Green-Schwarz superstring as subsector of Yang-Mills theory

Alexander D. Popov

Institut für Theoretische Physik
Leibniz Universität Hannover
Appelstraße 2, 30167 Hannover, Germany
Email: popov@itp.uni-hannover.de

Abstract

We consider Yang-Mills theory with $N = 2$ super translation group in ten auxiliary dimensions as the structure group. The gauge theory is defined on a direct product manifold $\Sigma_2 \times H^2$, where $\Sigma_2$ is a two-dimensional Lorentzian manifold and $H^2$ is the open disc in $\mathbb{R}^2$ with the boundary $S^1 = \partial H^2$. We show that in the adiabatic limit, when the metric on $H^2$ is scaled down, the Yang-Mills action supplemented by a Wess-Zumino-type term becomes the Green-Schwarz superstring action.
1. **Introduction.** Superstring theory has a long history [1]-[3] and pretends on description of all four forces in Nature. On the other hand, Yang-Mills theory (plus matter fields) in four dimensions describes three main forces except the gravitational force. The aim of this short paper is to show that the Green-Schwarz superstring theory (of type I, IIA and IIB) [4] can be obtained as a subsector of pure Yang-Mills theory with a Lie supergroup $G$ as the structure group. In fact, we introduce a Yang-Mills model on a direct product manifold $\Sigma \times \tilde{\Sigma}$ which in the low-energy limit flows to the Green-Schwarz superstring model on $\Sigma$, with $N=2$ super translation group $G$ in $d=10$ as a target space. Here $\Sigma$ and $\tilde{\Sigma}$ are two-dimensional Lorentzian and Riemannian manifolds, respectively. Our construction is based on the results of papers [5]-[8], where it was shown that $N=4$ super-Yang-Mills theory on $\Sigma \times \tilde{\Sigma}$ flows to a sigma-model on $\Sigma$ while $\tilde{\Sigma}$ shrinks to a point. The target space of the above sigma-model is the space of vacua that arise in the compactification on $\tilde{\Sigma}$. For pure Yang-Mills theory on $\Sigma \times \tilde{\Sigma}$ this is the moduli space of flat connections on $\Sigma$ [5]-[8]. In our paper we reverse the logic of [5]-[8] and associate a Yang-Mills model on $\Sigma \times \tilde{\Sigma}$ to the known superstring model on $\Sigma$. We consider the simplest case of the super translation group $G$ as the structure group but other supergroups can be considered as well, e.g. the group $G = PSU(2,2|4)$ related with the coset space $AdS_5 \times S^5$.

2. **Lie supergroup $G$.** We consider Yang-Mills theory on a direct product manifold $M^4 = \Sigma_2 \times H^2$, where $\Sigma_2$ is a two-dimensional Lorentzian manifold (flat case is included) with local coordinates $x^a, a, b, ... = 1, 2$, and a metric tensor $g_{\Sigma_2} = (g_{ab})$. $H^2$ is the open disc with coordinates $x^i, i, j, ... = 3, 4$ and the metric tensor $g_{H^2} = (g_{ij})$. Then $(x^\mu) = (x^a, x^i)$ are local coordinates on $M^4$ with metric tensor $(g_{\mu\nu}) = (g_{ab}, g_{ij}), \mu, \nu = 1, 2, ..., 4$.

As the structure group of Yang-Mills theory, we consider the coset $G = \text{SUSY}(N=2)/SO(9,1)$ (cf. [16]) which is the subgroup of $N=2$ super Poincare group in ten auxiliary dimensions generated by translations and $N=2$ supersymmetry transformations. Its generators $(\xi_\alpha, \xi_{Ap})$ obey the Lie superalgebra $g = \text{Lie} \ G$,

$$\{\xi_{A_1}, \xi_{B_2}\} = (\gamma^\alpha C)_{AB} \delta_{pq} \xi_\alpha, \quad [\xi_\alpha, \xi_{A_1}] = 0, \quad [\xi_\alpha, \xi_\beta] = 0,$$

where $\gamma^\alpha$ are the $\gamma$-matrices, $C$ is the charge conjugation matrix, $\alpha = 0, ..., 9$, $A = 1, ..., 32$ and $p, q = 1, 2$ label the number of supersymmetries. Coordinates on $G$ are $X^\alpha$ and two spinors $\theta^{Ap}$ of the Majorana-Weyl type. On the superalgebra $g = \text{Lie} \ G$ we introduce the metric $\langle \cdot \rangle$ with components

$$\langle \xi_\alpha \xi_\beta \rangle = \eta_{\alpha\beta}, \quad \langle \xi_\alpha \xi_{A_1} \rangle = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \xi_{A_1} \xi_{B_2} \rangle = 0,$$

where $(\eta_{\alpha\beta}) = \text{diag}(-1, 1, ..., 1)$ is the Lorentzian metric on $\mathbb{R}^{9,1}$ and the last equality in (2) is standard in superstring theory.

3. **Yang-Mills action.** We consider the gauge potential $A = A_\mu dx^\mu$ with values in $g$ and the $g$-valued gauge field

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{1}{2} F_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu \quad \text{with} \quad F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu + [A_\mu, A_\nu],$$

where $[\cdot, \cdot]$ is the commutator or anti-commutator for two $\xi_{A_1}$-generators. On $M^4 = \Sigma_2 \times H^2$ we have the obvious splitting

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = g_{ab} dx^a dx^b + g_{ij} dx^i dx^j,$$
\[ A = A_\mu dx^\mu = A_0 dx^0 + A_i dx^i, \]
\[ \mathcal{F} = \frac{1}{2} F_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu = \frac{1}{2} F_{ab} dx^a \wedge dx^b + F_{ai} dx^a \wedge dx^i + \frac{1}{2} F_{ij} dx^i \wedge dx^j. \]

By using the adiabatic approach in the form presented in [9, 10], we deform the metric (4) and introduce
\[ \text{d}x^2 = g^\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} \text{d}x^\mu \text{d}x^\nu = g_{ab} dx^a dx^b + \varepsilon^2 g_{ij} dx^i dx^j, \]
where \( \varepsilon \in [0, 1] \) is a real parameter. Then \( \det(g^\varepsilon_{\mu\nu}) = \varepsilon^4 \det(g_{ab}) \det(g_{ij}) \) and
\[ F^a_{\varepsilon} = g^a_{\varepsilon c} g^b_{\varepsilon d} F_{cd} = F_{ab}, \quad F^{a}_{\varepsilon i} = g^a_{\varepsilon c} g^i_{\varepsilon j} F_{cj} = \varepsilon^{-2} F^{ai} \quad \text{and} \quad F^{ij}_{\varepsilon} = g^i_{\varepsilon k} g^j_{\varepsilon l} F_{kl} = \varepsilon^{-4} F^{ij}, \]
where indices in \( F^{\mu\nu} \) are raised by the non-deformed metric tensor \( g^{\mu\nu} \). It is assumed that \( F^{\mu\nu} \) smoothly depend on \( \varepsilon \) with well-defined limit for \( \varepsilon \to 0 \).

For the deformed metric (7) the Yang-Mills action functional is
\[ S_\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{M^4} \text{d}^4 x \sqrt{\det g_{\Sigma^2}} \sqrt{\det g_{H^2}} \left\{ \varepsilon^2 \langle F_{ab} F^{ab} \rangle + 2 \langle F_{ai} F^{ai} \rangle + \varepsilon^{-2} \langle F^{ij} F^{ij} \rangle \right\}, \]
where \( \pi \) is the “area” of the disc \( H^2 \) of radius \( R = 1 \).

**Remark.** On the disc \( H^2 \) of radius \( R = 1 \) one can consider both the flat metric \( g_{ij} = \delta_{ij} \) (then \( \text{Vol}(H^2) = \pi \)) and the metric
\[ g_{ij} = \frac{4}{(1-r^2)^2} \delta_{ij} \quad \text{with} \quad r^2 = x^i x^i. \]

However, we will see later that in all integrals over \( H^2 \) the metric \( g_{ij} \) enters in the combination \( \sqrt{\det g_{H^2} g^{ij} \xi_i \xi_j = \delta^{ij} \xi_i \xi_j = 1} \), where \( (\xi_i) = (\sin \varphi, -\cos \varphi) \) is the unit vector on \( S^1 = \partial H^2 \). Hence all calculations for the metric (10) are equivalent to the calculations for \( g_{ij} = \delta_{ij} \). That is why we will consider the flat metric on \( H^2 \) as in many mathematical papers considering Yang-Mills theory on the balls \( B^n \) with \( n \geq 2 \).

**4. Adiabatic limit.** The term \( \varepsilon^{-2} \langle F^{ij} F^{ij} \rangle \) in the Yang-Mills action (9) diverges when \( \varepsilon \to 0 \). To avoid this we impose the flatness condition
\[ F_{ij} = 0 \]
(11)
on the components of the field tensor along \( H^2 \) for \( \varepsilon = 0 \). However, for \( \varepsilon > 0 \) the condition (11) is not needed and one can consider \( F_{ij}(\varepsilon > 0) \neq 0 \), only \( F_{ij}(\varepsilon = 0) = 0 \).

In the adiabatic limit \( \varepsilon \to 0 \), the Yang-Mills action (9) becomes
\[ S_0 = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{M^4} \text{d}^4 x \sqrt{|\det g_{\Sigma^2}|} \langle F_{ai} F^{ai} \rangle \]
(12)
with the equations of motion
\[ D_i F^{ib} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\det g_{\Sigma^2}|}} \partial_i \left( \sqrt{|\det g_{\Sigma^2}|} \delta^{ij} g_{ab} F_{aj} \right) + [A_i, F^{ib}] = 0, \]
(13)
\begin{equation}
D_a F^{\alpha j} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{|\det g_{\Sigma_2}|}} \partial_a \left( \sqrt{|\det g_{\Sigma_2}|} \delta^{ij} g^{ab} F_{b} \right) + [A_a, F^{\alpha j}] = 0 .
\end{equation}

Note that the metric \( g_{\Sigma_2} \) on \( \Sigma_2 \) is not fixed and the Euler-Lagrange equations for \( g_{\Sigma_2} \) yield the constraint equations
\begin{equation}
T^{0}_{ab} = \delta^{ij} (F_{ai} F_{bj}) - \frac{1}{2} g_{ab} (F_{ci} F^{ci}) = 0
\end{equation}
for the Yang-Mills energy-momentum tensor \( T^{\epsilon}_{\mu\nu} \) with \( T^{0}_{ab} = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} T^{\epsilon}_{ab} \). For the form of Yang-Mills equations and the constraint equations \( T^{0}_{ab} = 0 \) for \( \epsilon > 0 \) see \cite{11}. In general, for \( \epsilon \in [0, 1] \) we assume that fields \( A_\mu \) and \( F_{\mu\nu} \) smoothly depend on \( \epsilon \) and can be expanded in power series in \( \epsilon \), e.g. \( A_\mu = A^0_\mu + \epsilon^2 A^1_\mu + \epsilon^4 A^2_\mu + \ldots \). Note that \( F^{\mu\nu}(\epsilon) \) should not be confused with \( F^{\mu\nu}_\epsilon = \epsilon^\mu \sigma g^\nu \lambda F^{\mu\nu}(\epsilon) \) in (8).

5. Flat connections. Consider first the adiabatic flatness equation (11). Flat connection \( A_{H^2} := A_i dx^i \in \mathcal{A}_i(\epsilon=0) \) on \( H^2 \) has the form
\begin{equation}
A_{H^2} = g^{-1} \hat{d} g \quad \text{with} \quad \hat{d} = dx^i \partial_i \quad \text{for} \quad \partial_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i},
\end{equation}
where \( g \) is a smooth map from \( H^2 \) into the gauge supergroup \( G \) for any fixed \( x^a \in \Sigma_2 \). We impose on \( g \) in (16) the framing condition \( g(x^3 = 1, x^4 = 0) = \text{Id} \) (since constant \( g \) in (16) gives \( A_{H^2} \equiv 0 \)) and denote by \( C^\infty_0(H^2, G) \) the space of framed flat connections on \( H^2 \) given by (16). On \( H^2 \), as on a manifold with boundary, the (super)group of gauge transformations is defined as (see e.g. \cite{12, 10, 13})
\begin{equation}
\mathcal{G}_{H^2} = \left\{ g : H^2 \to G \mid g_{|\partial H^2} = \text{Id} \right\}.
\end{equation}
Hence the solution space of the equation (11) is the infinite-dimensional space \( C^\infty_0(H^2, G) \) and the moduli space is the based loop (super)group (cf. \cite{10, 12})
\begin{equation}
\mathcal{M} = C^\infty_0(H^2, G)/\mathcal{G}_{H^2} = \Omega G .
\end{equation}
This space can also be represented as \( \Omega G = LG/G \), where \( LG = C^\infty(S^1, G) \) is the loop supergroup with the circle \( S^1 = \partial H^2 \).

6. Moduli space. On the moduli space \( \mathcal{M} = \Omega G \) we introduce coordinates \( (X^\alpha_{(n)}, \theta^{Ap}_{(n)}) \) and \( (Y^\alpha_{(n)}, \chi^{Ap}_{(n)}) \), where \( \alpha, A, p \) run as before and \( n \in \mathbb{N} \) appears from expanding coordinates in \( \sin(n \varphi) \) and \( \cos(n \varphi) \) for \( \varphi \in S^1 = \partial H^2 \). We restrict ourselves to the subspace \( G \subset \Omega G \) by putting
\begin{equation}
(X^\alpha_{(1)}, \theta^{Ap}_{(1)}) = (X^\alpha, \theta^{Ap}) \quad \text{and} \quad (Y^\alpha_{(1)}, \chi^{Ap}_{(1)}) = -(X^\alpha, \theta^{Ap})
\end{equation}
and assuming that all coordinates with \( n \neq 1 \) have zero values. Thus, our moduli space is \( G \subset \Omega G \). In the adiabatic approach it is assumed that \( A_\mu = A_\mu(x^a, x^i, X^\alpha, \theta^{Ap}) \) depend on \( x^a \in \Sigma_2 \) only via moduli parameters \( 14, 15 \), i.e. \( A_\mu = A_\mu(X^\alpha(x^a), \theta^{Ap}(x^a), x^i) \). Then moduli of gauge fields define the map
\begin{equation}
(X, \theta) : \Sigma_2 \to G \quad \text{with} \quad (X(x^a), \theta(x^a)) = \{ X^\alpha(x^a), \theta^{Ap}(x^a) \},
\end{equation}
where $G$ is now our moduli space. Acting by gauge transformations from (17) on flat connections $A_i$ in (16) which depend only on moduli $(X, \theta)$ from (19), we obtain the subspace $\mathcal{N}$ in the full solution space $C_0^\infty(H^2, G)$. The moduli space of these solutions is

\[ G = \mathcal{N}/\mathcal{G}, \tag{21} \]

where $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G}_{H^2}$ for any fixed $x^a \in \Sigma_2$.

The maps (20) are constrained by the equations (13)-(15). Since $A_{H^2}$ is a flat connection for any $x^a \in \Sigma_2$, the derivatives $\partial_\alpha A_i$ have to satisfy the linearized (around $A_{H^2}$) flatness condition, i.e. $\partial_\alpha A_i$ belong to the tangent space $\mathcal{T}_\mathcal{A} \mathcal{N}$ of the space $\mathcal{N}$. Using the projection $\pi: \mathcal{N} \to G$ with fibres $\mathcal{G}$, one can decompose $\partial_\alpha A_i$ into the two parts

\[ T_\mathcal{A} \mathcal{N} = \pi^* T_\mathcal{A} G \oplus T_\mathcal{A} \mathcal{G} \iff \partial_\alpha A_i = \Pi^\alpha_\alpha \xi_{\alpha i} + (\partial_\alpha \theta^{Ap}) \xi_{Ap i} + D_i \epsilon_a, \tag{22} \]

where

\[ \Pi^\alpha_\alpha := \partial_\alpha X^\alpha - i \delta_\alpha^\beta \bar{\theta}^p \gamma^\alpha \theta^q, \tag{23} \]

$\epsilon_a$ are $g$-valued gauge parameters ($D_i \epsilon_a \in T_\mathcal{A} \mathcal{G}$) and $\{\xi_{\alpha i} = \xi_{\alpha i} dx^i, \xi_{Ap i} = \xi_{Ap i} dx^i\}$ can be identified with $g = \text{Lie } G$. We will see in a moment that $(\xi_{\alpha i}, \xi_{Ap i}) = (\xi_{\alpha}, \xi_{Ap})\xi_i$ with $(\xi_i) = (\sin \varphi, -\cos \varphi)$ mentioned in the Remark on p.1.

The gauge parameters $\epsilon_a$ are determined by the gauge fixing conditions

\[ \delta^{ij} D_i \xi_{\Delta j} = 0 \implies \delta^{ij} D_i D_j \epsilon_a = \delta^{ij} D_i \partial_\alpha A_j, \tag{24} \]

where the index $\Delta$ means $\alpha$ or $Ap$. It is easy to see that

\[ \delta^{ij} D_i \xi_{\alpha j} = \delta^{ij} \partial_i \xi_{\alpha j} = 0 \implies \xi_{\alpha i} = \xi_{\alpha} \xi_i \text{ with } (\xi_i) = (\sin \varphi, -\cos \varphi) \tag{25} \]

and similarly $\xi_{Ap i} = \xi_{Ap} \xi_i$. Another form of $\xi_i$ is $\xi_i = \varepsilon_{ij} \partial_j r$ with $r^2 = \delta_{ij} x^i x^j$. It is easy to see that $\delta^{ij} \xi_i \xi_j = 1$.

7. Effective action. Recall that $A_i$ are given by (16) and $A_a$ are yet free. In the adiabatic approach one choose $A_a = \epsilon_a [14, 15]$ and $\epsilon_a$ are defined from (24). Then we obtain

\[ \mathcal{F}_{ai} = \partial_\alpha A_i - D_i A_a = [\Pi^\beta_\alpha \xi_{\beta} + (\partial_\alpha \theta^{Ap}) \xi_{Ap}] \xi_i \in T_\mathcal{A} G. \tag{26} \]

Substituting (26) into (13), we see that (13) is resolved due to (24). Substituting (26) in (14), we will get the equations of motion for $X^a(x^a), \theta^{Ap}(x^a)$ which follow from the action (12) which after inserting (26) into (12) and integrating over $H^2$ becomes

\[ S_0 = \int_{\Sigma_2} dx^1 dx^2 \sqrt{|\det g_{\Sigma_2}|} g^{ab} \Pi^\alpha_\alpha \Pi^\beta_\beta \eta_{\alpha \beta}. \tag{27} \]

This is the kinetic part of the Green-Schwarz superstring action. Note that

\[ \eta_{\alpha \beta} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{H^2} dx^3 dx^4 (\xi_{\alpha} \xi_{\beta}) \delta^{ij} \xi_i \xi_j. \tag{28} \]
As we mentioned in the item 3, this result does not depend on which metric \((g_{ij} = \delta_{ij} \text{ or } g_{ij} \text{ from (10)})\) we choose on the disc \(H^2\). Substituting (26) into the constraint equations (15) and integrating them over \(H^2\), we obtain the equations

\[ \eta_{\alpha\beta} \Pi^\alpha_a \Pi^\beta_b - \frac{1}{2} g_{ab} g^{cd} \eta_{\alpha\beta} \Pi^\alpha_c \Pi^\beta_d = 0 , \]

(29)

which can also be derived from (27) by variation of the metric \(g^{ab} \rightarrow \delta g^{ab}\). Obviously, for \(\theta^p = 0\) one gets the bosonic string action.

8. Wess-Zumino-type term. The action (27) is not yet the full Green-Schwarz action which contains additional Wess-Zumino-type term \([4]\). This term is described as follows. One considers a Lorentzian 3-manifold \(\Sigma_3\) with the boundary \(\partial \Sigma_3 = \Sigma_2\) and coordinates \(\hat{x}^a, \hat{a} = 0, 1, 2\). On \(\Sigma_3\) one introduces the 3-form \([16]\)

\[ \Omega_3 = i d \hat{x}^a \Pi^\alpha_a \wedge (\tilde{\partial}^1 \gamma^\beta \wedge \tilde{d}\theta^1 - \tilde{\partial}^2 \gamma^\beta \wedge \tilde{d}\theta^2) \eta_{\alpha\beta} = \tilde{d} \Omega_2 , \]

(30)

where

\[ \Omega_2 = -i d X^\alpha \wedge (\tilde{\partial}^1 \gamma^\beta \tilde{d}\theta^1 - \tilde{\partial}^2 \gamma^\beta \tilde{d}\theta^2) \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{d} = dx^{\hat{a}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\hat{a}}} . \]

(31)

Then the term

\[ S_{WZ} = \int_{\Sigma_3} \Omega_3 = \int_{\Sigma_2} \Omega_2 \]

(32)

is added to the functional (27) and the Green-Schwarz action is

\[ S_{GS} = S_0 + S_{WZ} . \]

(33)

To get the term (32) from the Yang-Mills theory let us consider the 5-manifold \(M^5 = \Sigma_3 \times H^2\) with coordinates \(\hat{x}^a\) on \(\Sigma_3\). Note that in addition to the components \(F_{ai}\) in (26) of Yang-Mills fields we now have the components \(F_{0i}\) in (26).

\[ F_{0i} = [(\partial_0 X^\alpha - i \delta_{pq} \bar{\theta}^p \gamma^\alpha \partial_0 \theta^q) \xi_\alpha + (\partial_0 \theta^{Ap}) \xi_\alpha] \xi_i . \]

(34)

Notice that

\[ F_{ai} \xi^i = [(\partial_\hat{a} X^\alpha - i \delta_{pq} \bar{\theta}^p \gamma^\alpha \partial_\theta^q) \xi_\alpha + (\partial_\hat{a} \theta^{Ap})] \xi_i =: \omega_\hat{a} \]

(35)

do not depend on \(\varphi\) since \((\xi_i) = (\sin \varphi, - \cos \varphi)\) is the unit vector on \(H^2\) running over the boundary \(S^1 = \partial H^2\), \(\xi_i \xi^i = 1\). Let us introduce the one-forms \(\omega = \omega_\hat{a} dx^\hat{a}\) and the Wess-Zumino-type functional

\[ S_{WZ} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\Sigma_3 \times H^2} f_{\Gamma \Delta \Lambda} \omega^\Gamma \wedge \omega^\Delta \wedge \omega^\Lambda \wedge dx^3 \wedge dx^4 = \int_{\Sigma_3} \Omega_3 = \int_{\Sigma_2} \Omega_2 , \]

(36)

where \(\Omega_3\) and \(\Omega_2\) are the forms given by (30),(31) and the structure constants \(f_{\Gamma \Delta \Lambda}\) are written down in [16]. Thus, adding the functional

\[ \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\Sigma_3 \times H^2} dx^\hat{a} \wedge dx^b \wedge dx^c \wedge dx^3 \wedge dx^4 f_{\Gamma \Delta \Lambda} f_{\hat{a} \hat{b} \hat{c}} \xi^\hat{a} \xi^\hat{b} \xi^\hat{c} \]

(37)

to the action (9), we will get the Green-Schwarz superstring action in the adiabatic limit \(\varepsilon \to 0\).
9. **Concluding remarks.** We have introduced the Yang-Mills model on $\Sigma_2 \times H^2$ whose action functional in the low-energy limit reduces to the Green-Schwarz superstring action. Combining this result with the result for bosonic string [11], one can show that heterotic string theory can also be embedded into Yang-Mills theory as a subsector of low-energy states. Thus, all five superstring theories can be described in a unified manner via infrared limit of Yang-Mills theory on $\Sigma_2 \times H^2$. Such Yang-Mills models were not studied in the literature. But they may give a better base for string unification than elusive M-theory and $d=6$ superconformal field theory of multiple M5-branes.

The fibres of Yang-Mills bundle over $\Sigma_2 \times H^2$ are the supermanifolds $G$ with Minkowski space $\mathbb{R}^{9,1}$ as the bosonic part. Considering quantum Yang-Mills theory for small perturbations of Minkowski metric, one gets perturbative description of quantum gravity which in the adiabatic limit will reduce to the stringy description. Put differently, embedding superstring theory on $\Sigma_2$ into Yang-Mills theory on $\Sigma_2 \times H^2$ allows one to raise the description of quantum gravity from stringy level to the Yang-Mills level. Then the gravitation will be described via Yang-Mills fields for the diffeomorphism structure group at least perturbatively.

Last but not least, quantum Yang-Mills theory is developed incomparably better than quantum string theory. Calculations in quantum Yang-Mills theory are much easier than in string theory. Of course, to develop quantum Yang-Mills theory on $\Sigma_2 \times H^2$ with gauge supergroup $G$ is not a technically simple task. However, studying this Yang-Mills model can improve understanding of many questions in string theories, e.g. those related with various dualities and AdS/CFT correspondence.

**Acknowledgements**

This work was partially supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft grant LE 838/13.
References

[1] M.B. Green, J.H. Schwarz and E. Witten, Superstring theory: Volumes 1 & 2, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1987 & 1988.

[2] J. Polchinski, String theory: Volumes 1 & 2, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1998.

[3] K. Becker, M. Becker and J.H. Schwarz, String theory and M-theory: A modern introduction, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2007.

[4] M.B. Green and J.H. Schwarz, “Covariant description of superstrings,” Phys. Lett. B 136 (1984) 367.

[5] J.A. Harvey, G.W. Moore and A. Strominger, “Reducing S-duality to T-duality,” Phys. Rev. D 52 (1995) 7161 [hep-th/9501022].

[6] M. Bershadsky, A. Johansen, V. Sadov and C. Vafa, “Topological reduction of 4d SYM to 2d sigma models,” Nucl. Phys. B 448 (1995) 166 [hep-th/9501096].

[7] N. Seiberg, “Notes on theories with 16 supercharges,” Nucl. Phys. Proc. Suppl. 67 (1998) 158 [hep-th/9705117].

[8] E. Witten, “More on gauge theory and geometric Langlands,” arXiv:1506.04293 [hep-th].

[9] S. Dostoglou and D.A. Salamon, “Self-dual instantons and holomorphic curves,” Ann. Math. 139 (1994) 581.

[10] D.A. Salamon, “Notes on flat connections and the loop group,” Preprint, University of Warwick, 1998.

[11] A.D. Popov, “String theories as the adiabatic limit of Yang-Mills theory,” Phys. Rev. D 92 (2015) 045003 [arXiv:1505.07733 [hep-th]].

[12] S.K. Donaldson, “Boundary value problems for Yang-Mills fields,” J. Geom. Phys. 8 (1992) 89.

[13] S. Jarvis and P. Norbury, “Degenerating metrics and instantons on the four-sphere,” J. Geom. Phys. 27 (1998) 79.

[14] N.S. Manton and P. Sutcliffe, Topological solitons, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2004.

[15] E.J. Weinberg and P. Yi, “Magnetic monopole dynamics, supersymmetry, and duality,” Phys. Rept. 438 (2007) 65 [hep-th/0609055].

[16] M. Henneaux and L. Mezincescu, “A sigma model interpretation of Green-Schwarz covariant superstring action,” Phys. Lett. B 152 (1985) 340.