Instantons in Deformed Super Yang-Mills Theories

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Abstract. We study the instanton effective action in deformed four-dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 2$ and $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang-Mills (SYM) theories. These deformed gauge theories are defined on the D-brane world-volume in the presence of constant, self-dual Ramond-Ramond (R-R) 3-form field strength background $\mathbf{F}$ which is scaled as $(2\pi\alpha')^{1/2}\mathbf{F} = \text{fixed}$ in the zero-slope limit $\alpha' \to 0$. The instanton effective action is obtained by solving equations of motion of the deformed $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SYM action. We show that this effective action correctly reproduces the string theory result derived from D3/D($-1$)-branes system in the lowest order of the backgrounds and gauge coupling constant. We comment on the generalization of $\mathcal{N} = 2$ results to $\mathcal{N} = 4$ case.

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1 Introduction

Deformation of supersymmetric gauge theories is useful for the study of non-perturbative effects. For example, the $\Omega$-background and noncommutative deformations of $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SYM theory is useful to evaluate integration over the instanton moduli space \cite{1}. Similar deformations can be provided by introducing supergravity backgrounds. Especially, constant R-R backgrounds play also an interesting role in the instanton calculus.

In fact, it was shown that in D3/D($-1$)-branes system with self-dual graviphoton and vector backgrounds, the deformed effective action of the D($-1$)-branes is nothing but the instanton effective action of $\mathcal{N} = 2$ super Yang-Mills theory in the $\Omega$-background at the lowest order in the background \cite{2}. Due to the graviphoton and vector backgrounds, the effective action on the D-brane world-volume is deformed. We investigated the vacuum structure and supersymmetry of the deformed $\mathcal{N} = 2$ and $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM actions defined on the D3-brane world-volume \cite{3}. The instanton effective action of these deformed SYM theories should reproduce the result of D3/D($-1$)-branes system. In \cite{4}, we derived the instanton equations in these deformed $\mathcal{N} = 2, \mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theories and solved it. The solutions were obtained through the ADHM construction \cite{5}. These solutions are expressed by the ADHM moduli parameters and we found that the instanton effective action for the deformed $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SYM theory agrees with the result from the D3/D($-1$)-branes system obtained in \cite{2} to first order in the background and gauge coupling constant. In the following, we see this equivalence in $\mathcal{N} = 2$ case. We also comment that it is possible to generalize this result to $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory. A detailed results will be explained in \cite{4}.

2 Deformed gauge theories in constant, self-dual R-R 3-form background

To derive the explicit form of the deformed actions on the D3-brane world-volume (including fermions), we calculate open string disk amplitudes with the insertions of the R-R vertex operators and take the zero-slope limit $\alpha' \to 0$. The appropriate boundary condition for the vertex operators is imposed. We consider the ordinary NSR formalism of type IIB superstring theory and the R-R background is treated in a perturbative way. The background $\mathcal{F}^{\alpha\beta AB}$ is scaled as $(2\pi\alpha')^{1/2}\mathcal{F}^{\alpha\beta AB} \equiv \mathcal{C}^{\alpha\beta AB} = \text{fixed}$. Here $\alpha, \beta$ are space-time spinor and $A, B$ are internal indices. In addition to this zero-slope scaling, the self-duality condition is imposed on the space-time index of the background. Due to the background, non-trivial interactions are induced on the D3-brane world-volume and the supersymmetry which is present in the vanishing background case is generically broken.

Let us start from the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ case in the following subsection. After that, we derive the deformed $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SYM action by orbifold projecting the deformed $\mathcal{N} = 4$ action.
2.1 $\mathcal{N} = 4$ deformed action

We consider the deformed four-dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 4$ $U(N)$ SYM theory in the presence of constant R-R 3-form background $F^{\alpha \beta AB}$ with the self-dual constraint in the four-dimensional space-time part. The deformed action is realized on the $N$ Euclidean D3-branes world-volume located in the flat $\mathbb{R}^{10}$.

We focus on the leading order corrections of the background, namely, the deformed action is obtained by calculating tree-level open string amplitudes (disk amplitudes) with the insertion of one R-R closed string vertex operator.

The vertex operators corresponding to open string fields are $V_{A}^{(n)}, V_{\varphi}^{(n)}, V_{A}^{(n)}$, which represent a gauge field $A_{\mu}$, adjoint scalar fields $\varphi_{a}$ ($a = 1, \ldots , 6$), gauginos $A^{\alpha 4}, \bar{T}_{\alpha A}$, ($A = 1, \ldots , 4$) respectively. Here the notation $(n)$ ($n = 0, -1/2, -1$) stands for the picture number. The vertex operators $V_{H_{AA}^{(0)}}, V_{H_{A\varphi}^{(0)}}, V_{H_{\varphi}^{(0)}}$ for the auxiliary fields [2] are also introduced. The vertex operator $V_{A}^{(-1/2,-1/2)}$ corresponds to the constant R-R background.

The following selection rules are useful to find the non-zero amplitudes:

1. Internal charge cancellation condition among open and closed string vertex operators
2. $\alpha'$ power counting
3. Lorentz and internal index structure

The conditions 1 and 3 are necessary for non-vanishing disk amplitudes while the condition 2 becomes important when we take the zero-slope limit $\alpha' \to 0$ and move to the field theory description. Regarding the condition 2, it is crucial that the background R-R field is scaled as $(2\pi \alpha')^{1/2} \mathcal{F} = \text{fixed} = C$ in the zero-slope limit. Considering all the conditions 1, 2 and 3, we find that there are only three non-zero amplitudes which include one R-R vertex operator:

\begin{align}
\langle V_{A}^{(0)}(p_{1})V_{\varphi}^{(-1)}(p_{2})V_{A}^{(-1/2,-1/2)} \rangle, \\
\langle V_{H_{AA}^{(0)}}(p_{1})V_{\varphi}^{(-1)}(p_{2})V_{A}^{(-1/2,-1/2)} \rangle, \\
\langle V_{A}^{(-1/2)}(p_{1})V_{A}^{(-1/2)}(p_{2})V_{\varphi}^{(-1/2,-1/2)} \rangle. 
\end{align}

After calculating all the amplitudes, taking into account the symmetric factor, taking the zero-slope limit and integrating out all the auxiliary fields, we find the deformed Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4}^{(0)} = \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4}^{(1)} + \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4}^{(2)} + \cdots$ where $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4}^{(0)}$ is an ordinary $\mathcal{N} = 4$ $U(N)$ SYM action and $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4}^{(n)}$ is a correction in $n$-th power of the background. The first and second order corrections are

\begin{align}
\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4}^{(1)} &= \frac{1}{\kappa g^{2}} \text{Tr} \left[ i F_{\mu \nu} \Phi_{a} \right] C^{\mu \nu a} \\
&- \frac{1}{\kappa g^{2}} \text{Tr} \left[ \varepsilon_{ABC} C \left( A_{\alpha}^{\alpha} A_{\beta}^{\beta} \right) C^{(\alpha \beta) [CD]} \right], \\
\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4}^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{\kappa g^{4}} \text{Tr} \left[ \Phi_{a} \Phi_{b} \right] C_{\mu}^{\alpha} C_{\mu \nu}^{\alpha b} \quad \text{where Tr} \left( T^{m} T^{n} \right) = \kappa \delta^{mn} \text{for } U(N) \text{ generators } T^{m} \text{ and } g \text{ is a gauge coupling constant. Here we have defined the deformation parameter by}
\end{align}

\begin{align}
C^{\mu \nu a} &\equiv -2\pi (2\pi \alpha')^{1/2} \left( \sigma^{\mu \nu} \right)_{\alpha \beta} \left( \Sigma^{\alpha \beta} \right)_{AB} C^{(\alpha \beta) [AB]}, \\
C^{(\alpha \beta) [AB]} &\equiv -2\pi (2\pi \alpha')^{1/2} \mathcal{F}^{(\alpha \beta) [AB]}, \\
\Sigma^{\alpha \beta} &\equiv \text{six-dimensional sigma matrix. Let us check the consistency between our deformed action and the known D-brane effective action. In general, the D-brane effective action is expressed as}
\end{align}

\begin{align}
S = S_{\text{DBI}} + S_{\text{CS}}
\end{align}

where $S_{\text{DBI}}$ is the Dirac-Born-Infeld action and $S_{\text{CS}}$ is a Chern-Simons term. The R-R background appears in the Chern-Simons term in the D-brane effective action

\begin{align}
S_{\text{CS}} = i \frac{\mu_{3}}{\kappa} \text{Str} \left[ \int_{M_{4}} \sum_{n} P[e^{i \alpha_{n} \lambda} \mathcal{A}^{(n)}] e^{\lambda F} \right].
\end{align}

The symbol $P$ denotes the pull-back of ten-dimensional fields and $i_{2}$ is the interior product by $\varphi_{a}, \mu_{3}$ is a R-R charge of the D3-brane, $\lambda = 2\pi \alpha'$ and Str is a symmetric trace of the $U(N)$ gauge group. Finally, $\mathcal{A}^{(n)}$ is an $n$-form R-R potential.

It is not difficult to check that the linear term in $C$ in the bosonic part of the deformed action [2] precisely agrees with the eq. (6). Since our deformation is due to the R-R background, it would be expected that there is a fuzzy sphere configuration of the vacuum. Indeed, we showed that there is a fuzzy $S^{2}$ solution of the vacuum in the deformed $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory. For more detail, see [3].

2.2 $\mathcal{N} = 2$ deformed action

The deformed $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SYM action can be derived by orbifold projecting the deformed $\mathcal{N} = 4$ action obtained in the previous subsection. The $\mathcal{N} = 2 U(N)$ SYM theory is realized on the $N$ (fractional) D3-branes located in the orbifold fixed point. Directions perpendicular to the D3-branes are orbifolded as $C \times C^{2}/\mathbb{Z}_{2}$. The vertex operators are appropriately projected and the surviving open string degrees of freedom are $A_{\mu}, \varphi, \bar{\varphi}$ corresponding to gauge field, adjoint scalars, and $A^{\alpha 4}, \bar{T}_{\alpha A}$ ($I = 1, 2$) corresponding to gauginos. The R-R background is now decomposed into the form

\begin{align}
C^{\alpha \beta AB} = -\frac{i}{2\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix}
C^{\alpha \beta} & 0 \\
0 & -C^{\alpha \beta}
\end{pmatrix}
\end{align}

by the orbifold projection. Here $C^{\alpha \beta}$ is a graviphoton and $C^{\alpha \beta}$ is a vector background. Both of these satisfy the self-duality condition. By this projection, the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ deformed Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=2}^{(0)} = \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=2}^{(1)} + \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=2}^{(2)} + \cdots$ is obtained from the deformed $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM Lagrangian. Here $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=2}^{(0)}$ is an ordinary $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SYM
The (anti)instanton equation is derived from \( N \)-deformed supersymmetries in this model. The number of remaining supersymmetries is summarized in table [3]. For more detail, see the reference [3].

Table 1. The number of unbroken supersymmetries in the deformed \( \mathcal{N} = 2 \) SYM action [3]. \( R(M) \) is the rank of the matrix \( M \).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( R[C^{(\alpha \beta)}] )</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( \mathcal{N} = (1, 1) )</td>
<td>( \mathcal{N} = (1, 0) )</td>
<td>( \mathcal{N} = (1, 0) )</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>( \mathcal{N} = (1, 1) )</td>
<td>( \mathcal{N} = (0, 0) )</td>
<td>( \mathcal{N} = (0, 0) )</td>
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### 3 Instanton calculus in deformed super Yang-Mills theories

Let us focus on the instanton effective action in the deformed \( \mathcal{N} = 2 \) SYM theory. To derive the instanton effective action, we need to find the instanton solution which is expressed by the ADHM moduli parameters [6]. After writing the action to the perfect square form, the gauge field strength part and the last term in (8) become

\[
L_{\text{gauge}} = \frac{1}{\kappa} \text{Tr} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (F_{\mu \nu}^{(-)})^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left( F_{\mu \nu}^{(+)\alpha} - ig(C^{\mu \nu} \varphi + \bar{C}^{\mu \nu} \varphi) \right)^2 \right],
\]

where \( F_{\mu \nu}^{(+\alpha)} = \frac{1}{2} (F_{\mu \nu} \pm \bar{F}_{\mu \nu}) \), \( \bar{F}_{\mu \nu} = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{\mu \nu \rho \sigma} F^{\rho \sigma} \). The (anti)instanton equation is derived from \( L_{\text{gauge}} \) as

\[
F^{(-)} = 0 \quad \text{(instanton),}
\]
\[
F_{\mu \nu}^{(+\alpha)\beta} - ig(C^{\mu \nu} \varphi + \bar{C}^{\mu \nu} \varphi) = 0 \quad \text{(anti-instanton).}
\]

Since we are interested in the low-energy effective theory of the \( \mathcal{N} = 2 \) pure SYM theory, we introduce the VEV of the adjoint fields \( \varphi, \bar{\varphi} \). However, it is known that when the adjoint scalar fields have a VEV, the super instanton solution is expanded in the gauge coupling constant \( g \) and the solution is determined in a perturbative way. Let us focus on the self-dual condition. In this case, the gauge coupling expansion of the solution is

\[
A_\mu = g^{-1} A_\mu^{(0)} + g A_\mu^{(1)} + \cdots,
\]

\[
A_\mu = g^{-1} A_\mu^{(0)} + g^2 A_\mu^{(1)} + \cdots,
\]

The equation of motion up to leading order in \( g \) is now

\[
F_{\mu \nu}^{(0)(-)} = 0,
\]
\[
\nabla^2 \varphi^{(0)} + i F_{\mu \nu}^{(0)} \bar{C}^{\mu \nu} = 0,
\]
\[
\nabla^2 \varphi^{(0)} + i \sqrt{2} L^{(0)} A_\mu A^\mu = 0,
\]

\[
(\sigma^\mu)_{\alpha \beta} \nabla_\mu \bar{A}_\mu^{(0)} + \sqrt{2} [\bar{A}^{(0)}] + \sqrt{2} A^{(0)} \bar{C}(\beta \alpha) = 0,
\]

\[
\nabla_\mu (F_{\mu \nu}^{(0)\alpha} + \bar{F}_{\mu \nu}^{(0)\alpha}) = 0.
\]

Here \( \nabla_\mu \) is a gauge covariant derivative defined by zeroth order gauge field \( A_\mu^{(0)} \) and \( \bar{F}_{\mu \nu}^{(0)\alpha} \) is a field strength of \( A_\mu^{(0)} \). It is easy to see that the self-duality condition \( F_{\mu \nu}^{(0)(-)} = 0 \) is consistent with the equation of motion. The solution to this equation can be expressed by the ADHM moduli parameters \( (a^\mu, M^I, \mu, \bar{\mu}, \chi, \bar{\chi}, w, \bar{w}) \) [3]. First of all, the gauge field equation is not deformed by the background. Thus the gauge field part is an ordinary \( k \) instanton background. For the same reason, the solution for \( A \) is not deformed. On the other hand, \( \bar{A} \) and adjoint scalar equations in this background is deformed by the non-zero background[1]. The result is

\[
A_\mu^{(0)} = - i \bar{U} \partial_\mu U,
\]

\[
A_\mu^{(1)} = A_\alpha (M^I) = \bar{U} (M_i f \tilde{b}_\alpha - b_a f M_i^T) U,
\]

\[
\varphi^{(0)} = i \sqrt{2} \frac{1}{4} \epsilon_{ij} \bar{U} M^I f M^T U + \bar{U} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 2 \\
0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) U,
\]

\[
\bar{\varphi}^{(0)} = U \left( \begin{array}{ccc} \bar{\phi} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{\chi} & 1 \\
0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) U,
\]

where \( C^\alpha_\beta = (\sigma^{\mu \nu})^{\alpha \beta} C^{\mu \nu}, \mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{M}^I)^T \) and \( \phi = \bar{\varphi}^{(0)} \), \( \bar{\phi} = \bar{\varphi}^{(0)} \) are VEVs of the adjoint scalars.

\[
\Delta \mathcal{A}^\lambda u_{\lambda \mu} = 0, \quad \bar{U}^\lambda U_{\lambda \mu} = \delta_{\mu \nu},
\]

\[
\Delta \lambda i \alpha_j f_{ij} \bar{f}^{(\alpha \beta)} = \delta_\alpha^{(\beta)} - U_{\lambda \mu} \bar{f}^{(\alpha \beta)}
\]

\[
\Delta \lambda ^{\alpha \lambda}_i \left( x \right) = \Delta \left( u_{\alpha \lambda \mu} \right) = \left( \delta_{ij} w_{(\alpha \lambda \mu)} \right)
\]

Here we have introduced the indices \( \lambda = 1, 2, \cdots, N + 2k, i, j = 1, 2, \cdots, k, u, v = 1, 2, \cdots, N. f \) is an \( x \)-dependent \( k \times k \) matrix. \( \chi, \bar{\chi} \) should satisfy the constraint

\[
L_\chi = -i \sqrt{2} \frac{1}{4} \epsilon_{ij} \mathcal{M}^I f + \bar{U}^{\alpha} \tilde{\phi} w_{\alpha} + C^{\mu \nu} [a^\alpha_\mu, a^\alpha_\nu],
\]

\[
L_{\bar{\chi}} = \bar{U}^{\alpha} \tilde{\phi} w_{\alpha} + \bar{f}^{(\alpha \beta)} [a^\alpha_\mu, a^\beta_\mu],
\]

\[\text{1} \quad \text{We need not to solve the equation of motion for} \bar{\mathcal{A}} \text{ because} \mathcal{A} \text{ contributes to the classical potential through the sub-leading order in} g.\]
The leading order equation is then

$$L = \frac{1}{2} [\tilde{\omega}^\mu w_\alpha, \star] + [a_\mu, [a_\nu, \star]].$$  

(16)

The classical action is now expanded as

$$S = \frac{8\pi^2 k}{g^2} + ik\theta + g^0 S_{\text{eff}}^{(0)} + O(g^2),$$

(17)

where we have introduced the $\theta$ angle. The leading order action is

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{(0)} = \frac{1}{\kappa} \int d^4 x \mathrm{Tr} \left[ -\nabla_\mu \varphi^{(0)} \nabla_\mu \bar{\varphi}^{(0)} - \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} A^{(0)I}[\bar{\varphi}, A^{(0)}_I] + i\varphi^{(0)} F^{(0)\mu\nu} C_{\mu\nu} + i\varphi^{(0)} F^{(0)\mu\nu} \bar{C}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} A^{(0)I} A^{(0)}_I C^{(\alpha\beta)} \right].$$

After plugging the solution (13) into the eq. (18), the instanton effective action is evaluated as

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{(0)} = 4\pi^2 \kappa \left[ -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} \epsilon_{IJ} \phi J + \frac{1}{2} [\tilde{\omega}^\mu (\phi + \bar{\phi})] w_\alpha + \right.$$

$$\left. - \bar{\chi} L^{-1} \chi - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{8} C^{(\alpha\beta)} \epsilon_{IJ} M_{\alpha J} M_{\beta J} \right]$$

(19)

Thus the equation of motion does not receive corrections from $C, \bar{C}$. Moreover, $S_{\text{eff}}^{(0)}$ in (17) for the anti-self-dual gauge coupling expansion is

$$S_{\text{eff}}^{(0)} = \frac{1}{\kappa} \int d^4 x \left[ -\nabla_\mu \varphi^{(0)} \nabla_\mu \bar{\varphi}^{(0)} + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{\Pi}^{(0)}[\varphi^{(0)}, \bar{\Pi}^{(0)I}] 
+ iF^{(0)\mu\nu} \varphi^{(0)} C_{\mu\nu} + iF^{(0)\mu\nu} \varphi^{(0)} \bar{C}_{\mu\nu} \right].$$

(22)

Due to the self-duality condition on the background $C, \bar{C}$, there are no background corrections in the instanton effective action. Therefore we conclude that the anti-self-dual sector is not deformed by the self-dual background.

The super instanton solution in the $N = 4$ deformed SYM theory is also obtained in [4]. The deformed instanton equation is derived in a straightforward way and the solution to the equation is expressed by the ADHM moduli parameters as in the case of $N = 2$ deformed SYM theory. By using this solution, we can calculate the instanton effective action in principle.

However, there is an efficient way to derive the deformed $N = 4$ instanton effective action. Since it is known that the $N = 2$ deformed SYM action is obtained from the $N = 4$ theory by the orbifold projection, the $N = 4$ instanton effective action is derived from the the consistency of $N = 2$ and $N = 4$ instanton effective actions by the same orbifold projection. The result can be found in [4].

These deformed gauge theories and the deformed instanton effective actions have very similar structure to the $Q$-background deformation [2]. It would be expected that these deformation effects play a role similar to the $Q$-background in the instanton calculus. For more detail, see the reference [4] and future works.

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