X}^k]) = -f_i^{\ jk}$$
(6.4)

reproducing, in this way, the commonly used definition of Poisson-Lie structure.

6.1 Poisson-Lie dual models

From the Hamiltonian formulation of the SU(2) chiral model it has been seen that it is possible to describe the dynamics in terms of the centrally extended current algebra $c_2 = \mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$. Therefore one can look for a model whose target space is the dual group of SU(2).

At this aim, let us consider the Poisson algebra c_2 (with central extension), represented by Eqs. (6.1), (6.2) and (6.3) and let us introduce another imaginary parameter α in such a way to make the

role of the subalgebras $\mathfrak{su}(2)(\mathbb{R})$ and $\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$ symmetric:

$$\{I_{i}(\sigma), I_{j}(\sigma')\} = i\alpha \, \varepsilon_{ij}{}^{k} I_{k}(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma') \{K^{i}(\sigma), K^{j}(\sigma')\} = i\tau f^{ij}{}_{k} K^{k}(\sigma') \delta(\sigma - \sigma') \{I_{i}(\sigma), K^{j}(\sigma')\} = \left(i\alpha K^{k}(\sigma') \varepsilon_{ki}{}^{j} + i\tau f^{jk}{}_{i} I_{k}(\sigma')\right) \delta(\sigma - \sigma') - \delta_{i}{}^{j} \delta'(\sigma - \sigma')$$

$$(6.5)$$

In the limit $i\tau \to 0$, the semi-direct sum $\mathfrak{su}(2)(\mathbb{R}) \ltimes \mathfrak{a}$ is reproduced, while the limit $i\alpha \to 0$ yields $\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R}) \ltimes \mathfrak{a}$. For all non zero values of the two parameters, the algebra is isomorphic to \mathfrak{c}_2 , and, by suitably rescaling the fields, one gets a two-parameter family of models, all equivalent to the Principal Chiral Model.

Since the role of *I* and *K* is now symmetric, one can perform an O(3,3) transformation which exchanges the momenta I_i with the fields K^i , thus obtaining a new two-parameter family of models, *dual* to the PCM. The O(3,3) transformation

$$\tilde{K}(\sigma) = I(\sigma), \quad \tilde{I}(\sigma) = K(\sigma)$$

yields the new Hamiltonian:

with

$$\widetilde{H}_{\tau} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} d\sigma \, \widetilde{I}_{I} \, (\widetilde{\mathscr{H}}_{\tau}^{-1})^{IJ} \, \widetilde{I}_{J}, \\
\widetilde{\mathscr{H}}_{\tau} = \begin{pmatrix} h^{ij}(\tau) & i\tau \varepsilon^{il3} \delta_{lj} \\ i\tau \delta_{i} \varepsilon^{jl3} & \delta_{ij} \end{pmatrix}$$
(6.6)

and $\tilde{I}_J = (\tilde{I}^j, \tilde{K}_j)$ and with Poisson algebra:

$$\begin{split} \{\tilde{K}_{i}(\sigma),\tilde{K}_{j}(\sigma')\} &= i\alpha \,\varepsilon_{ij}{}^{k}\tilde{K}_{k}(\sigma)\delta(\sigma-\sigma')\\ \{\tilde{I}^{i}(\sigma),\tilde{I}^{j}(\sigma')\} &= i\tau f^{ij}{}_{k}\tilde{I}^{k}(\sigma')\delta(\sigma-\sigma')\\ \{\tilde{K}_{i}(\sigma),\tilde{I}^{j}(\sigma')\} &= \left(i\alpha\tilde{I}^{k}(\sigma')\varepsilon_{ki}{}^{j} + i\tau f^{jk}{}_{i}\tilde{K}_{k}(\sigma')\right)\delta(\sigma-\sigma') - \delta^{j}_{i}\delta'(\sigma-\sigma') \;. \end{split}$$

The metric is Riemannian, with determinant equal to 1 and such that

$$\tilde{\mathscr{H}}_{\tau}^{T}\eta\tilde{\mathscr{H}}_{\tau}=\eta.$$

The Poisson algebra implies that the new family of models, *Dual Principal Chiral Models*, have as target configuration space the group manifold of $SB(2, \mathbb{C})$, spanned by the fields \tilde{K}_i , and momenta \tilde{I}^i which span the fibers of the target phase space. The DPCM are Poisson-Lie sigma models. Moreover, the two families are dual to each other by construction.

It is natural, within the Lagrangian approach, to introduce the fields $\tilde{g}: (t, \sigma) \to SB(2, \mathbb{C})$ and one-forms valued in the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sb}(2, \mathbb{C})$, in terms of which a natural Lagrangian can be defined on the Lie-Poisson dual to SU(2). The Hamiltonian will then be obtained by Legendre transform, together with a Poisson algebra which will result to be isomorphic to $\mathfrak{c}_3 = \mathfrak{sb}(2, \mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R}) \ltimes \mathfrak{a}$. This new Hamiltonian will be related to the two-parameter family of dual models introduced above, through a *B*-transformation.

The details of this procedure are reported in ref. [34]. In the following the main results are summarized.

The action of the proposed model is a straightforward extension of the one in eq. (2.2) to fields $\tilde{\phi} : (t, \sigma) \in \mathbb{R}^{1,1} \to \tilde{g} \in SB(2, \mathbb{C})$, with Lie algebra valued left-invariant one-forms $\tilde{g}^{-1}d\tilde{g}$ whose pull-back to $\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$ is given by:

$$\tilde{\phi}^*(\tilde{g}^{-1}\mathrm{d}\tilde{g}) = (\tilde{g}^{-1}\partial_t\tilde{g})_i\tilde{e}^i\,\mathrm{d}t + (\tilde{g}^{-1}\partial_\sigma\tilde{g})_i\tilde{e}^i\,\mathrm{d}\sigma.$$
(6.7)

We have then:

$$\tilde{S} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{1,1}} \mathscr{T}r\left[\phi^*(\tilde{g}^{-1}d\tilde{g}) \wedge *\phi^*(\tilde{g}^{-1}d\tilde{g})\right],\tag{6.8}$$

where $\mathscr{T}r$ stands for the non-degenerate product in the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})$, given by eq. (3.4). It can be rewritten as:

$$\tilde{S} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{1,1}} dt d\sigma \left[(\tilde{g}^{-1} \partial_t \tilde{g})_i (\tilde{g}^{-1} \partial_t \tilde{g})_j - (\tilde{g}^{-1} \partial_\sigma g)_i (\tilde{g}^{-1} \partial_\sigma g)_j \right] h^{ij}.$$
(6.9)

The action functional is invariant under left $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$ action. The Euler-Lagrange equations

$$h^{ij}\left(\partial_t(\tilde{g}^{-1}\partial_t\tilde{g})_j - \partial_\sigma(\tilde{g}^{-1}\partial_\sigma\tilde{g})_j\right) = \mathsf{L}_{\tilde{X}^i}\tilde{L}$$

$$(6.10)$$

with $\tilde{X}^i(\sigma)$ the left-invariant vector fields over the group manifold and \tilde{L} the Lagrangian, may be rewritten in terms of an equivalent system of two first order partial differential equations, introducing, as for the SU(2) PCM, the currents²:

$$\tilde{A}_i = (\tilde{g}^{-1}\partial_t \tilde{g})_i, \quad \tilde{J}_i = (\tilde{g}^{-1}\partial_\sigma \tilde{g})_i.$$
(6.11)

The Lagrangian becomes then:

$$\tilde{L} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\sigma(\tilde{A}_i h^{ij} \tilde{A}_j - \tilde{J}_i h^{ij} \tilde{J}_k)$$
(6.12)

and the equations of motion read:

$$h^{ij}(\partial_t \tilde{A}_j - \partial_\sigma \tilde{J}_j) = f^{si}{}_l h^{lj}(\tilde{A}_s \tilde{A}_j - \tilde{J}_s \tilde{J}_j), \qquad (6.13)$$

$$\partial_t \tilde{J} = \partial_\sigma \tilde{A} - [\tilde{A}, \tilde{J}], \tag{6.14}$$

being the latter a condition for the existence of $\tilde{g} \in SB(2,\mathbb{C})$ that admits the expression of the currents in the form given by eq. (6.11). At fixed *t*, all elements \tilde{g} satisfying the boundary condition $\lim_{\sigma \to \pm \infty} \tilde{g}(\sigma) = 1$ form the infinite-dimensional Lie group $SB(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R}) \equiv \operatorname{Map}(\mathbb{R}, SB(2,\mathbb{C}))$, given by smooth maps $\tilde{g} : \sigma \in \mathbb{R} \to \tilde{g}(\sigma) \in SB(2,\mathbb{C})$ which are constant at infinity.

At fixed time, the currents \tilde{J} and \tilde{A} take values in the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$ of functions from \mathbb{R} to $\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})$ that are sufficiently fast decreasing at infinity to be square-integrable. Therefore the tangent bundle description of the dual dynamics can be given in terms of (\tilde{J}, \tilde{A}) , with \tilde{A} the left generalized velocities, while \tilde{J} playing the role of left configuration space coordinates.

By introducing left momenta

$$\tilde{I}^{i} = \frac{\delta \tilde{L}}{\delta \; (\tilde{g}^{-1}\partial_{t}\tilde{g})_{i}} = (\tilde{g}^{-1}\partial_{t}\tilde{g})_{j}h^{ij} = \tilde{A}_{j}h^{ij}$$
(6.15)

²No factor two is needed here because $\mathscr{T}r(\tilde{e}^{i}\tilde{e}^{j}) = \delta^{ij}$

and inverting for the generalized velocities, one obtains the Hamiltonian:

$$\tilde{H} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\sigma \left(\tilde{I}^{i} \tilde{I}^{j} h_{ij} + \tilde{J}_{i} \tilde{J}_{j} h^{ij} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\sigma \tilde{I}_{I} (\tilde{\mathscr{K}}_{0}^{-1})^{IJ} \tilde{I}_{J}$$
(6.16)

with

$$\tilde{\mathscr{K}}_0 = \begin{pmatrix} h^{ij} & 0\\ 0 & h_{ij} \end{pmatrix}$$
(6.17)

and $\tilde{I}_J = (\tilde{I}^j, \tilde{J}_j)$, while the equal-time Poisson brackets can be derived in the usual way from the action functional; they result to be

$$\{\tilde{I}^{i}(\sigma), \tilde{I}^{j}(\sigma')\} = f^{ij}{}_{k}\tilde{I}^{k}(\sigma)\delta(\sigma - \sigma'), \qquad (6.18)$$

$$\{\tilde{I}^{i}(\sigma), \tilde{J}_{j}(\sigma')\} = \tilde{J}_{k}(\sigma) f^{ki}{}_{j}\delta(\sigma - \sigma') - \delta^{i}_{j}\delta'(\sigma - \sigma'),$$
(6.19)

$$\{\tilde{J}_i(\sigma), \tilde{J}_i(\sigma')\} = 0 \tag{6.20}$$

yielding the equations of motion

$$\partial_t \tilde{I}^i(\sigma) = \tilde{I}^s \tilde{I}^r f^{ji}{}_s h_{rj} - \tilde{J}_r \tilde{J}_s f^{si}{}_j h^{rj} + \delta^i_j h^{rj} \partial_\sigma \tilde{J}_r$$
(6.21)

$$\partial_t \tilde{J}_i(\sigma) = \left(\tilde{I}^s \tilde{J}_k f^{kj}{}_i + \delta^j_i \partial_\sigma \tilde{I}^s \right) h_{sj} .$$
(6.22)

The Poisson brackets (6.18)-(6.20) realize the current algebra $\mathfrak{c}_3 = \mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R}) \ltimes \mathfrak{a}$, which we have already regarded as the limit $i\alpha \to 0$ of the algebra (6.1)-(6.3).

Similarly to the SU(2) PCM, the currents (\tilde{J}, \tilde{I}) may be identified with the cotangent space left coordinates for $T^*SB(2, \mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$. However, differently from $T^*SU(2)$, $T^*SB(2, \mathbb{C})$ is not symplectomorphic to $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$, the two spaces being topologically different to start with. Therefore, certainly the model cannot be given an equivalent description in terms of an $SL(2, \mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$ algebra.

7. The Doubled Principal Chiral Model

7.1 The Lagrangian formalism

Following the same spirit that led to the string doubled world-sheet action in eq. (1.2), one can construct a Doubled Principal Chiral Model, i.e. a $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$ Principal Chiral Model. At this aim, the ingradients the for getting the Lagrangian are the group valued field $\Phi : \mathbb{R}^{1,1} \to \gamma \in SL(2,\mathbb{C})$ and the left-invariant Maurer-Cartan one-form $\gamma^{-1}d\gamma \in \Omega^1(SL(2,\mathbb{C})) \otimes \mathfrak{sl}(2,C)$, pulled back to $\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$:

$$\Phi^*(\gamma^{-1}\mathrm{d}\gamma) = \gamma^{-1}\partial_t\gamma\mathrm{d}t + \gamma^{-1}\partial_\sigma\gamma\mathrm{d}\sigma$$

By using the Lie algebra basis $e_I = (e_i, \tilde{e}^i)$ one has:

$$\gamma^{-1}\partial_t\gamma = \dot{\mathbf{Q}}^I e_I, \; ; \; \gamma^{-1}\partial_\sigma\gamma = \mathbf{Q}'^I e_I.$$

 $\dot{\mathbf{Q}}^{I}, \mathbf{Q}^{\prime I}$, left generalized coordinates, respectively given by:

$$\dot{\mathbf{Q}}^{I} = \mathrm{T}r\left(\gamma^{-1}\partial_{t}\gamma e_{I}\right), \quad \mathbf{Q}^{\prime I} = \mathrm{T}r\left(\gamma^{-1}\partial_{\sigma}\gamma e_{I}\right)$$

with T*r* the Cartan-Killing metric of $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})$. Then, the Lagrangian density can be rewritten in terms of the left generalized coordinates $\dot{\mathbf{Q}}^{I}$ as follows:

$$\mathbf{L} = \frac{1}{2} (k \eta + \mathscr{H})_{IJ} \left(\dot{\mathbf{Q}}^{I} \dot{\mathbf{Q}}^{J} - \mathbf{Q}^{\prime I} \mathbf{Q}^{\prime J} \right)$$
(7.1)

with

$$(k\eta + \mathscr{H})_{IJ} = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_{ij} & k\delta_i^j + \varepsilon_i^{j3} \\ k\delta_j^i - \varepsilon_{j3}^i & \delta^{ij} + \varepsilon_{k3}^i \varepsilon_{l3}^j \delta^{kl} \end{pmatrix}$$
(7.2)

 η (Lorentzian) and \mathscr{H} (Riemannian) are the left-invariant metrics on $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$ induced, respectively, by the pairings 2ImTr() and 2ReTr() on $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})$. They are two of the structures defining a Born geometry on $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$.

The degrees of freedom are doubled. Performing a gauging of its symmetry both the Lagrangian models, with SU(2) and SB(2,C) target configuration spaces, can be retrieved [34].

7.2 The Hamiltonian formalism

The Hamiltonian model will be interpreted as a model over the cotangent space $T^*SL(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$. In order to obtain the Hamiltonian of the system, the canonical momentum is computed:

$$\mathbf{I}_{I} = (I_{i}, \tilde{I}^{i}) = \frac{\delta \mathbf{L}}{\delta \dot{\mathbf{Q}}^{I}} = (k \ \eta + \mathscr{H})_{IJ} \dot{\mathbf{Q}}^{J}.$$
(7.3)

Let us recall that the matrix $(k \eta + \mathscr{H})_{IJ}$ is invertible for $k^2 \neq 1$ and its inverse is

$$[(k\eta + \mathscr{H})^{-1}]^{IJ} = \frac{1}{2}(1-k^2)^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \delta^{ij} + \varepsilon^i_{l3}\varepsilon^j_{k3}\delta^{lk} - \varepsilon^i_{j3} - k\delta^i_j \\ \varepsilon_i^{j3} - k\delta^j_i & \delta_{ij} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore, the Legendre transform of the Lagrangian density in eq. (7.1), obtained by inverting (7.3), gives:

$$\mathbf{H} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathrm{d}\boldsymbol{\sigma} \left(\left[(k \,\boldsymbol{\eta} + \mathscr{H})^{-1} \right]^{IJ} \mathbf{I}_{I} \mathbf{I}_{J} + (k \,\boldsymbol{\eta} + \mathscr{H})_{IJ} \mathbf{J}^{I} \mathbf{J}^{J} \right).$$
(7.4)

whereas one has for the Poisson brackets

$$\{\mathbf{I}_{I}(\sigma'), \mathbf{I}_{J}(\sigma'')\} = C_{IJ}{}^{K}\mathbf{I}_{K}\delta(\sigma' - \sigma'')$$
(7.5)

$$\{\mathbf{I}_{I}(\sigma'), \mathbf{J}^{J}(\sigma'')\} = C_{KI}{}^{J}\mathbf{J}^{K}\delta(\sigma' - \sigma'') - \delta_{I}{}^{J}\delta'(\sigma' - \sigma'')$$
(7.6)

$$\{\mathbf{J}^{I}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}'), \mathbf{J}^{J}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}'')\} = 0$$
(7.7)

by renaming $\mathbf{Q}^{\prime I} \to \mathbf{J}^{I}$. The equations of motion read then as:

$$\dot{\mathbf{I}}_{J} = \left\{ \mathbf{I}_{M}[k\,\boldsymbol{\eta} + \mathscr{H})^{-1} \right]^{LK} \, \mathbf{I}_{K} - \mathbf{J}^{L}[(k\,\boldsymbol{\eta} + \mathscr{H})^{-1}]_{LK} \, \mathbf{J}^{K} \right\} C_{JL}^{M}$$
(7.8)

 $+ \partial_{\sigma} \mathbf{J}^{L} [(k \eta + \mathscr{H})^{-1}]_{LJ}$ (7.9)

8. A further generalization: the non-linear sigma model with WZ term

The Principal Chiral Model analyzed so far can be further extended into a more general WZW model on SU(2) by introducing a topological term. In so doing, one obtains the non-linear sigma model defined by the following action:

$$S = \frac{1}{4\lambda^2} \int_{\Sigma} Tr\left[\boldsymbol{\varphi}^*\left(g^{-1}dg\right) \wedge *\boldsymbol{\varphi}^*\left(g^{-1}dg\right)\right] + \kappa S_{WZ},\tag{8.1}$$

where S_{WZ} is the so-called *Wess-Zumino term*, and it is defined as

$$S_{WZ} = \frac{1}{24\pi} \int_{\mathscr{B}} Tr\left[\tilde{\varphi}^*\left(\tilde{g}^{-1}d\tilde{g}\wedge\tilde{g}^{-1}d\tilde{g}\wedge\tilde{g}^{-1}d\tilde{g}\right)\right],\tag{8.2}$$

where \mathscr{B} is a three-manifold whose boundary is the compactification of the original two-dimensional spacetime, while \tilde{g} and $\tilde{\phi}$ are the extensions on the three-manifold \mathscr{B} . It is possible to show by simple homotopy arguments that such an extension always exists.

It is well-known that there is an ambiguity in the extension of the *g* fields to the manifold \mathscr{B} , i.e. there may be many ways to do such an extension, or equivalently, there may be many threemanifolds with the same boundary. However, it is straightforward to check that the variation of the WZW action remains the same up to a constant term, so classically there is no problem. However, in the quantum theory this may be a problem, indeed it is needed to make the partition function well-defined (single-valued). For compact Lie groups this requirement follows in the restriction of κ to integer values (κ is called the level of the theory), while for non-compact Lie groups no such a quantization condition holds.

Note that although the WZ term is expressed as a three-dimensional integral, under the variation $g \to g + \delta g$ it gets reduced to a boundary term, which is exactly an integral over Σ since the variation of its Lagrangian density can be written as a total derivative and then reduced on the boundary by using Stokes theorem $\int_{\mathscr{R}} d^3 y \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma} \partial_{\gamma}(\cdots) = \int_{\Sigma} d^2 \sigma \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta}(\cdots)$.

The WZW model is a very important model and it is involved in several interesting applications, both theoretical and phenomenological. In string theory, in particular, it can describe strings propagating on a Lie group manifold, which are especially relevant backgrounds since they are Ricci flat and also represent the appropriate setting to analyze T-duality generalizations. For example, notice that the WZW model on $SL(2,\mathbb{R})$ has been used to construct bosonic string theories on AdS3 [37, 38, 39], or superstring theories on $AdS_3 \times S^3$ geometries can be described by the WZW on PSU(1,1|2) [40]. Furthermore, WZW models having a non semi-simple group as target space have attracted some interest in the scientific community, being the latter particularly relevant as string backgrounds [41, 42].

The equations of motion for the theory are given by

$$\partial_{\alpha}i^{\alpha} + \frac{\kappa\lambda^2}{4\pi}\varepsilon^{\alpha\beta}i_{\alpha}i_{\beta} = 0, \qquad (8.3)$$

having defined the currents $i_{\alpha} = g^{-1} \partial_{\alpha} g$ ($\alpha = 0, 1$).

Even in this case, the Euler-Lagrange equations can be written as a pair of first-order partial differential equations

$$\partial_t A - \partial_\sigma J = -\frac{\kappa \lambda^2}{4\pi} [A, J], \qquad (8.4)$$

$$\partial_t J - \partial_\sigma A = -[A, J], \qquad (8.5)$$

where the *A* and *J* currents are $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ -valued and can be written as $A = (g^{-1}\partial_t g)^i e_i = A^i e_i$, $J = (g^{-1}\partial_\sigma g)^i e_i = J^i e_i$. As for the PCM, if we also impose the boundary condition

$$\lim_{|\sigma| \to \infty} g(\sigma) = 1 \tag{8.6}$$

the solution for g is unique.

In the Hamiltonian description, the model can be described by the following pair of Poisson bracket and Hamiltonian:

$$\{I_{i}(\sigma), I_{j}(\sigma')\} = 2\lambda^{2} \varepsilon_{ij}{}^{k} I_{k}(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma') + \frac{\kappa \lambda^{4}}{2\pi} \varepsilon_{ijk} J^{k}(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma')$$

$$\{I_{i}(\sigma), J^{j}(\sigma')\} = 2\lambda^{2} \left[\varepsilon_{ki}{}^{j} J^{k}(\sigma) \delta(\sigma - \sigma') - \delta_{i}^{j} \delta'(\sigma - \sigma') \right]$$

(8.7)

$$\{J^i(\sigma), J^j(\sigma')\} = 0,$$

$$H = \frac{1}{4\lambda^2} \int d\sigma \left(\delta^{ij} I_i I_j + \delta_{ij} J^i J^j \right).$$
(8.8)

We can see that the Poisson algebra is the semi-direct sum of an abelian algebra $\mathfrak{a}(\mathbb{R})$ and a Kac-Moody algebra associated to $SU(2)(\mathbb{R})$ and even in this case the current algebra can be deformed to a one-parameter family of fully non-Abelian algebras, in such a way that the resulting brackets, together with a one-parameter family of deformed Hamiltonians, lead to an equivalent description of the dynamics, which is again $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$. In this case, however, since the Poisson structure is more complicated, it requires some more manipulations and rotations of the generators to show that, see ref. [36] for details.

After deforming the algebra and some manipulations, it can be shown that the Poisson algebra of the model can be recovered in the following form in terms of the $(\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C}),\mathfrak{su}(2),\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C}))$ Manin triple decomposition:

$$\{S_{i}(\sigma), S_{j}(\sigma')\} = \varepsilon_{ij}{}^{k}S_{k}(\sigma)\delta(\sigma - \sigma') + C_{\tau}\delta_{ij}\delta'(\sigma - \sigma')$$

$$\{K^{i}(\sigma), K^{j}(\sigma')\} = i\tau f^{ij}{}_{k}K^{k}(\sigma)\delta(\sigma - \sigma') + C_{\tau}\tau^{2}(\delta^{ij} + \varepsilon_{p}{}^{i3}\varepsilon^{jp3})\delta'(\sigma - \sigma')$$

$$\{S_{i}(\sigma), K^{j}(\sigma')\} = \left[\varepsilon_{ki}{}^{j}K^{k}(\sigma) + i\tau f^{jk}{}_{i}S_{k}(\sigma)\right]\delta(\sigma - \sigma') + \left(C_{\tau}'\delta_{i}{}^{j} + i\tau C_{\tau}\varepsilon_{i}{}^{j3}\right)\delta'(\sigma - \sigma'),$$
(8.9)

and the Hamiltonian is given by

$$H_{\tau} = \lambda^{2} \int d\sigma S_{I} \left(\mathcal{M}_{\tau}\right)^{IJ} S_{J}$$

= $\lambda^{2} \int d\sigma \left[(m_{\tau})^{ij} S_{i} S_{j} + (m_{\tau})_{ij} K^{i} K^{j} + S_{i} K^{j} (m_{\tau})^{i}_{j} + S_{j} K^{i} (m_{\tau})_{i}^{j} \right],$ (8.10)

where S, B and K are defined as

$$S_{i}(\sigma) = \frac{1}{\xi(1-a^{2}\tau^{2})} \left[I_{i}(\sigma) - a\delta_{ik}J^{k}(\sigma) \right]$$

$$B^{i}(\sigma) = \frac{i\tau}{\xi(1-a^{2}\tau^{2})} \left[-ai\tau\delta^{ik}I_{k}(\sigma) - \frac{1}{i\tau}J^{i}(\sigma) \right],$$
(8.11)

$$K^{i}(\sigma) = B^{i}(\sigma) - i\tau\varepsilon^{i\ell 3}S_{\ell}(\sigma).$$
(8.12)

In the previous expressions we identified $a = \frac{\kappa \lambda^2}{4\pi}$ and $\xi = 2\lambda^2(1-\tau^2)$, while the constants C_{τ} and C'_{τ} in the central terms are defined as $C = \frac{a}{\lambda^2(1-a^2\tau^2)^2}$ and $C' = \frac{(1+a^2\tau^2)}{2\lambda^2(1-a^2\tau^2)^2}$.

Even in this case one may introduce another imaginary parameter α in order to make the role of the two subalgebras $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ and $\mathfrak{sb}(2,\mathbb{C})$ symmetric without spoiling the dynamics of the model. Again, differently from the PCM some more manipulations are required [36], but the final result for the two-parameter family of Poisson brackets is the following:

$$\{U_{i}(\sigma), U_{j}(\sigma')\} = i\alpha\varepsilon_{ij}{}^{k}U_{k}(\sigma)\delta(\sigma - \sigma') - \frac{a\alpha^{2}}{\lambda^{2}(1 + a^{2}\tau^{2}\alpha^{2})^{2}}\delta_{ij}\delta'(\sigma - \sigma')$$

$$\{V^{i}(\sigma), V^{j}(\sigma')\} = i\tau f^{ij}{}_{k}V^{k}(\sigma)\delta(\sigma - \sigma') + \frac{a\tau^{2}}{\lambda^{2}(1 + a^{2}\tau^{2}\alpha^{2})^{2}}(\delta^{ij} + \varepsilon_{p}{}^{i3}\varepsilon^{jp3})\delta'(\sigma - \sigma')$$

$$\{U_{i}(\sigma), V^{j}(\sigma')\} = \left[i\alpha\varepsilon_{ki}{}^{j}V^{k}(\sigma) + i\tau f^{jk}{}_{i}U_{k}(\sigma)\right]\delta(\sigma - \sigma')$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2\lambda^{2}(1 + a^{2}\tau^{2}\alpha^{2})^{2}}\left[\left(1 - a^{2}\tau^{2}\alpha^{2}\right)\delta_{i}{}^{j} + 2ai\tau i\alpha\varepsilon_{i}{}^{j3}\right]\delta'(\sigma - \sigma'),$$

$$(8.13)$$

and the new generators U and V are obtained from the old ones as

$$U_i = i\alpha S_i, \quad V^i = \frac{1}{i\alpha} B^i - i\tau \varepsilon^{i\ell 3} S_\ell.$$
(8.14)

The two-parameter family of Hamiltonians, together with which the Poisson brackets still give the old dynamics, is

$$H_{\tau,\alpha} = \lambda^2 \int d\sigma U_I \left(\mathscr{M}_{\tau,\alpha} \right)^{IJ} U_J$$

$$= \lambda^2 \int d\sigma \left[(m_{\tau,\alpha})^{ij} U_i U_j + (m_{\tau,\alpha})_{ij} V^i V^j + U_i V^j (m_{\tau,\alpha})^i_{\ j} + U_j V^i (m_{\tau,\alpha})_i^j \right],$$
(8.15)

with

$$\mathcal{M}_{\tau,\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1+a^2\tau^4\alpha^4}{(i\alpha)^2}\delta^{ij} - \tau^2(1+a^2)\varepsilon_p{}^{i3}\varepsilon^{pj3} & i\tau i\alpha(1+a^2)\varepsilon_j{}^{i3} - a(1-\tau^2\alpha^2)\delta^i{}_j \\ i\tau i\alpha(1+a^2)\varepsilon_i{}^{j3} - a(1-\tau^2\alpha^2)\delta_i{}^j & (i\alpha)^2(1+a^2)\delta_{ij} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (8.16)

Now, since the role of U and V is symmetric, by exchanging the momenta U with the fields V one obtains a new two-parameter family of models, which consists of *dual* models. In particular it can be checked that the transformation

$$\tilde{V}(\sigma) = U(\sigma), \quad \tilde{U}(\sigma) = V(\sigma)$$
(8.17)

is an O(3,3) rotation.

Explicitly, under such a rotation one obtains the dual Hamiltonians

$$\tilde{H}_{\tau,\alpha} = \lambda^2 \int d\sigma \left[(m_{\tau,\alpha})^{ij} \tilde{V}_i \tilde{V}_j + (m_{\tau,\alpha})_{ij} \tilde{U}^i \tilde{U}^j + \tilde{V}_i \tilde{U}^j (m_{\tau,\alpha})^i_{\ j} + \tilde{V}_j \tilde{U}^i (m_{\tau,\alpha})_i^j \right],$$
(8.18)

and the dual Poisson algebras

$$\begin{split} \{\tilde{V}_{i}(\sigma), \tilde{V}_{j}(\sigma')\} &= i\alpha\varepsilon_{ij}{}^{k}\tilde{V}_{k}(\sigma)\delta(\sigma-\sigma') - \frac{a\alpha^{2}}{\lambda^{2}\left(1+a^{2}\tau^{2}\alpha^{2}\right)^{2}}\delta_{ij}\delta'(\sigma-\sigma') \\ \{\tilde{U}^{i}(\sigma), \tilde{U}^{j}(\sigma')\} &= i\tau f^{ij}{}_{k}\tilde{U}^{k}(\sigma)\delta(\sigma-\sigma') + \frac{a\tau^{2}}{\lambda^{2}\left(1+a^{2}\tau^{2}\alpha^{2}\right)^{2}}\left(\delta^{ij}+\varepsilon_{p}{}^{i3}\varepsilon^{jp3}\right)\delta'(\sigma-\sigma') \\ \{\tilde{V}_{i}(\sigma), \tilde{U}^{j}(\sigma')\} &= \left[i\alpha\varepsilon_{ki}{}^{j}\tilde{U}^{k}(\sigma)+i\tau f^{jk}{}_{i}\tilde{V}_{k}(\sigma)\right]\delta(\sigma-\sigma') \\ &+ \frac{1}{2\lambda^{2}\left(1+a^{2}\tau^{2}\alpha^{2}\right)^{2}}\left[\left(1-a^{2}\tau^{2}\alpha^{2}\right)\delta_{i}{}^{j}+2ai\tau i\alpha\varepsilon_{i}{}^{j3}\right]\delta'(\sigma-\sigma'), \end{split}$$

$$(8.19)$$

which make it clear that this new two-parameter family of models has target configuration space the group manifold of $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$, spanned by the fields \tilde{V}_i , while momenta \tilde{U}^i span the fibers of the target phase space. Hence, this family effectively consists of dual models.

Note that a natural dual WZW model having $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$ as target space from the very beginning can be formulated, but it is more difficult than the PCM situation, due to the presence of the WZ term and the fact that $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$ is not a semi-simple Lie group. In fact, one can show that the natural metric *h* on $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$ extracted from the generalized one on $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$ in eq. (4.2) cannot be used and a further generalization has to be taken into account [36].

Furthermore, while for the PCM case the gauging of the global isometries of the doubled model is straightforward due to the fact that minimal coupling is enough to obtain a gauge-invariant action, the same can not hold for the WZW model, for which the minimal coupling gauged pull back of the 3-form which is integrated in the WZ term may no longer be closed. There are conditions under which a gauging of the WZW model on a semi-simple Lie group with the natural symmetric Cartan-Killing form can be performed, but it is not clear what conditions are required in our doubled WZW case in which the product used cannot be the natural Cartan-Killing one.

9. Conclusion and Outlook

It has been shown here that the SU(2) Principal Chiral Model, in its Hamiltonian formulation, can be given an equivalent description in terms of currents which span a target phase space isomorphic to the group manifold of $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$. Their Poisson algebra can be given the structure of the centrally extended affine algebra $\mathfrak{sl}(2,\mathbb{C})(\mathbb{R})$.

The standard Hamiltonian formulation of the SU(2) PCM model is defined on the target phase space $T^*SU(2) \simeq SU(2) \ltimes \mathbb{R}^3$ that, as a Lie group, is the trivial Drinfel'd double of the group SU(2), the classical double. The latter gives rise to a fully nontrivial Drinfel'd double, the group $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$, when the Abelian subalgebra of the semidirect sum is deformed to that of $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$. A whole family of equivalent PCM models described in terms of current algebra of the group $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$ has been reviewed, showing that they can actually be interpreted in terms of Born geometries related by B-transformations. By performing O(3,3) transformations of such a family, one finds a parametric family of T-dual PCM models, with target configuration space the group $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$, the Poisson-Lie dual of SU(2) in the Iwasawa decomposition of the Drinfel'd double $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$. Then, a natural Lagrangian model has been constructed directly on the dual group $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$. A double PCM has been then constructed with the group manifold of $SL(2,\mathbb{C})$ as its target configuration space and $TSL(2,\mathbb{C})$ as the target tangent space. The degrees of freedom are thus doubled. Performing a gauging of its symmetries, both of the Lagrangian models, with SU(2) and $SB(2,\mathbb{C})$ target configuration spaces, can be retrieved.

Finally, a further extension of the SU(2) PCM by adding a Wess-Zumino term [36] has been shortly illustrated.

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