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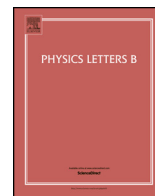
c-Map for Born–Infeld theories

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A B S T R A C T

The c-map of four dimensional non-linear theories of electromagnetism is considered both in the rigid case and in its coupling to gravity. In this way theories with antisymmetric tensors and scalars are obtained, and the three non-linear representations of N = 2 supersymmetry partially broken to N = 1 related. The manifest Sp($2n$) and U(n) covariance of these theories in their multifield extensions is also exhibited. This construction extends to H-invariant non-linear theories of Born–Infeld type with non-dynamical scalars spanning a symmetric coset manifold G/H and the vector field strengths and their duals in a symplectic representation of G as is the case for extended supergravity.

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1. Introduction

In this paper we formulate the c-map for Born–Infeld-like theories [1] (for a review, see [2]), i.e. for non-linear theories which generalize the canonical Born–Infeld (BI) electromagnetism to multi-vector, tensor and scalar fields. As for ordinary supersymmetric theories, the c-map is defined [3,4] both in the rigid and gravitational cases, by the uplifting of a formal dimensional reduction of the four-dimensional theory on a circle to three dimensions [5]. Starting with a multi-vector generalization of the BI theory, the resulting three-dimensional model, obtained upon dimensional reduction and dualization of the vectors to scalar fields, is a non-linear model describing scalar fields only. This model provides a consistent non-linear theory for scalar fields in four dimensions, which in turn can be Legendre-transformed into a non-linear theory of antisymmetric rank-2 tensor fields.

This is most easily accomplished using the linear description of BI theories, in which the Lagrangian is made quadratic in the vector field-strengths by adding suitable Lagrange multipliers in the form of non-dynamical scalar fields [6,8]. Integrating out these extra fields through their equations of motion, one obtains the BI action (or one of its multifield generalizations). One of the advantages of this formulation is that it makes the global symmetries of the BI theory manifest. Moreover it is the most convenient formulation in which to derive the BI-like theories from supersymmetric ones.

For the case of a single vector field, the three alternative formulations displayed in this paper, namely the scalar–scalar, scalar–tensor, tensor–tensor theories [9,10] are in fact related to different non-linear representations of the N = 2 superalgebra spontaneously broken to N = 1. While in the Born–Infeld case the goldstino multiplet is an N = 1 vector multiplet [11], in the scalar–tensor theory it is an N = 1 real linear multiplet [12] and in the scalar–scalar case it is an N = 1 chiral multiplet [13]. The two latter theories correspond to D3 brane actions in five and six dimensions [12].

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we recall the basics of the c-map [3,4] relating special and quaternionic (Hyper-Kähler) geometries in N = 2 local (rigid) theories. In section 3 we recall the main ingredients for the "linear realization" of BI-like theories, as developed in [8]. In section 4 we derive the c-map of the Born–Infeld theory coupled to gravity, which reproduces the bosonic part of the non-linear chiral multiplet action of [10,12]. In section 5 it is shown how all non-linear theories discussed in [11,12] are reproduced using the c-map operation and Legendre transforms. In particular this implies that such theories have a supersymmetric completion. The paper ends with some concluding remarks.

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2. Local and rigid c-map

Let us recall, in this section, the formal steps to get the c-map of the Lagrangian describing $N = 2$ vector multiplets both in the supergravity and rigid-supersymmetry cases.

Local c-map Let us start from an $N = 2$ supergravity model of vector multiplets in four dimensions [3] whose bosonic Lagrangian has the following general form:

$$e^{-1}\mathcal{L}_4 = -\frac{R}{2} + g_{i\bar{j}}\,\partial_\mu z^i \partial^\mu \bar{z}^{\bar{j}} - \frac{1}{4} F^\Lambda_{\mu\nu} g_{\Lambda\Sigma} F^{\Sigma\,\mu\nu}$$
$$+ \frac{1}{4} F^\Lambda_{\mu\nu} \theta_{\Lambda\Sigma}\,^* F^{\Sigma\,\mu\nu}, \tag{2.1}$$

where $\mu, \nu = 0, 1, 2, 3$, the index Λ enumerates the vector fields and $F^\Lambda_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A^\Lambda_\nu - \partial_\nu A^\Lambda_\mu$. If the theory is invariant under axial rotations, we can formally perform a dimensional reduction, along the isometry direction, to three dimensions on a background with metric:

$$ds^2 = e^{-2U} g_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}\,dx^{\hat{\mu}}dx^{\hat{\nu}} - e^{2U}\,(dx^3 + A^{(3)})^2, \tag{2.2}$$

where $\hat{\mu}, \hat{\nu} = 0, 1, 2$ and $g_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} = g_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}(x^{\hat{\rho}})$, $A^{(3)} = A^{(3)}_{\hat{\mu}}(x^{\hat{\nu}})dx^{\hat{\mu}}$ are the $D = 3$ metric and Kaluza–Klein vector. The vectors in $D = 4$ reduce to three dimensional ones as follows:

$$A^\Lambda = \hat{A}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}}(x^{\hat{\nu}})\,dx^{\hat{\mu}} + \zeta^\Lambda(x^{\hat{\nu}})\,V^3, \quad V^3 = dx^3 + \hat{A}^{(3)}. \tag{2.3}$$

where V^3 is proportional to the vielbein in the isometry direction and we have set $A^\Lambda_3 = \zeta^\Lambda$. The corresponding field strengths read:

$$F^\Lambda = \hat{F}^\Lambda + F^\Lambda_3\,V^3, \quad \text{where } \hat{F}^\Lambda = d\hat{A}^\Lambda + \zeta^\Lambda\,\hat{F}^{(3)}, \quad \hat{F}^{(3)} = dA^{(3)}. \tag{2.4}$$

Next we consider the $D = 3$ Lagrangian which is given by the four-dimensional one written in terms of three dimensional fields, plus a Chern–Simons term inducing the dualization of the $D = 3$ vector fields $A^{(3)}$, $\hat{A}^\Lambda$ to scalar degrees of freedom a, $\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda$:

$$\hat{e}^{-1}\mathcal{L}_3 = -\frac{\hat{R}}{2} + \partial_{\hat{\mu}}U\partial^{\hat{\mu}}U - \frac{e^{4U}}{8}\hat{F}^{(3)}_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}\hat{F}^{(3)\,\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} + g_{i\bar{j}}\,\partial_{\hat{\mu}}z^i\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\bar{z}^{\bar{j}} +$$
$$- \frac{e^{2U}}{4}\hat{F}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}g_{\Lambda\Sigma}\hat{F}^{\Sigma\,\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} + \frac{e^{-2U}}{2}\partial_{\hat{\mu}}\zeta^\Lambda g_{\Lambda\Sigma}\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\zeta^\Lambda$$
$$- \frac{1}{2e}\epsilon^{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}}\hat{F}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}\theta_{\Lambda\Sigma}\partial_{\hat{\rho}}\zeta^\Sigma +$$
$$+ e^{-1}\mathcal{L}_{CS}, \tag{2.5}$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{CS} = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}}\hat{F}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}\partial_{\hat{\rho}}\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda - \frac{1}{4}\epsilon^{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}}\hat{F}^{(3)}_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}\omega_{\hat{\rho}}$, and we have defined $\epsilon_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}} = \epsilon_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}3}$, so that $\epsilon_{012} = 1$. The vector $\omega_{\hat{\mu}}$ is given in terms of scalar degrees of freedom and reads:

$$\omega_{\hat{\mu}} \equiv \partial_{\hat{\mu}}a + \zeta^\Lambda\,\partial_{\hat{\mu}}\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda - \partial_{\hat{\mu}}\zeta^\Lambda\,\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda. \tag{2.6}$$

Integrating out $\hat{F}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}$ and $\hat{F}^{(3)}_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}$ we find the following equations:

$$\hat{F}^{\Lambda\,\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} = -\frac{e^{-2U}}{e}\epsilon^{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}}\,g^{-1\,\Lambda\Sigma}(\theta_{\Sigma\Gamma}\,\partial_{\hat{\rho}}\zeta^\Gamma - \partial_{\hat{\rho}}\tilde{\zeta}_\Sigma)$$
$$\hat{F}^{(3)\,\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} = -\frac{e^{-4U}}{e}\epsilon^{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}}\,\omega_{\hat{\rho}}. \tag{2.7}$$

Replacing the above solutions in $\mathcal{L}_3$ we find the final expression of the three dimensional Lagrangian fully written in terms of scalar degrees of freedom and exhibiting manifest $Sp(2n)$ structure [5]:

$$\hat{e}^{-1}\mathcal{L}_3 = -\frac{\hat{R}}{2} + \partial_{\hat{\mu}}U\partial^{\hat{\mu}}U + \frac{e^{-4U}}{4}\omega_{\hat{\mu}}\,\omega^{\hat{\mu}}$$
$$+ g_{i\bar{j}}\,\partial_{\hat{\mu}}z^i\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\bar{z}^{\bar{j}} + \frac{e^{-2U}}{2}\,\partial_{\hat{\mu}}\zeta^T g\,\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\zeta +$$
$$+ \frac{e^{-2U}}{2}\left(\partial_{\hat{\mu}}\tilde{\zeta}^T - \partial_{\hat{\mu}}\zeta^T\theta\right)g^{-1}\left(\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\tilde{\zeta} - \theta\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\zeta\right) =$$
$$= -\frac{\hat{R}}{2} + \partial_{\hat{\mu}}U\partial^{\hat{\mu}}U + \frac{e^{-4U}}{4}\omega_{\hat{\mu}}\,\omega^{\hat{\mu}} + g_{i\bar{j}}\,\partial_{\hat{\mu}}z^i\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\bar{z}^{\bar{j}}$$
$$+ \frac{e^{-2U}}{2}\,\partial_{\hat{\mu}}\mathcal{Z}^M\mathcal{M}_{MN}\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\mathcal{Z}^N, \tag{2.8}$$

being $\mathcal{Z}^M = \{\zeta^\Lambda, \tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda\}$ and

$$\mathcal{M} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} g + \theta g^{-1}\theta & -\theta g^{-1} \\ -g^{-1}\theta & g^{-1} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{2.9}$$

Eq. (2.8) is the bosonic Lagrangian of $n + 1$ hypermultiplets (containing the scalars $\{\zeta^\Lambda, \tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda, z^i, \bar{z}^{\bar{j}}, U, a\}$) coupled to gravity in $D = 3$, $N = 2$ supergravity, one of the multiplets (corresponding to U, a and, say, ζ^0, ζ_0) being the universal hypermultiplet containing the degrees of freedom of the supergravity multiplet in $D = 4$. The scalars $(\mathcal{Z}^M, a)$ are acted on by the isometries

$$\delta\mathcal{Z}^M = \alpha^M, \qquad \delta a = \beta - \alpha^M\mathbb{C}_{MN}\mathcal{Z}^N, \tag{2.10}$$

which close a characteristic Heisenberg algebra [4]. However, since hypermultiplets couple in the same way both to $D = 3$ and to $D = 4$ supergravity, it can be promoted to a $D = 4$ Lagrangian describing the coupling of $n + 1$ hypermultiplets to $D = 4$ supergravity, by just extending the range of indices to $0, \ldots, 3$. The related scalar geometry is of quaternionic Kähler type [14,15].

Rigid c-map This case is obtained from the local one by setting $g_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} = \eta_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}$, $U = \partial_{\hat{\mu}}U = 0$ and $A^{(3)} = \hat{F}^{(3)} = 0$, that is $\omega_{\hat{\mu}} = 0$. Equation (2.3), where now $\Lambda = 1, \cdots, n$, becomes:

$$A^\Lambda = \hat{A}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}}(x^{\hat{\nu}})\,dx^{\hat{\mu}} + \zeta^\Lambda(x^{\hat{\nu}})\,dx^3, \tag{2.11}$$

and we define $\hat{F}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} = \partial_{\hat{\mu}}\hat{A}^\Lambda_{\hat{\nu}} - \partial_{\hat{\nu}}\hat{A}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}}$. The $D = 3$ Lagrangian reads:

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = g_{i\bar{j}}\,\partial_{\hat{\mu}}z^i\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\bar{z}^{\bar{j}} - \frac{1}{4}\hat{F}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}g_{\Lambda\Sigma}\hat{F}^{\Sigma\,\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} + \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\hat{\mu}}\zeta^\Lambda g_{\Lambda\Sigma}\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\zeta^\Lambda$$
$$- \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}}\hat{F}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}\theta_{\Lambda\Sigma}\partial_{\hat{\rho}}\zeta^\Sigma + \mathcal{L}_{CS}, \tag{2.12}$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{CS} = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}}\hat{F}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}\partial_{\hat{\rho}}\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda$. Solving with respect to $\hat{F}^\Lambda_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}$ we find:

$$\hat{F}^{\Lambda\,\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} = -\epsilon^{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}}\,g^{-1\,\Lambda\Sigma}(\theta_{\Sigma\Gamma}\,\partial_{\hat{\rho}}\zeta^\Gamma - \partial_{\hat{\rho}}\tilde{\zeta}_\Sigma). \tag{2.13}$$

Substituting in the Lagrangian we find:

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = g_{i\bar{j}}\,\partial_{\hat{\mu}}z^i\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\bar{z}^{\bar{j}} + \frac{1}{2}\partial_{\hat{\mu}}\mathcal{Z}^M\mathcal{M}_{MN}\partial^{\hat{\mu}}\mathcal{Z}^N. \tag{2.14}$$

Analogously to the Lagrangian in the local case, given by eq. (2.8), eq. (2.14) is the bosonic Lagrangian of n hypermultiplets (corresponding to $\{\zeta^\Lambda, \tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda, z^i, \bar{z}^{\bar{j}}\}$) in $D = 3$, $N = 2$ rigid supersymmetry, but it can be promoted to a $D = 4$ Lagrangian of the same form which describes an Hyper-Kähler sigma-model of a restricted type [16,3].

3. Linear description of Born–Infeld theories

In this section we briefly recall the linear description of BI theories in terms of auxiliary fields, introduced in [6–8]. This description does not rely on supersymmetry although, for special choices of the scalar sector and of the parameters, it can be embedded in a supersymmetric theory. As extensively discussed in [8], the four-dimensional Lagrangian generalizing BI to n vector fields can be put in the form (up to an additive constant):

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^T g F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^T \theta *F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2\lambda} \operatorname{Tr}(N\mathcal{M}) + const. ,$$

(3.1)

where N is a constant $2n \times 2n$ symmetric matrix, g and θ are $n \times n$ symmetric matrices function of a set of n_s scalar fields ϕ^s, λ is a parameter which should be taken small to obtain a well-defined non-linear description.

The non-dynamical scalar sector can be integrated out through its algebraic equations of motion [8], thus yielding a non-linear n-vector Lagrangian of BI type. These equations of motion can be cast in the following manifestly symplectic-covariant form:

$$\mathbb{F}_{\mu\nu}^T \partial_s \mathcal{M} \mathbb{F}^{\mu\nu} = -\frac{4}{\lambda} \operatorname{Tr}(N\partial_s \mathcal{M}) .$$

(3.2)

Here $\mathbb{F} = (F^\Lambda, G_\Lambda)$ is a symplectic vector built out of the electric field strengths $F_{\mu\nu}^\Lambda$ and their magnetic duals

$$G_{\Lambda\,\mu\nu} \equiv -\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \frac{\delta\mathcal{L}}{\delta F_{\rho\sigma}^\Lambda} ,$$

satisfying the field equations:

$$\partial_{[\mu} \mathbb{F}_{\nu\rho]} = 0 ; \quad *\mathbb{F}_{\mu\nu} = -\mathbb{C}\mathcal{M}\mathbb{F}_{\mu\nu} ,$$

(3.3)

the latter being the so-called "twisted self-duality condition" [17], and $\mathbb{C}$ the $2n \times 2n$ symplectic invariant matrix

$$\mathbb{C} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{1} \\ -\mathbf{1} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} .$$

The effective symmetry preserved by the non-linear Lagrangian depends on both the symmetry of the scalar sector and the invariance of the matrix N. Suppose the scalar fields span a homogeneous symmetric space of the form G/H, and that the matrix $\mathcal{M}(\phi)$ defines a mapping between this manifold and $\operatorname{Sp}(2n)/\operatorname{U}(n)$:

$$\{\phi^s\} \in \frac{G}{H} \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}(\phi) \in \frac{\operatorname{Sp}(2n)}{\operatorname{U}(n)} .$$

(3.4)

Any isometry generator of G, described by a Killing vector k_α, corresponds to a symplectic matrix $(t_\alpha)_M{}^N$, so that

$$\phi^s \to \phi^s + \delta\phi^s = \phi^s + \epsilon^\alpha k_\alpha^s : \mathcal{M} \to \mathcal{M} + \delta\mathcal{M} ,$$

(3.5)

with

$$\delta\mathcal{M} = \epsilon^\alpha k_\alpha^s \partial_s \mathcal{M} = \epsilon^\alpha (t_\alpha \mathcal{M} + \mathcal{M} t_\alpha^T) .$$

(3.6)

The on-shell global invariance of the non-linear theory is described by the generators t_α of G further satisfying the following conditions:

$$k_\alpha^s \mathbb{F}_{\mu\nu}^T \partial_s \mathcal{M} \mathbb{F}^{\mu\nu} = 2 \mathbb{F}_{\mu\nu}^T t_\alpha \mathcal{M} \mathbb{F}^{\mu\nu} = 0; \quad t_\alpha N + N t_\alpha^T = 0 . \quad (3.7)$$

These conditions define the group $G \bigcap \operatorname{Inv}(N)$ [8], where $\operatorname{Inv}(N) \subset \operatorname{Sp}(2n)$ is the invariance group of the metric N. In the case $N^{MN} = \delta^{MN}$, which is the choice we will make in what follows, $\operatorname{Inv}(N) = \operatorname{U}(n)$ and the global symmetry of the non-linear theory

is the maximal compact subgroup H of G. Using the twisted self-duality condition, the first of (3.7) can be cast in the form:

$$\mathbb{F}_{\mu\nu}^T t_\alpha \mathbb{C} *\mathbb{F}^{\mu\nu} = 0 .$$

(3.8)

These reproduce, in a symplectic invariant way, the conditions first found in [1].

Using the above setting, we can associate with each extended supergravity model, with n vector fields and a symmetric scalar manifold G/H, a non-linear Born–Infeld theory featuring an on-shell symmetry H. This is done by adding to the bosonic Lagrangian the H-invariant potential $\frac{1}{2\lambda} \operatorname{Tr}(\mathcal{M})$ and dropping the kinetic terms of the scalar fields, so that they become non-dynamical. The map (3.4) is built-in the mathematical structure of extended supergravities and is defined by the embedding of G inside $\operatorname{Sp}(2n)$ [1]. The symplectic matrix $\mathcal{M}$ has the general form $\mathcal{M} = LL^T$, where L is the $\operatorname{Sp}(2n)$-representation of the coset representative. The non-linear BI theory originates by integrating the scalar fields out through their algebraic equations of motion.

In the following we shall consider the case $G = \operatorname{Sp}(2n)$, $H = \operatorname{U}(n)$ and $N^{MN} = \delta^{MN}$. We postpone to a future work the study of non-linear theories with a smaller on-shell symmetry group, obtained by considering the non-dynamical scalar fields in a smaller coset G/H.

4. c-Map of BI+gravity

We start from the linearized form of 1-vector BI coupled to four dimensional gravity which is obtained by coupling, for $n = 1$, the Lagrangian (3.1) to gravity:

$$\mathcal{L} = e \left(-\frac{R}{2} - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} g F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} \theta *F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2\lambda} \operatorname{Tr}(\mathcal{M}) + \frac{1}{\lambda} \right) ,$$

(4.1)

where $\mu, \nu = 0, 1, 2, 3$ and $\mathcal{M}$ was defined in Eq. (2.9).

Upon dimensional reduction on a circle and dualization of vectors to scalars, as discussed in Section 2, we end up with a 3D hypermultiplet Lagrangian which can be promoted to a four dimensional one

$$\mathcal{L}_4' = -\frac{R}{2} + \partial_\mu U \partial^\mu U + \frac{e^{-4U}}{4} \omega_\mu \omega^\mu + \frac{e^{-2U}}{2} \partial_\mu \mathcal{Z}^T \mathcal{M} \partial^\mu \mathcal{Z}$$
$$- \frac{e^{-2U}}{2\lambda} \operatorname{Tr}(\mathcal{M}) + \frac{e^{-2U}}{\lambda} .$$

(4.2)

Integrating out g, θ we find:

$$\mathcal{L}_4 = \partial_\mu U \partial^\mu U + \frac{e^{-4U}}{4} \omega_\mu \omega^\mu + e^{-2U} \mathcal{L}_{n.l.} ,$$

(4.3)

where

$$\mathcal{L}_{n.l.} \equiv \frac{1}{\lambda}$$
$$\times \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \lambda (\partial_\mu \zeta \partial^\mu \zeta + \partial_\mu \tilde\zeta \partial^\mu \tilde\zeta) + \lambda^2 (\partial_\mu \zeta \partial^\mu \zeta \partial_\nu \tilde\zeta \partial^\nu \tilde\zeta - (\partial_\mu \zeta \partial^\mu \tilde\zeta)^2)} \right) .$$

(4.4)

Notice that we still have the Heisenberg algebra of isometries. For the case of rigid supersymmetry we find:

$$\mathcal{L}_4 = \mathcal{L}_{n.l.} .$$

(4.5)

The coupling of the non-linear hypermultiplet to gravity is thus described by the following Lagrangian:

$$\hat{e}^{-1} \mathcal{L}_4 = -\frac{\hat{R}}{2} + \partial_\mu U \partial^\mu U + \frac{e^{-4U}}{4} \omega_\mu \omega^\mu + e^{-2U} \mathcal{L}_{n.l.} ,$$

(4.6)

which expands, for small λ, as follows

$$\hat{e}^{-1}\mathcal{L}_4 = -\frac{\hat{R}}{2} + \partial_\mu U \partial^\mu U + \frac{e^{-4U}}{4}\omega_\mu \omega^\mu$$
$$+ \frac{e^{-2U}}{2}(\partial_\mu \zeta \partial^\mu \zeta + \partial_\mu \tilde{\zeta} \partial^\mu \tilde{\zeta}) + O(\lambda). \tag{4.7}$$

5. c-Maps and their duals in the rigid theory

5.1. Tensor + scalar theory in BI form

Let us reconsider the general form of the 2-derivative Lagrangian in 4D admitting a dual BI form [8], for a single field. The Lagrangian has the general form:

$$\mathcal{L}' = \frac{g}{2\lambda}\left(\Lambda + \Sigma^2 - \frac{\lambda}{2}X\right) + \theta\left(\frac{1}{4}Y - \frac{\Sigma}{\lambda}\right) + \frac{1}{\lambda}\left(1 - \sqrt{1+\Lambda}\right) \tag{5.1}$$

where

$$X \equiv F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} \tag{5.2}$$

$$Y \equiv \frac{1}{2}F_{\mu\nu}F_{\rho\sigma}\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \tag{5.3}$$

and variation with respect to g and θ "dualizes" (5.1) into the BI Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}'|_{g,\theta} = \frac{1}{\lambda}\left(1 - \sqrt{1 + \frac{\lambda}{2}X - \frac{\lambda^2}{16}Y^2}\right) = \mathcal{L}_{BI}.$$

As discussed above, we can again consider the dimensional reduction from 4 to 3 dimensions of the gauge field strength (in the case $\partial_3 A_\mu = 0$). When decomposing $\mu \to \hat{\mu}, 3$, the kinetic and topological terms of (5.1) reduce respectively to:

$$X \to F_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}F^{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} - 2\partial_{\hat{\mu}}\zeta \partial^{\hat{\mu}}\zeta \tag{5.4}$$

$$Y \to -2F_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}}\partial_{\hat{\rho}}\zeta \epsilon^{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}} \tag{5.5}$$

However, the same terms (5.4), (5.5) would be obtained in the dimensional reduction of the four dimensional Lagrangian for a real scalar ζ plus an antisymmetric tensor field $H_{\mu\nu\rho} = 3\partial_{[\mu}B_{\nu\rho]}$ (in the case $\partial_3 B_{\nu\rho} = \partial_3\zeta = 0$), where:

$$X \equiv -\frac{1}{3}H_{\mu\nu\rho}H^{\mu\nu\rho} - 2\partial_\mu \zeta \partial^\mu \zeta \tag{5.6}$$

$$Y \equiv \frac{2}{3}H_{\mu\nu\rho}\partial_\sigma \zeta \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \tag{5.7}$$

if we identify $B_{\hat{\mu}3} = A_{\hat{\mu}}$, $H_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}3} = F_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} = \partial_{\hat{\mu}}B_{\hat{\nu}3} - \partial_{\hat{\nu}}B_{\hat{\mu}3}$.[1] In this case the non-linear form of the Lagrangian is (as in [10]):

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{scal.-tensor}} = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$
$$\times \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \lambda\left(\frac{1}{6}H_{\mu\nu\rho}H^{\mu\nu\rho} + \partial_\mu \zeta \partial^\mu \zeta\right) - \frac{\lambda^2}{36}(H_{\mu\nu\rho}\partial_\sigma \zeta \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma})^2}\right). \tag{5.8}$$

and it can be generalized to the case of n fields on the same lines as in [8].

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[1] Note that, under the hypothesis $\partial_3 B_{\nu\rho} = 0$, the 3D non-dynamical term $H_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}} = \epsilon_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}\hat{\rho}}\partial_3\phi$, vanishes for any ϕ.

We can further dualize the scalar ζ to an antisymmetric tensor. The resulting model describes two antisymmetric tensors and reads [10]:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{n.lin-tensor}} = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$
$$\times \left(1 - \sqrt{1 - \lambda(H_1 \cdot H_1 + H_2 \cdot H_2) - \lambda^2((H_1 \cdot H_2)^2 - H_1 \cdot H_1 H_2 \cdot H_2)}\right), \tag{5.9}$$

where we have used the convention that $H_i \cdot H_j \equiv \frac{1}{3!}H_{i\,\mu\nu\rho}H_j^{\mu\nu\rho}$, $i = 1, 2$ and $H_{1\,\mu\nu\rho}, H_{2\,\mu\nu\rho}$ are the field strengths corresponding to the two antisymmetric tensors.

Equations (4.4) and (5.9) will be generalized to $2n$ scalars and $2n$ antisymmetric tensors, respectively, in the following.

Before proceeding with the derivation of the multi-scalar and multi-tensor non-linear actions, let us briefly recall the main facts about the relation, mentioned in the Introduction, of these descriptions to representations of the $N = 2$ algebra broken to $N = 1$. In [8] it was shown that the multi-vector field generalization of (5.1), or, equivalently, (3.1), reproduces, for a suitable choice of the matrix N in the scalar potential, the $N = 2$ model of [18]. The latter features a spontaneous supersymmetry breaking to $N = 1$ by virtue of FI terms, which define the matrix N^{MN} in (3.1), and which induce a constant matrix $C_A{}^B$ in the local realization of the supersymmetry algebra [19]:

$$\{Q_{A\alpha}, \bar{J}_{\mu\dot{\beta}}{}^B(x)\} = 2\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^\nu T_{\mu\nu}(x)\delta_A^B + 4\sigma_{\mu\alpha\dot{\beta}}C_A{}^B, \tag{5.10}$$

which is an essential ingredient in order to have spontaneous partial global supersymmetry breaking [20,21]. In this model the goldstino multiplet is an $N = 1$ vector multiplet [11]. Other representations of the $N = 2$ algebra broken to $N = 1$ are possible, in which, as mentioned in the introduction, the goldstino multiplet is an $N = 1$ chiral or linear multiplet. These cases were investigated in [13,12], although only in the presence of a single chiral and tensor gauge multiplet (i.e. the goldstino one), respectively. The actions they find in the two works are (4.4) and (5.8), respectively. Below we generalize the actions (4.4) and (5.9) to a generic number of fields. The generalization of (5.8) is then obtained by dualizing half of the scalar fields to antisymmetric tensors.

5.2. The multi-scalar Born–Infeld Lagrangian

In the spirit of the procedure of [8], outlined in section 3, the problem of determining the U(n)-duality invariant multi-scalar BI action is that of minimizing the linearized Lagrangian density

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{lin.-scalar}} = \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu \mathcal{Z}^T \mathcal{M} \partial^\mu \mathcal{Z} - \frac{1}{2\lambda}\text{Tr}(\mathcal{M}) + \frac{n}{\lambda}$$
$$= -\frac{1}{2}\text{Tr}(\mathcal{PM}) + \frac{n}{\lambda} \tag{5.11}$$

with respect to the non-dynamical scalars $g_{\Lambda\Sigma}, \theta_{\Lambda\Sigma}$ contained in the matrix $\mathcal{M}$ introduced in (2.9), where we have defined the $2n \times 2n$ matrix $\mathcal{P}^{MN}$ as follows:

$$\mathcal{P}^{MN} \equiv \frac{1}{\lambda}\delta^{MN} - \partial_\mu \mathcal{Z}^M \partial^\mu \mathcal{Z}^N$$
$$= \frac{1}{\lambda}\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{1}_n - \lambda\,\partial\zeta \cdot \partial\zeta^T & -\lambda\,\partial\zeta \cdot \partial\tilde{\zeta}^T \\ -\lambda\,\partial\tilde{\zeta} \cdot \partial\zeta^T & \mathbf{1}_n - \lambda\,\partial\tilde{\zeta} \cdot \partial\tilde{\zeta}^T \end{pmatrix}, \tag{5.12}$$

and we have used the short-hand notation $\partial\phi \cdot \partial\xi \equiv \partial_\mu\phi\partial^\mu\xi$. The above tensor is manifestly covariant under the U(n) subgroup of Sp($2n, \mathbb{R}$).

We shall determine the BI Lagrangian by minimizing (5.11) with respect to $\mathcal{M}$. The resulting Lagrangian is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{n.lin.}-\text{scalar}} = -\frac{1}{2}\,\text{Tr}\left(\sqrt{-\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}}\right) + \frac{n}{\lambda}\,, \tag{5.13}$$

and is manifestly invariant with respect to U(n). The square root in (5.13) is defined, in the basis in which the argument is diagonal with eigenvalues λ_i, as the non-negative diagonal matrix with diagonal entries $\sqrt{|\lambda_i|}$. In our case the matrix $-\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}$, being λ small, is positive definite.

The above formula will be derived in two ways: Solving a constrained variational problem and using purely algebraic procedures based on matrix theory.

Variational derivation   We try to retrieve the result (5.13) using the Lagrangian method of minimization of a function in the presence of constraints among the variables.

In our case the variables are the matrix elements of $\mathcal{M}$ and the constraints it obeys are the propriety to be a symmetric and symplectic matrix, namely

$$\varphi_2 \equiv \mathcal{M}^T - \mathcal{M} = 0\,, \tag{5.14}$$

$$\varphi_1 \equiv \mathcal{M}^T\mathbb{C}\mathcal{M} - \mathbb{C} = 0\,. \tag{5.15}$$

The above mentioned method amounts to minimizing a linear combination of the Lagrangian (5.11) together with the two constraints φ_1 and φ_2, namely

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{M}_{RS}}\left[\mathcal{L}_{\text{lin.}-\text{scalar}} + \text{Tr}\left(\frac{1}{4}\lambda_1\varphi_1 + \frac{1}{4}\lambda_2\varphi_2\right)\right] = 0 \tag{5.16}$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{\text{lin.}-\text{scalar}}$ is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{lin.}-\text{scalar}} = -\frac{1}{2}\,\text{Tr}(\mathcal{P}\,\mathcal{M}) + \text{const.}$$

while λ_1 and λ_2 are two Lagrangian multipliers implementing the constraints (5.14), (5.15), which are antisymmetric matrices since so are the left-hand-side of equations (5.14) and (5.15). We obtain from (5.16) in matrix notation:

$$-\mathcal{P} + \mathbb{C}\mathcal{M}\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0\,. \tag{5.17}$$

Let us try to solve the constrained equation setting $\lambda_2 = 0$; it follows

$$\mathcal{M} = -\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\lambda_1^{-1}\,. \tag{5.18}$$

In order to find the explicit expression of $\mathcal{M}$, we have still to compute λ_1. This is done setting together the above result with the two constraint equations (5.14) and (5.15). Equation (5.14) inserted in (5.18) gives

$$\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\lambda_1^{-1} = \lambda_1^{-1}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C} \tag{5.19}$$

while from equation (5.15) we find

$$\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P} = -\lambda_1\mathbb{C}\lambda_1\,, \tag{5.20}$$

that is

$$(\mathbb{C}\lambda_1)^2 = -\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\,. \tag{5.21}$$

Thus we have found the value of λ_1

$$\lambda_1 = \pm\mathbb{C}^{-1}\left(-\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}\,. \tag{5.22}$$

Finally inserting (5.22) in (5.18), we further retrieve the value of $\mathcal{M}$[2]

$$\mathcal{M} = -\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\left(-\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbb{C} = -\left(-\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\,. \tag{5.23}$$

---

[2]   The sign is chosen such that $\mathcal{M}$ be positive definite.

Algebraic derivation   In order to prove Eq. (5.13) we first determine a lower bound $\mathcal{L}_{min}$ for $\mathcal{L}_{\text{lin.}-\text{scalar}}$ and then determine a symmetric symplectic matrix $\mathcal{M}_{min}$ such that:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{lin.}-\text{scalar}}[\mathcal{M}_{min}] = \mathcal{L}_{min}\,. \tag{5.24}$$

It is useful to write the Lagrangian density in the following form:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{lin.}-\text{scalar}} = -\frac{1}{2}\,\text{Tr}(\mathcal{P}\mathcal{M}) + \frac{n}{\lambda} = \frac{1}{2}\,\text{Tr}(\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{M}^{-1}\mathbb{C}) + \frac{n}{\lambda}$$
$$= \frac{1}{2}\,\text{Tr}(AB) + \frac{n}{\lambda}\,, \tag{5.25}$$

where we have used the symplectic property of $\mathcal{M}$, $\mathbb{C}\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}^{-1}\mathbb{C}$, and have defined the following matrices:

$$A = -i\,\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\,, \quad B = i\,\mathcal{M}^{-1}\mathbb{C}\,. \tag{5.26}$$

Both matrices A and B are diagonalizable with real eigenvalues and moreover B squares to one:

$$B^2 = \mathbf{1}_{2n} \Rightarrow |\lambda_i(B)| = 1\,, \tag{5.27}$$

$\lambda_i(B)$ denoting the eigenvalues of B. If we denote by B_D the diagonalized B and $\tilde{A}$ the form of A in the basis in which B is diagonal, we can write the following inequalities:

$$|\text{Tr}(AB)| = |\text{Tr}(\tilde{A}B_D)| = |\sum_i \lambda_i(B)\tilde{A}_{ii}| \leq \sum_i |\tilde{A}_{ii}| \leq \sum_i |\lambda_i(A)|\,. \tag{5.28}$$

The latter sum can also be written as follows:

$$\sum_i |\lambda_i(A)| = \text{Tr}\left(\sqrt{A^2}\right) = \text{Tr}\left(\sqrt{-\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}}\right)\,. \tag{5.29}$$

We therefore find that (as above, the final sign assignment is chosen such that $\mathcal{M}$ be positive definite):

$$|\text{Tr}(AB)| \leq \text{Tr}\left(\sqrt{-\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}}\right) \Rightarrow$$
$$\text{Tr}(AB) = \text{Tr}(\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{M}^{-1}\mathbb{C}) \geq -\text{Tr}\left(\sqrt{-\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}}\right)\,. \tag{5.30}$$

This allows us to write a lower bound for the Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}_{min} = -\frac{1}{2}\,\text{Tr}\left(\sqrt{-\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}}\right) + \frac{n}{\lambda}\,. \tag{5.31}$$

The value $\mathcal{M}_{min}$ for $\mathcal{M}$ at which the Lagrangian equals this lower bound is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{min}^{-1}\mathbb{C} = -\sqrt{-\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}}\,(\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C})^{-1} \Rightarrow$$
$$\mathcal{M}_{min} = (-\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P})^{-\frac{1}{2}}\,\mathbb{C}^{-1}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C} > 0\,. \tag{5.32}$$

Thus the BI Lagrangian reads:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{n.lin.}-\text{scalar}} = -\frac{1}{2}\,\text{Tr}\left(\sqrt{-\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}}\right) + \frac{n}{\lambda}\,, \tag{5.33}$$

and is manifestly U(n)-invariant. We can write its explicit form by expanding the argument of the square root at lowest order in λ (recall that $\lambda \ll 1$):

$$-\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C} = \frac{1}{\lambda^2}\Big[\mathbf{1}_{2n} - \lambda\left(\partial\mathcal{Z}\cdot\partial\mathcal{Z}^T - \mathbb{C}\partial\mathcal{Z}\cdot\partial\mathcal{Z}^T\mathbb{C}\right)$$
$$- \lambda^2\left(\partial\mathcal{Z}\cdot\partial\mathcal{Z}^T\mathbb{C}\partial\mathcal{Z}\cdot\partial\mathcal{Z}^T\mathbb{C}\right)\Big]\,, \tag{5.34}$$

so that

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{n.lin.}-\text{scalar}} = \frac{1}{\lambda}\left(n - \frac{1}{2}\right.$$
$$\left. \times \operatorname{Tr}\sqrt{\mathbf{1}_{2n} - \lambda\left(\partial\mathcal{Z}\cdot\partial\mathcal{Z}^T - \mathbb{C}\partial\mathcal{Z}\cdot\partial\mathcal{Z}^T\mathbb{C}\right) - \lambda^2\left(\partial\mathcal{Z}\cdot\partial\mathcal{Z}^T\mathbb{C}\partial\mathcal{Z}\cdot\partial\mathcal{Z}^T\mathbb{C}\right)}\right). \tag{5.35}$$

For $n = 1$ the matrix $A = -i\,\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}$ has two eigenvalues $\lambda_i(A) = \pm x$, where

$$x = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$
$$\times \sqrt{1 - \lambda\left(\partial_\mu\zeta\partial^\mu\zeta + \partial_\mu\tilde\zeta\partial^\mu\tilde\zeta\right) + \lambda^2\left(\partial_\mu\zeta\partial^\mu\zeta\partial_\nu\tilde\zeta\partial^\nu\tilde\zeta - (\partial_\mu\zeta\partial^\mu\tilde\zeta)^2\right)}$$
$$> 0, \tag{5.36}$$

and thus $\operatorname{Tr}\sqrt{-\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{P}\mathbb{C}} = \operatorname{Tr}(|A|) = 2x$ so that we find (4.4).

5.3. Coupling to gravity

Just as we did in the two-scalar case, we can write the multi-scalar non-linear Lagrangian coupled to gravity. It is

$$\hat{e}^{-1}\mathcal{L}_4 = -\frac{\hat{R}}{2} + \partial_\mu U\partial^\mu U + \frac{e^{-4U}}{4}\,\omega_\mu\omega^\mu + e^{-2U}\,\mathcal{L}_{\text{n.l.}-\text{scalar}}, \tag{5.37}$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{\text{n.lin.}-\text{scalar}}$ is given by (5.35), with $\eta_{\mu\nu}$ replaced by the space–time metric $g_{\mu\nu}$. This action describes the c-map of n-vector BI action.

5.4. Dualizing scalars into tensors

In the absence of gravity, the non-linear scalar Lagrangian (5.13) exhibits shift symmetries associated with the $2n$ scalars $\mathcal{Z}^M$. This is also apparent in the linearized form of the Lagrangian (5.11). This allows us to dualize all the scalars into tensor fields. To this end it is convenient to work with (5.11) and to write:

$$\mathcal{L}' = \frac{1}{2}\eta_\mu^T\mathcal{M}\eta^\mu - \frac{1}{2\lambda}\operatorname{Tr}(\mathcal{M}) + \frac{n}{\lambda} - \mathcal{H}_\mu^T(\eta^\mu - \partial^\mu\mathcal{Z}), \tag{5.38}$$

where we have suppressed the symplectic indices and $\mathcal{H}_\mu \equiv (\mathcal{H}_{M\,\mu})$, $\eta_\mu \equiv (\eta_\mu^M)$. Upon variation of $\mathcal{L}'$ with respect to $\mathcal{H}_\mu$ we get back (5.11), while by varying $\mathcal{L}'$ with respect to $\mathcal{Z}^M$ we find the condition $\partial^\mu\mathcal{H}_{M\,\mu} = 0$ which implies that, locally,

$$\mathcal{H}_{M\,\mu} \equiv \frac{1}{3!}\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}H_M^{\nu\rho\sigma}, \quad \text{where } H_{M\mu\nu\rho} = 3\partial_{[\mu}B_{M\,\nu\rho]}. \tag{5.39}$$

The equations obtained by varying $\mathcal{L}'$ with respect to η_μ^M are:

$$\mathcal{M}\eta_\mu = \mathcal{H}_\mu \ \Rightarrow \ \eta_\mu = \mathcal{M}^{-1}\mathcal{H}_\mu. \tag{5.40}$$

Replacing the solution to the above equation in $\mathcal{L}'$, up to total derivatives we find:

$$\mathcal{L}'_0 = -\frac{1}{2}\mathcal{H}_\mu^T\mathbb{C}^T\mathcal{M}\mathbb{C}\mathcal{H}^\mu - \frac{1}{2\lambda}\operatorname{Tr}(\mathcal{M}) + \frac{n}{\lambda} = -\frac{1}{2}\operatorname{Tr}(\hat{\mathcal{P}}\mathcal{M}) + \frac{n}{\lambda}, \tag{5.41}$$

where now the $2n \times 2n$ matrix $\hat{\mathcal{P}}^{MN}$ is defined as follows:

$$\hat{\mathcal{P}}^{MN} \equiv \frac{1}{\lambda}\delta^{MN} + (\mathbb{C}\mathcal{H}_\mu)^M(\mathbb{C}\mathcal{H}^\mu)^N. \tag{5.42}$$

The non-linear theory is obtained by minimizing the action with respect to the matrix $\mathcal{M}$. This can be done along the same lines as in Sect. 5.2, thus obtaining:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{n.lin.}-\text{tensor}} = -\frac{1}{2}\operatorname{Tr}\left(\sqrt{-\hat{\mathcal{P}}\mathbb{C}\hat{\mathcal{P}}\mathbb{C}}\right) + \frac{n}{\lambda}, \tag{5.43}$$

which is manifestly U(n)-invariant. For $n = 1$ the above Lagrangian reduces to Eq. (5.9).

6. Conclusions

In this investigation we considered the c-map of non-linear theories of vectors fields and their c-map counterparts. In doing so multi-fields non-linear scalar and tensor theories are obtained of the type considered in [9,10]. The c-map can be extended by coupling these non-linear theories to gravity then obtaining a deformation of Quaternionic-Kähler manifolds of N = 2 theories. It would be interesting to discuss the supersymmetric extensions of these theories, at least for the $N = 1, 2$ cases. In order to achieve this a non-linear constraint preserving the lower supersymmetry should be found.

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