Topological Parameters in Theory of Gravity

Romesh K. Kaul

Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai (kaul@imsc.res.in) Topological density terms (total derivatives) in the Lag. density of (i) a quantum mechanical model as well as (ii) in the QCD.

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- In the time-gauge, we obtain a real SU(2) gauge theoretic formulation with a set of seven first class constraints, three corresponding to SU(2) generators, three diffeomorphism constraints and one Hamiltonian constraint.
- This analysis provides a topological interpretation for the BI parameter.

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Adding total divergence terms to the Lagrangian density implies, in the Hamiltonian formulation, a canonical transformation; $q \rightarrow q' = q'(q, p), p \rightarrow p' = p'(q, p)$ on the coordinates q and the momenta p with the corresponding transformation of the Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}(q, p) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}' = \mathcal{H}'(q', p')$.

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Thus, phase space is changed and so is the symplectic structure, yet the Hamiltons equations of motion are not changed .

To repeat, classical dynamics (the classical equations of motion) do not see tot. div. terms of \mathcal{L} ; that is, classical dynamics does not depend on the parameter θ .

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Such topological density terms are universal.

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This just measures how many times do we wrap or wind x(t) over the interval 0 to 2π as we go around t once over its full range.

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Its integral is characterized by the homotopy group $\Pi_1(S^1)$, which is the set of integers, \mathbb{Z} .

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There are infinitely many classical ground states, given by the locations $mx_{gr} = 2n\pi\sqrt{\lambda}$, $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ of the minima of the potential V(x). Corresponding to each one of these classical ground states is a *perturbative* vacuum state represented by an integer label, $|n\rangle$.

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If we were to disregard tunnellings, the quantum energy eigenstates would be an infinitely many degenerate states, each concentrated at the bottom of one of the wells. But quantum barrier penetration will lead to every energy eigenvalue to change into a continuous band of eigen-values, the so called Bloch wave.
This is so because the real quantum vacuum state here is a *non-pertubative* one given by a linear combination of the perturbative quantum states $|n\rangle$:

 $|vac\rangle = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \exp(in\theta) |n\rangle.$

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The physical quantities depend on this parameter θ .

 $E_{vac} = E_0 + E_{\theta} + ... \mathcal{O}(\hbar^2)$ with $E_{\theta} \sim A\hbar \cos \theta \exp(-\frac{B}{\hbar\lambda})$, where *A* and *B* are numerical constants.

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This suggests that θ like the electromagnetic coupling is *not* determined by the theory but is prescribed as a given parameter and *is to be fixed by the experiment.*

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 $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{QCD} + \theta \mathcal{L}_{\theta} = -\frac{1}{4g^2} F^{i\mu\nu} F^i_{\mu\nu} - \frac{\theta}{64\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} F^i_{\mu\nu} F^i_{\alpha\beta}.$

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In the Euclidean space-time, its integral is always an integer: $\frac{1}{64\pi^2} \int d^4x \ \epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \ F^i_{\mu\nu} F^i_{\alpha\beta} = n , \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$

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This is the *winding number* of the homotopy maps $S^3 \to S^3$ characterised by the homotopy group $\Pi_3(SU(N)) = \mathbb{Z}$.

These are given by the solutions of $F_{\mu\nu}^i = 0$ which are just the pure gauge $A_{\mu}^i T^i = g^{-1} \partial_{\mu} g$ where, T^i are the SU(3)algebra representation matrices and g(x) is an element of the gauge group.

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These $g(x) = \exp \left[i\xi^i(x)T^i\right]$ fall in homotopy equivalence classes, each characterized by an integer.

True (nonperturbative) quantum vac state is the linear superposition of perturbative vac states associated with these classical ground states: $|vac\rangle = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \exp(in\theta) |n\rangle$.

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The constraints from the electric dipole moment of the neutron suggest $\theta < 10^{-10} rad$.

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where $e \equiv det(e_{\mu}^{I})$, $\Sigma_{IJ}^{\mu\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{2} e_{[I}^{\mu} e_{J]}^{\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left(e_{I}^{\mu} e_{J}^{\nu} - e_{J}^{\mu} e_{I}^{\nu} \right)$,
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$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L}_{HP} &= \frac{1}{2} \ e \ \Sigma_{IJ}^{\mu\nu} \ R_{\mu\nu}^{\ \ IJ}(\omega) \\ \text{where} \quad e \equiv det(e_{\mu}^{I}) \ , \quad \Sigma_{IJ}^{\mu\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{2} e_{[I}^{\mu} e_{J]}^{\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left(e_{I}^{\mu} e_{J}^{\nu} - e_{J}^{\mu} e_{I}^{\nu} \right) \ , \\ R_{\mu\nu}^{\ \ IJ}(\omega) \equiv \partial_{[\mu} \omega_{\nu]}^{\ \ IJ} + \omega_{[\mu}^{\ \ IK} \omega_{\nu]K}^{\ \ J} \\ e_{I}^{\mu} \text{ is the inverse of the tetrad field, } e_{I}^{\mu} \ e_{\nu}^{I} = \delta_{\nu}^{\mu} \ , \ e_{\mu}^{I} \ e_{J}^{\mu} = \ \delta_{J}^{I} \ . \end{split}$$

Let us now explore the possibilities of such topological couplings constants in a theory of gravity in (1 + 3) dims. We set up a theory of pure (*i.e.*, no matter couplings) gravity in terms of the 24 SO(1,3) gauge connections ω_{μ}^{IJ} and 16 tetrad fields e_{μ}^{I} as the *independent* fields, described by Hilbert-Palatini Lagrangian density:

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So in such a quantum theory, besides the Newton's coupling constant, we can have additional two CP violating (η, θ) and one CP preserving (ϕ) couplings.

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This analysis, in the time gauge, leads to the well known Ashtekar-Barbero-Immirzi *real* SU(2) gauge theory of gravity with η^{-1} identified as the Barbero-Immirzi parameter γ .

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Standard parametrization for the tetrad fields: $e_t^I = NM^I + N^a V_a^I$, $e_a^I = V_a^I$; $M_I V_a^I = 0$, $M_I M^I = -1$

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Convenient set of variables from the 24 ω_{μ}^{IJ} : $\begin{bmatrix} A_a^i \equiv \omega_a^{(\eta)0i} = \omega_a^{0i} + \eta \tilde{\omega}_a^{0i}, & K_a^i \equiv \omega_a^{0i}, & \omega_t^{IJ} \end{bmatrix}$: [9+9+6=24]The time (boost) gauge $\chi_i = 0$ where $V_a^0 \equiv e_a^0 = 0$.

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Fields V_a^i , t_i^a and \hat{F}_i^a are not independent: $V_a^i = v_a^i$, $t_i^a = \tau_i^a$:

Convenient set of variables from the 24 ω_{μ}^{IJ} : $\left[A_a^i \equiv \omega_a^{(\eta)0i} = \omega_a^{0i} + \eta \tilde{\omega}_a^{0i}, \quad K_a^i \equiv \omega_a^{0i}, \quad \omega_t^{IJ}\right] : \quad [9+9+6=24]$ The time (boost) gauge $\chi_i = 0$ where $V_a^0 \equiv e_a^0 = 0$. In this gauge Lagrangian density: $\mathcal{L} = \hat{E}^a_i \partial_t A^i_a + \hat{F}^a_i \partial_t K^i_a + t^a_i \partial_t V^i_a - \mathcal{H} + (\text{tot space der})$ Canonically conjugate pairs (A_a^i, \hat{E}_i^a) , (K_a^i, \hat{F}_i^a) , (V_a^i, t_i^a) ; $\hat{E}_{a}^{i} \equiv E_{i}^{a} - \frac{1}{1+\eta^{2}}\hat{F}_{i}^{a} + 2e_{0i}^{a}(A,K) , \quad \hat{F}_{i}^{a} \equiv 2\left(\eta + \frac{1}{\eta}\right)\tilde{e}_{0i}^{a}(A,K)$ $(1+\eta^2) e^a_{IJ} \equiv \epsilon^{abc} \left[(\theta+\eta\phi) R_{bcIJ}(\omega) + (\phi-\eta\theta) \tilde{R}_{bcIJ}(\omega) \right]$

Fields V_a^i , t_i^a and \hat{F}_i^a are not independent: $V_a^i = v_a^i$, $t_i^a = \tau_i^a$: $v_a^i \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{E}} E_a^i$, $\tau_i^a \equiv \eta \epsilon^{abc} D_b(\omega) V_c^i \equiv \epsilon^{abc} \left(\eta D_b(A) v_c^i - \epsilon^{ijk} K_b^j v_c^k \right)$ $\epsilon^{tabc} = \epsilon^{abc}$ and E_a^i is the inverse of E_i^a and $E \equiv det(E_a^i)$ In the time-gauge, the Hamiltonian density :

$$G_i^{rot} \equiv \eta D_a(A)\hat{E}_i^a + \epsilon_{ijk} \left(K_a^j \hat{F}_k^a - t_j^a V_a^k \right)$$

$$\begin{split} G_{i}^{rot} &\equiv \eta D_{a}(A) \hat{E}_{i}^{a} + \epsilon_{ijk} \left(K_{a}^{j} \hat{F}_{k}^{a} - t_{j}^{a} V_{a}^{k} \right) \\ H_{a} &\equiv \hat{E}_{i}^{b} F_{ab}^{i}(A) + \hat{F}_{i}^{b} D_{[a}(A) K_{b]}^{i} - K_{a}^{i} D_{b}(A) \hat{F}_{i}^{b} + t_{i}^{b} D_{[a}(A) V_{b]}^{i} \\ &- V_{a}^{i} D_{b}(A) t_{i}^{b} - \frac{1}{\eta} G_{i}^{rot} K_{a}^{i} \end{split}$$

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where in the last expression $E_i^a \equiv \hat{E}_i^a + \frac{1}{1 + n^2} \hat{F}_i^a - 2e_{0i}^a(A, K)$

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$$V_a^i - v_a^i(E) \approx 0, \qquad t_i^a - \tau_i^a(A, K, E) \approx 0$$

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Constraints $\chi_i^a \approx 0$ are of particular interest.

Using these we obtain a secondary constraint from the Poisson bracket of the Hamiltonian constraint H and χ_i^a , $[\chi_i^a(x), H(y)] \approx 0$ as:

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$$\epsilon^{abc} \left[\eta D_b(A) v_c^i - \epsilon^{ijk} K_b^j v_c^k \right] \approx 0: \qquad v_a^i \equiv \frac{E_a^i}{\sqrt{E}}$$

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which can be solved for the extrinsic curvature K_a^i and recast as the following secondary constraint:

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$$\begin{split} \psi_a^i &\equiv K_a^i - \kappa_a^i(A, E) \approx 0 ,\\ \kappa_a^i(A, E) &\equiv \frac{\eta}{2} \epsilon^{ijk} E_a^j D_b(A) E_k^b - \frac{\eta}{2E} E_a^k \epsilon^{bcd} \left[E_b^k D_c(A) E_d^i \right. \\ &\left. + E_b^i D_c(A) E_d^k - \delta^{ik} E_b^m D_c(A) E_d^m \right] \end{split}$$
Thus we have the secondary constraint:

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This is an additional constraint and forms a second class pair with the constraint $\chi_i^a \approx 0$:

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This is an additional constraint and forms a second class pair with the constraint $\chi_i^a \approx 0$:

$$[\chi_{i}^{a}(x), \psi_{b}^{j}(y)] = -\delta_{b}^{a}\delta_{i}^{j}\delta^{(3)}(x, y)$$

Then impose the constraints strongly, $\chi_i^a = 0$ and $\psi_a^i = 0$.

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It can be checked that, these Dirac brackets for the set of fields $(A_a^i, \hat{E}_i^a; K_a^i, \hat{F}_i^a)$ are different from their Poisson brackets.

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It can be checked that, these Dirac brackets for the set of fields $(A_a^i, \hat{E}_i^a; K_a^i, \hat{F}_i^a)$ are different from their Poisson brackets.

On the other hand, for the fields A_a^i and E_i^a , Dirac brackets are same as their Poisson brackets.

 $G_i^{rot} \equiv \eta D_a(A) \hat{E}_i^a + \epsilon^{ijk} K_a^j \hat{F}_k^a \ \approx \ 0$

$$\begin{split} G_i^{rot} &\equiv \eta D_a(A) \hat{E}_i^a + \epsilon^{ijk} K_a^j \hat{F}_k^a \ \approx \ 0 \\ H_a &\equiv \hat{E}_i^b F_{ab}^i(A) + \hat{F}_i^b D_{[a}(A) K_{b]}^i - K_a^i D_b(A) \hat{F}_i^b - \frac{1}{\eta} G_i^{rot} K_a^i \ \approx \ 0 \end{split}$$

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where now the following hold strongly:

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where now the following hold strongly:

$$\begin{split} K_a^i &= \kappa_a^i ~\equiv~ \frac{\eta}{2} \epsilon^{ijk} E_a^j D_b(A) E_k^b - \frac{\eta}{2E} E_a^k \epsilon^{bcd} \left[E_b^k D_c(A) E_d^i \right. \\ &+ E_b^i D_c(A) E_d^k - \delta^{ik} E_b^m D_c(A) E_d^m \right] \\ \hat{F}_i^a &= 2 \left(\eta + \frac{1}{\eta} \right) \tilde{e}_{0i}^a(A, K) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} G_i^{rot} &\equiv \eta D_a(A) \hat{E}_i^a + \epsilon^{ijk} K_a^j \hat{F}_k^a \approx 0\\ H_a &\equiv \hat{E}_i^b F_{ab}^i(A) + \hat{F}_i^b D_{[a}(A) K_{b]}^i - K_a^i D_b(A) \hat{F}_i^b - \frac{1}{\eta} G_i^{rot} K_a^i \approx 0\\ H &\equiv \frac{\sqrt{E}}{2\eta} \epsilon^{ijk} E_i^a E_j^b F_{ab}^k(A)\\ &- \left(\frac{1+\eta^2}{2\eta^2}\right) \sqrt{E} E_i^a E_j^b K_{[a}^i K_{b]}^j - \eta \partial_a \left(\sqrt{E} G_k^{rot} E_k^a\right) \approx 0 \end{split}$$

where now the following hold strongly:

$$K_a^i = \kappa_a^i \equiv \frac{\eta}{2} \epsilon^{ijk} E_a^j D_b(A) E_k^b - \frac{\eta}{2E} E_a^k \epsilon^{bcd} \left[E_b^k D_c(A) E_d^i + E_b^i D_c(A) E_d^k - \delta^{ik} E_b^m D_c(A) E_d^m \right]$$

$$\hat{F}_i^a = 2\left(\eta + \frac{1}{\eta}\right)\tilde{e}_{0i}^a(A, K)$$

and $E_i^a \equiv \hat{E}_i^a + \frac{2}{\eta}\tilde{e}_{0i}^a(A, K) - 2e_{0i}^a(A, K)$

$$\begin{aligned} G_i^{rot} &\equiv \eta D_a(A) \hat{E}_i^a + \epsilon^{ijk} K_a^j \hat{F}_k^a \approx 0 \\ H_a &\equiv \hat{E}_i^b F_{ab}^i(A) + \hat{F}_i^b D_{[a}(A) K_{b]}^i - K_a^i D_b(A) \hat{F}_i^b - \frac{1}{\eta} G_i^{rot} K_a^i \approx 0 \\ H &\equiv \frac{\sqrt{E}}{2\eta} \epsilon^{ijk} E_i^a E_j^b F_{ab}^k(A) \\ &- \left(\frac{1+\eta^2}{2\eta^2}\right) \sqrt{E} E_i^a E_j^b K_{[a}^i K_{b]}^j - \eta \partial_a \left(\sqrt{E} G_k^{rot} E_k^a\right) \approx 0 \end{aligned}$$

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 $\hat{F}_{i}^{a} = 2\left(\eta + \frac{1}{\eta}\right)\tilde{e}_{0i}^{a}(A, K)$ and $E_{i}^{a} \equiv \hat{E}_{i}^{a} + \frac{2}{\eta}\tilde{e}_{0i}^{a}(A, K) - 2e_{0i}^{a}(A, K)$ $(1 + \eta^{2})e_{IJ}^{a} \equiv \epsilon^{abc}\left[\left(\theta + \eta\phi\right)R_{bcIJ} + \left(\phi - \eta\theta\right)\tilde{R}_{bcIJ}\right](A, K)$

$$\begin{split} & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), \hat{E}_j^a(y) \right]_D = \epsilon^{ijk} \hat{E}_k^a \delta^{(3)}(x, y) , \\ & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), A_a^i(y) \right]_D = -\eta \left(\delta^{ij} \partial_a + \frac{1}{\eta} \epsilon^{ikj} A_a^k \right) \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), \hat{E}_j^a(y)\right]_D = \epsilon^{ijk} \hat{E}_k^a \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \ , \\ & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), A_a^i(y)\right]_D = -\eta \left(\delta^{ij} \partial_a \ + \frac{1}{\eta} \epsilon^{ikj} A_a^k\right) \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \\ & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), \hat{F}_i^a(y)\right]_D = \epsilon^{ijk} \hat{F}_k^a \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \ , \\ & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), K_a^j(y)\right]_D = \epsilon^{ijk} K_a^k \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \\ & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), E_i^a(y)\right]_D = \epsilon^{ijk} E_k^a \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \end{split}$$

$$\begin{split} \left[G_i^{rot}(x), \hat{E}_j^a(y)\right]_D &= \epsilon^{ijk} \hat{E}_k^a \delta^{(3)}(x, y) ,\\ \left[G_i^{rot}(x), A_a^i(y)\right]_D &= -\eta \left(\delta^{ij} \partial_a + \frac{1}{\eta} \epsilon^{ikj} A_a^k\right) \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \\ \left[G_i^{rot}(x), \hat{F}_i^a(y)\right]_D &= \epsilon^{ijk} \hat{F}_k^a \delta^{(3)}(x, y) ,\\ \left[G_i^{rot}(x), K_a^j(y)\right]_D &= \epsilon^{ijk} K_a^k \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \\ \left[G_i^{rot}(x), E_i^a(y)\right]_D &= \epsilon^{ijk} E_k^a \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \end{split}$$

reflecting the fact G_i^{rot} are generators of SU(2) transfs.

$$\begin{split} \left[G_{i}^{rot}(x), \hat{E}_{j}^{a}(y)\right]_{D} &= \epsilon^{ijk} \hat{E}_{k}^{a} \delta^{(3)}(x, y) ,\\ \left[G_{i}^{rot}(x), A_{a}^{i}(y)\right]_{D} &= -\eta \left(\delta^{ij} \partial_{a} + \frac{1}{\eta} \epsilon^{ikj} A_{a}^{k}\right) \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \\ \left[G_{i}^{rot}(x), \hat{F}_{i}^{a}(y)\right]_{D} &= \epsilon^{ijk} \hat{F}_{k}^{a} \delta^{(3)}(x, y) ,\\ \left[G_{i}^{rot}(x), K_{a}^{j}(y)\right]_{D} &= \epsilon^{ijk} K_{a}^{k} \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \\ \left[G_{i}^{rot}(x), E_{i}^{a}(y)\right]_{D} &= \epsilon^{ijk} E_{k}^{a} \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \\ reflecting the fact G_{i}^{rot} are generators of SU(2) transfs. \\ \text{Similar discussion is valid for the diffeomorphism} \end{split}$$

generators H_a ;

$$\begin{split} & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), \hat{E}_j^a(y)\right]_D = \epsilon^{ijk} \hat{E}_k^a \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \ , \\ & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), A_a^i(y)\right]_D = -\eta \left(\delta^{ij} \partial_a \ + \frac{1}{\eta} \epsilon^{ikj} A_a^k\right) \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \\ & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), \hat{F}_i^a(y)\right]_D = \epsilon^{ijk} \hat{F}_k^a \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \ , \\ & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), K_a^j(y)\right]_D = \epsilon^{ijk} K_a^k \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \\ & \left[G_i^{rot}(x), E_i^a(y)\right]_D = \epsilon^{ijk} E_k^a \delta^{(3)}(x, y) \end{split}$$

reflecting the fact G_i^{rot} are generators of SU(2) transfs.

Similar discussion is valid for the diffeomorphism generators H_a ; Dirac brackets of H_a with various fields yield the Lie derivatives of these fields respectively, modulo SU(2) gauge transformations.

The coupling constant of this gauge theory is η^{-1} .

This is to be identified with the Barbero-Immirzi parameter.

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Now if we couple matter, such as fermions, spin 1/2 or spin 3/2 (supergravity), or antisymmetric gauge fields to this theory, we do that in the usual manner through the minimal couplings.

Hamiltonian analysis, in the time-gauge, can again be set up in terms of a real SU(2) gauge theory with η^{-1} as its coupling constant.