HETEROTIC SUPERSYMMETRY, ANOMALY CANCELLATION AND EQUATIONS OF MOTION

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Abstract. The bosonic fields of the ten-dimensional supergravity of the form $R^{1,9-d} \times M^d$ are the spacetime metric g, the NS three-form field strength H, the dilaton ϕ , the gauge connection A with curvature F^A . The metric connection with skew-symmetric torsion T = H is $\nabla^+ = \nabla^g + \frac{1}{2}H$, ∇^g – the Levi-Civita connection of g. The heterotic equations of motion are

$$Ric_{ij}^{g} - \frac{1}{4}H_{imn}H_{j}^{mn} + 2\nabla_{i}^{g}\nabla_{j}^{g}\phi - \frac{\alpha'}{4}\Big[(F^{A})_{imns}(F^{A})_{j}^{mns} - R_{imns}R_{j}^{mns}\Big] = 0;$$

$$\nabla_{i}^{g}(e^{-2\phi}H_{jk}^{i}) = 0; \quad \nabla_{i}^{+}(e^{-2\phi}(F^{A})_{j}^{i}) = 0, \quad (1)$$

A heterotic geometry preserves supersymmetry iff the following Killingspinor equations hold:

$$\nabla_m^+ \epsilon = \nabla^+ \epsilon = 0; \quad (d\phi - \frac{1}{2}H) \cdot \epsilon = 0; \quad F^A \cdot \epsilon = 0.$$
 (2)

The instanton equation, the last equation in (2) means that the curvature 2form F^A is contained in the Lie algebra of a Lie group which is the stabilizer of the spinor ϵ . In dimension 5, 6, 7 and 8 the groups are SU(2), SU(3), G_2 and Spin(7), respectively.

The Green-Schwarz anomaly cancellation mechanism requires that the threeform Bianchi identity receives an α' correction of the form

$$dH = \frac{\alpha'}{4} \Big(Tr(R \wedge R) - Tr(F^A \wedge F^A) \Big).$$
(3)

Theorem 1.1. [1, Theorem 1.1] The heterotic Killing spinor equations and the anomaly cancellation imply the heterotic equations of motion in dimensions 5, 6, 7 and 8 iff the connection on the tangent bundle is an instanton.

Theorem 1.1 was confirmed and reproved after in [2, 3].

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For heterotic compactifications in dimension six this reduces the choice of that connection to the unique SU(3) instanton on a manifold with stable tangent bundle of degree zero due to Theorem 1.1 and the celebrated result of Li-Yau about the uniquennes of the instanton.

Bibliography

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