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Ambitwistor pure spinor string in a type II supergravity background

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ABSTRACT: We construct the ambitwistor pure spinor string in a general type II supergravity background in the semi-classical regime. Almost all supergravity constraints are obtained from nilpotency of the BRST charge and further consistency conditions from additional world-sheet the case of $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$ background.

KEYWORDS: Superstrings and Heterotic Strings, Supergravity Models

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Flat background	2
3	Curved background	4
4	AdS₅ × S⁵ background	10
5	Concluding remarks	12

1 Introduction

For more than a decade, twistor string theories describing massless supersymmetric field theories in four dimensions have been formulated [1, 2]. These formulations together with related developments lead to a revived interest in twistor methods which greatly improved the knowledge and techniques to compute scattering amplitudes.¹ The difficulty in generalizing these strings to higher dimensions lies in the fact that momentum twistors do not generalize to higher dimensions.

More recently, in a series of interesting papers Cachazo, He and Yuan constructed all tree level amplitudes for a large class of massless theories in any dimension [4–6]. The structure of their expressions resembled the previous work of Gross and Mende [7, 8] on high energy scattering of string theory. Later, Mason and Skinner argued that such amplitudes can be computed using an ambitwistor string [9]. The action for this string is first order and chiral. It also has more world-sheet symmetries than the usual string. The critical dimension for this string is 26 in the bosonic case and 10 in the RNS case. The striking difference from the usual strings is that it has no massive states. This is one of the features that allow their amplitudes agree to with those of Cachazo et al. without taking the usual $\alpha' \rightarrow 0$ limit.

Because of the complications with space-time supersymmetry in the RNS formalism, it is natural to use the pure spinor formalism in the supersymmetric case. This was done by Berkovits in [10], where the world-sheet action in a flat space-time looks like the usual pure spinor string but with all the fields are holomorphic. One could also ask if it is possible to formulate the Mason-Skinner string in a type II supergravity background. This was done in [11] for the RNS formulation, but only for the bosonic background fields. The purpose of this paper is to construct the pure spinor formulation in a general supergravity background. We found that in addition to the BRST charge, the curved space formulation requires additional symmetries to obtain almost all supergravity constraints. In particular,

¹The number of relevant papers is far to great to cite here. We recommend the review [3].

the massshell condition $P_a P^a = 0$ which follows from BRST in [10] needs to be generalized to include background fields that vanish in the flat space limit. In the present work we consider only the semi-classical limit. As it was shown in [11], the full quantum theory requires corrections to the classical constraints. We expect the same to be true in our model. However, as in [11], these quantum corrections are not expected to modify the supergravity constraints. We hope to prove this in a future work. We also discuss the application of our results to the case of $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$. The resulting action is much simpler than the usual case. Furthermore, the global $\mathfrak{psu}(2, 2|4)$ symmetry is promoted to full Kac-Moody holomorphic invariance. It is possible that one can use such symmetry to completely solve the model.

This paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we review the ambitwistor string on a flat space [10] and introduce the role of the B field in this system. In section 3 we construct the curved background version and obtain the type II supergravity constraints for the background after requiring BRST invariance. In section 4 we study the special type IIB background with $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$ geometry. We end with concluding remarks in section 5.

2 Flat background

In a flat background the world-sheet action is

$$S = \int d^2z P_m \bar{\partial} X^m + p_\alpha \bar{\partial} \theta^\alpha + \hat{p}_{\hat{\alpha}} \bar{\partial} \hat{\theta}^{\hat{\alpha}} + \omega_\alpha \bar{\partial} \lambda^\alpha + \hat{\omega}_{\hat{\alpha}} \bar{\partial} \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}}, \quad (2.1)$$

where $(X^m, \theta^\alpha, \hat{\theta}^{\hat{\alpha}})$ are the flat ten-dimensional $N = 2$ superspace coordinates, and $(P_m, p_\alpha, \hat{p}_{\hat{\alpha}})$ are their momentum conjugates. The pure spinors λ^α and $\hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}}$, and their momentum conjugate variables ω_α and $\hat{\omega}_{\hat{\alpha}}$, enter as in the minimal pure spinor formalism except that all these variables are holomorphic. A BRST-like charge is defined as

$$Q = \oint \lambda^\alpha d_\alpha + \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} \hat{d}_{\hat{\alpha}}, \quad (2.2)$$

where

$$d_\alpha = p_\alpha - \frac{1}{2} P_m (\gamma^m \theta)_\alpha, \quad \hat{d}_{\hat{\alpha}} = \hat{p}_{\hat{\alpha}} - \frac{1}{2} P_m (\gamma^m \hat{\theta})_{\hat{\alpha}}. \quad (2.3)$$

The world-sheet fields $(P_m, \lambda^\alpha, \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}})$ are BRST invariant and the remaining fields transform as

$$\begin{aligned} Q\theta^\alpha &= \lambda^\alpha, & Q\hat{\theta}^{\hat{\alpha}} &= \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}}, & Q\omega_\alpha &= d_\alpha, & Q\hat{\omega}_{\hat{\alpha}} &= \hat{d}_{\hat{\alpha}}, \\ QX^m &= \frac{1}{2} (\lambda \gamma^m \theta) + \frac{1}{2} (\hat{\lambda} \gamma^m \hat{\theta}), & Qp_\alpha &= -\frac{1}{2} P_m (\gamma^m \lambda)_\alpha, & Q\hat{p}_{\hat{\alpha}} &= -\frac{1}{2} P_m (\gamma^m \hat{\lambda})_{\hat{\alpha}}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

The action (2.1) is invariant under (2.4).

The action (2.1) is supersymmetric, although it is not manifest. The fields in (2.1) transform under supersymmetry as

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\theta^\alpha &= \varepsilon^\alpha, & \delta\hat{\theta}^{\hat{\alpha}} &= \hat{\varepsilon}^{\hat{\alpha}}, & \delta P_m &= 0, \\ \delta X^m &= -\frac{1}{2} (\varepsilon \gamma^m \theta) - \frac{1}{2} (\hat{\varepsilon} \gamma^m \hat{\theta}), & \delta p_\alpha &= +\frac{1}{2} P_m (\gamma^m \varepsilon)_\alpha, & \delta \hat{p}_{\hat{\alpha}} &= +\frac{1}{2} P_m (\gamma^m \hat{\varepsilon})_{\hat{\alpha}}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

It turns out that d_α and $\widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}}$ are invariant under supersymmetry. Then we could try to write the action (2.1) in terms of them. The answer to this is

$$S = \int d^2z P_m \overline{\Pi}^m + d_\alpha \overline{\partial} \theta^\alpha + \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} \overline{\partial} \widehat{\theta}^{\widehat{\alpha}} + \omega_\alpha \overline{\partial} \lambda^\alpha + \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\alpha}} \overline{\partial} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}}, \quad (2.6)$$

where

$$\overline{\Pi}^m = \overline{\partial} X^m + \frac{1}{2}(\theta \gamma^m \overline{\partial} \theta) + \frac{1}{2}(\widehat{\theta} \gamma^m \overline{\partial} \widehat{\theta}), \quad (2.7)$$

which is invariant under (2.5), and therefore the action (2.6) is manifestly supersymmetric.

In the usual type II superstring, when the action is expressed in terms of the supersymmetric combinations of $(X, p, \widehat{p}, \theta, \widehat{\theta})$, the WZ term appears which has the form

$$\int d^2z \Pi^A \overline{\Pi}^B B_{BA}, \quad (2.8)$$

where $\Pi^A = (\Pi^m, \partial \theta^\alpha, \partial \widehat{\theta}^{\widehat{\alpha}})$ and the non-zero components of B are

$$B_{m\alpha} = (\gamma_m \theta)_\alpha, \quad B_{m\widehat{\alpha}} = -(\gamma_m \widehat{\theta})_{\widehat{\alpha}}, \quad B_{\alpha\widehat{\beta}} = -\frac{1}{2}(\gamma^m \theta)_\alpha (\gamma_m \widehat{\theta})_{\widehat{\beta}}. \quad (2.9)$$

In curved space background, the action will contain a term (2.8) with a supergravity B -field. In our case, we do not obtain the WZ term, therefore we are not going to get a term (2.8) in curved background. Then, where is the B field in the system described by the action (2.1) and the BRST charge (2.2)? We will prove now that the action (2.1) has a new symmetry which involves the B field on a flat space. This new symmetry is generated by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K} &= \oint \lambda^\alpha (\Pi^m B_{m\alpha} + \partial \widehat{\theta}^{\widehat{\beta}} B_{\widehat{\beta}\alpha}) + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} (\Pi^m B_{m\widehat{\alpha}} + \partial \theta^\beta B_{\beta\widehat{\alpha}}) \\ &= \oint \left((\lambda \gamma^m \theta) - (\widehat{\lambda} \gamma^m \widehat{\theta}) \right) \Pi_m - \frac{1}{2} (\lambda \gamma^m \theta) (\widehat{\theta} \gamma_m \partial \widehat{\theta}) + \frac{1}{2} (\widehat{\lambda} \gamma^m \widehat{\theta}) (\theta \gamma_m \partial \theta). \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

Note that the integrand in (2.10) is trivially conserved because the world-sheet fields are all holomorphic. Under \mathcal{K} , the world-sheet fields $(X, \theta, \widehat{\theta}, \lambda, \widehat{\lambda})$ are invariant. The other fields transform as

$$\delta P_m = -\partial(\lambda \gamma_m \theta) + \partial(\widehat{\lambda} \gamma_m \widehat{\theta}), \quad (2.11)$$

$$\delta d_\alpha = (\lambda \gamma^m)_\alpha \Pi_m - \frac{1}{2} (\lambda \gamma^m)_\alpha (\widehat{\theta} \gamma_m \partial \widehat{\theta}) - (\lambda \gamma^m \theta) (\gamma_m \partial \theta)_\alpha - \frac{1}{2} \partial(\widehat{\lambda} \gamma^m \widehat{\theta}) (\gamma_m \theta)_\alpha, \quad (2.12)$$

$$\delta \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} = -(\widehat{\lambda} \gamma^m)_{\widehat{\alpha}} \Pi_m + \frac{1}{2} (\widehat{\lambda} \gamma^m)_{\widehat{\alpha}} (\theta \gamma_m \partial \theta) + (\widehat{\lambda} \gamma^m \widehat{\theta}) (\gamma_m \partial \widehat{\theta})_{\widehat{\alpha}} + \frac{1}{2} \partial(\lambda \gamma^m \theta) (\gamma_m \widehat{\theta})_{\widehat{\alpha}}, \quad (2.13)$$

$$\delta \omega_\alpha = (\gamma^m \theta)_\alpha \Pi_m - \frac{1}{2} (\gamma^m \theta)_\alpha (\widehat{\theta} \gamma_m \partial \widehat{\theta}), \quad (2.14)$$

$$\delta \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\alpha}} = -(\gamma^m \widehat{\theta})_{\widehat{\alpha}} \Pi_m + \frac{1}{2} (\gamma^m \widehat{\theta})_{\widehat{\alpha}} (\theta \gamma_m \partial \theta). \quad (2.15)$$

The action (2.6) is invariant under the above transformations. In fact, the terms involving (λ, X) in the variation of the action are

$$\int d^2z -\partial(\lambda \gamma_m \theta) \overline{\partial} X^m + \overline{\partial}(\lambda \gamma^m \theta) \partial X_m, \quad (2.16)$$

which vanishes after integrating by parts. Similarly, the terms involving $(\widehat{\lambda}, X)$ are

$$\int d^2z \partial(\widehat{\lambda}\gamma^m\widehat{\theta})\bar{\partial}X^m - \bar{\partial}(\widehat{\lambda}\gamma^m\widehat{\theta})\partial X_m, \quad (2.17)$$

which also vanishes after integrating by parts. The remaining terms in the variation involving λ are

$$\int d^2z -\frac{1}{2}\partial(\lambda\gamma^m\theta)(\theta\gamma_m\bar{\partial}\theta) + \frac{1}{2}\bar{\partial}(\lambda\gamma^m\theta)(\theta\gamma_m\partial\theta) - (\lambda\gamma^m\theta)(\partial\theta\gamma_m\bar{\partial}\theta), \quad (2.18)$$

which vanishes after integrating by parts. Finally, the remaining terms in the variation of the action involving $\widehat{\lambda}$ are

$$\int d^2z \frac{1}{2}\partial(\widehat{\lambda}\gamma^m\widehat{\theta})(\widehat{\theta}\gamma_m\bar{\partial}\widehat{\theta}) - \frac{1}{2}\bar{\partial}(\widehat{\lambda}\gamma^m\widehat{\theta})(\widehat{\theta}\gamma_m\partial\widehat{\theta}) + (\widehat{\lambda}\gamma^m\widehat{\theta})(\partial\widehat{\theta}\gamma_m\bar{\partial}\widehat{\theta}), \quad (2.19)$$

which also vanishes after integrating by parts. Then, we have proved that the action (2.1) is invariant under the transformations generated by (2.10). The symmetry generated by (2.10) is also BRST invariant. A short calculation shows

$$[Q, \mathcal{K}] = \frac{1}{2} \oint (\widehat{\lambda}\gamma^m\widehat{\theta})\partial(\lambda\gamma_m\theta) + \partial(\widehat{\lambda}\gamma^m\widehat{\theta})(\lambda\gamma_m\theta) = 0, \quad (2.20)$$

because the integrand is a total derivative. Here we have used the gamma-matrices identities

$$(\gamma^m)_{(\alpha\beta}(\gamma_m)_{\gamma)\delta} = 0, \quad (\gamma^m)_{(\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}(\gamma_m)_{\widehat{\gamma})\widehat{\delta}} = 0, \quad (2.21)$$

and the pure spinor conditions $(\lambda\gamma^m\lambda) = (\widehat{\lambda}\gamma^m\widehat{\lambda}) = 0$.

The action (2.1) has another symmetry. It is generated by

$$\mathcal{H} = -\frac{1}{2}P_m P^m, \quad (2.22)$$

which determines that the only world-sheet field that varies is X^m and transforms as $\delta X^m = -\epsilon P^m$, where ϵ is a conformal weight -1 parameter, and the action is invariant. It is trivial that \mathcal{H} is BRST invariant because P_m is BRST invariant. Note that (2.22) acting on physical states provides the massless condition explicitly, although this is not necessary in flat space because the cohomology of (2.2) contains massless states only [10].

In summary, we have a nilpotent BRST charge, and BRST invariant symmetries generated by \mathcal{K} and \mathcal{H} . In the next section we generalize this to a curved supergravity background.

3 Curved background

The action in curved background is the covariantization of (2.6), that is

$$S = \int d^2z P_a \bar{\Pi}^a + d_\alpha \bar{\Pi}^\alpha + \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} \bar{\Pi}^{\widehat{\alpha}} + \omega_\alpha \bar{\nabla} \lambda^\alpha + \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\alpha}} \bar{\nabla} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}}, \quad (3.1)$$

where $\bar{\Pi}^A = \bar{\partial}Z^M E_M^A$, with E_M^A being the vielbein superfield, and Z^M are the coordinates of the curved ten-dimensional superspace. The covariant derivatives are defined with the background Lorentz connections, that is,

$$\bar{\nabla}\lambda^\alpha = \bar{\partial}\lambda^\alpha + \lambda^\beta \bar{\Omega}_\beta{}^\alpha, \quad \bar{\nabla}\widehat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} = \bar{\partial}\widehat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\hat{\beta}} \bar{\Omega}_{\hat{\beta}}{}^{\hat{\alpha}}, \quad (3.2)$$

where $\bar{\Omega}_\beta{}^\alpha = \bar{\partial}Z^M \Omega_{M\beta}{}^\alpha$ and $\bar{\Omega}_{\hat{\beta}}{}^{\hat{\alpha}} = \bar{\partial}Z^M \widehat{\Omega}_{M\hat{\beta}}{}^{\hat{\alpha}}$.

The equations of motion from the action (3.1) are

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\partial}Z^M = 0, \quad \bar{\partial}\lambda^\alpha = 0, \quad \bar{\partial}\widehat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} = 0, \quad \bar{\partial}\omega_\alpha = 0, \quad \bar{\partial}\widehat{\omega}_{\hat{\alpha}} = 0. \\ \bar{\partial}d_\alpha = 0, \quad \bar{\partial}\widehat{d}_{\hat{\alpha}} = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

That is, all the world-sheet variables in (3.1) are holomorphic.

The BRST charge is given by (2.2). Because of (3.3) the BRST charge is conserved and we do not obtain any constraint from this as opposed to the usual string where the conservation of the BRST charge determines a set of constraints on the background fields [12].

We now determine the constraints determined by the nilpotency of the BRST charge. To obtain them, we first compute the BRST transformations of the world-sheet fields of the action (3.1). The idea is to express the world-sheet fields d_α and $\widehat{d}_{\hat{\alpha}}$ in terms of conjugate variables, (λ, ω) and $(\widehat{\lambda}, \widehat{\omega})$ are already conjugate pairs. We define the momentum of Z^M and then use canonical commutation relations as in [12]. The momentum for Z^M is

$$P_M = \frac{\delta S}{\delta(\partial_\tau Z^M)} = E_M^a P_a - E_M^\alpha d_\alpha - E_M^{\hat{\alpha}} \widehat{d}_{\hat{\alpha}} + \Omega_{M\alpha}{}^\beta \lambda^\alpha \omega_\beta + \widehat{\Omega}_{M\hat{\alpha}}{}^{\hat{\beta}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} \widehat{\omega}_{\hat{\beta}}, \quad (3.4)$$

and the commutation relation is²

$$[P_M(\sigma), Z^N(\sigma')] = -\delta_M^N \delta(\sigma - \sigma'), \quad (3.5)$$

at equal world-sheet times. Similarly, the other canonical commutation relations in (3.1) are

$$[\lambda^\alpha(\sigma), \omega_\beta(\sigma')] = \delta_\beta^\alpha \delta(\sigma - \sigma'), \quad [\widehat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}}(\sigma), \widehat{\omega}_{\hat{\beta}}(\sigma')] = \delta_{\hat{\beta}}^{\hat{\alpha}} \delta(\sigma - \sigma'), \quad (3.6)$$

at equal world-sheet times.

The BRST transformation of any field Ψ is defined as

$$Q\Psi(\sigma) = \oint d\sigma' \left[\lambda^\alpha d_\alpha(\sigma') + \widehat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} \widehat{d}_{\hat{\alpha}}(\sigma'), \Psi(\sigma) \right], \quad (3.7)$$

and after expressing the integrand of Q in terms of conjugate variables and using the commutation relations (3.5) and (3.6), the BRST transformations can be obtained as it was done in the heterotic pure spinor string [13] and in the type II pure spinor superstring [14], both in a curved background.

The BRST transformation of the superspace variable Z^M is

$$QZ^M = \lambda^\alpha E_\alpha{}^M + \widehat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} E_{\hat{\alpha}}{}^M, \quad (3.8)$$

²We relate $(z, \bar{z}) \rightarrow (\tau, \sigma)$ such that $\partial = \partial_\tau - \partial_\sigma, \bar{\partial} = \partial_\tau + \partial_\sigma$.

and the pure spinor variables transform as

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q\lambda^\alpha &= -\lambda^\beta \left(\lambda^\gamma \Omega_{\gamma\beta}{}^\alpha + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}\beta}{}^\alpha \right), & Q\widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} &= -\lambda^{\widehat{\beta}} \left(\lambda^\gamma \widehat{\Omega}_{\gamma\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\alpha}} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \right), \\
 Q\omega_\alpha &= d_\alpha + \left(\lambda^\gamma \Omega_{\gamma\alpha}{}^\beta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}\alpha}{}^\beta \right) \omega_\beta, & Q\widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\alpha}} &= \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} + \left(\lambda^\gamma \widehat{\Omega}_{\gamma\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} \right) \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\beta}},
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.9}$$

note that the terms depending on Ω and $\widehat{\Omega}$ are Lorentz rotations with field-dependent parameters.

Using

$$\begin{aligned}
 d_\alpha &= -E_\alpha{}^M P_M + \Omega_{\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma \lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma + \widehat{\Omega}_{\alpha\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}}, \\
 \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} &= -E_{\widehat{\alpha}}{}^M P_M + \Omega_{\widehat{\alpha}\beta}{}^\gamma \lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma + \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}}, \\
 P_a &= E_a{}^M P_M - \Omega_{a\alpha}{}^\beta \lambda^\alpha \omega_\beta - \widehat{\Omega}_{a\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\beta}},
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.10}$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 Qd_\alpha &= \lambda^\beta \left(T_{\beta\alpha}{}^a P_a - T_{\beta\alpha}{}^\gamma d_\gamma - T_{\beta\alpha}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\gamma}} \right) + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \left(T_{\widehat{\beta}\alpha}{}^a P_a - T_{\widehat{\beta}\alpha}{}^\gamma d_\gamma - T_{\widehat{\beta}\alpha}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\gamma}} \right) \\
 &\quad + \lambda^\beta \left(\lambda^\gamma \omega_\delta R_{\alpha\beta\gamma}{}^\delta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\delta}} R_{\alpha\beta\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\widehat{\delta}} \right) + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \left(\lambda^\gamma \omega_\delta R_{\alpha\widehat{\beta}\gamma}{}^\delta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\delta}} R_{\alpha\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\widehat{\delta}} \right) \\
 &\quad + \left(\lambda^\gamma \Omega_{\gamma\alpha}{}^\beta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}\alpha}{}^\beta \right) d_\beta,
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.11}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q\widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} &= \lambda^\beta \left(T_{\beta\widehat{\alpha}}{}^a P_a - T_{\beta\widehat{\alpha}}{}^\gamma d_\gamma - T_{\beta\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\gamma}} \right) + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \left(T_{\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\alpha}}{}^a P_a - T_{\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\alpha}}{}^\gamma d_\gamma - T_{\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\gamma}} \right) \\
 &\quad + \lambda^\beta \left(\lambda^\gamma \omega_\delta R_{\widehat{\alpha}\beta\gamma}{}^\delta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\delta}} R_{\widehat{\alpha}\beta\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\widehat{\delta}} \right) + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \left(\lambda^\gamma \omega_\delta R_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}\gamma}{}^\delta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\delta}} R_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\widehat{\delta}} \right) \\
 &\quad + \left(\lambda^\gamma \widehat{\Omega}_{\gamma\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} \right) \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\beta}},
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.12}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 QP_a &= \lambda^\alpha \left(-T_{\alpha a}{}^b P_b + T_{\alpha a}{}^\beta d_\beta + T_{\alpha a}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\beta}} \right) + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \left(-T_{\widehat{\alpha} a}{}^b P_b + T_{\widehat{\alpha} a}{}^\beta d_\beta + T_{\widehat{\alpha} a}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\beta}} \right) \\
 &\quad + \lambda^\alpha \left(\lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma R_{a\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}} R_{a\alpha\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \right) + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \left(\lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma R_{a\widehat{\alpha}\beta}{}^\gamma + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}} R_{a\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \right) \\
 &\quad + \left(\lambda^\alpha \Omega_{\alpha a}{}^b + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\alpha} a}{}^b \right) P_b.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.13}$$

As in (3.9), there are Lorentz rotation pieces in these transformations. The torsion and curvatures are such that $T_{AB}{}^\alpha$ and $R_{AB\alpha}{}^\beta$ are defined with the connection Ω , and $T_{AB}{}^{\widehat{\alpha}}$ and $R_{AB\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}}$ are defined with the connection $\widehat{\Omega}$. We follow the conventions for superspace differential forms used in [15].

For future reference, we find the BRST transformation of Π^A and the BRST transformation of the connections in (3.2). Because Z^M has the same BRST transformation as the minimal pure spinor string, the Π^A transforms similarly [14],

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q\Pi^a &= -\lambda^\alpha \Pi^A T_{A\alpha}{}^a - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \Pi^A T_{A\widehat{\alpha}}{}^a - \Pi^b \left(\lambda^\alpha \Omega_{\alpha b}{}^a + \lambda^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\alpha} b}{}^a \right), \\
 Q\Pi^\alpha &= \nabla \lambda^\alpha - \lambda^\beta \Pi^A T_{A\beta}{}^\alpha - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \Pi^A T_{A\widehat{\beta}}{}^\alpha + \Pi^\beta \left(\lambda^\gamma \Omega_{\gamma\beta}{}^\alpha + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}\beta}{}^\alpha \right), \\
 Q\Pi^{\widehat{\alpha}} &= \nabla \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} - \lambda^\beta \Pi^A T_{A\beta}{}^{\widehat{\alpha}} - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \Pi^A T_{A\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\alpha}} + \Pi^{\widehat{\beta}} \left(\lambda^\gamma \widehat{\Omega}_{\gamma\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\alpha}} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \right).
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.14}$$

As in (3.9) and (3.11)–(3.13), the last terms here correspond to a Lorentz rotation.

The BRST transformations of the connections can be derived from QZ^M , the result is

$$\begin{aligned} Q\Omega_\alpha^\beta &= -\lambda^\gamma \Pi^A R_{A\gamma\alpha}{}^\beta - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \Pi^A R_{A\widehat{\gamma}\alpha}{}^\beta + \nabla \left(\lambda^\gamma \Omega_{\gamma\alpha}{}^\beta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \Omega_{\widehat{\gamma}\alpha}{}^\beta \right), \\ Q\Omega_{\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} &= -\lambda^\gamma \Pi^A R_{A\gamma\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \Pi^A R_{A\widehat{\gamma}\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} + \nabla \left(\lambda^\gamma \widehat{\Omega}_{\gamma\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

where the last terms are, again, a Lorentz rotation.

We can compute Q^2 using the action of Q on itself. We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} Q^2 &= \oint \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta \left(T_{\alpha\beta}{}^a P_a - T_{\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma d_\gamma - T_{\alpha\beta}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\gamma}} + \lambda^\gamma \omega_\delta R_{\alpha\beta\gamma}{}^\delta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_\delta R_{\alpha\beta\widehat{\gamma}}{}^\delta \right) \\ &+ \oint \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \left(T_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}{}^a P_a - T_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}{}^\gamma d_\gamma - T_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\gamma}} + \lambda^\gamma \omega_\delta R_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}\gamma}{}^\delta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_\delta R_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\gamma}}{}^\delta \right) \\ &+ \oint \lambda^\alpha \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \left(T_{\alpha\widehat{\beta}}{}^a P_a - T_{\alpha\widehat{\beta}}{}^\gamma d_\gamma - T_{\alpha\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\gamma}} + \lambda^\gamma \omega_\delta R_{\alpha\widehat{\beta}\gamma}{}^\delta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_\delta R_{\alpha\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\gamma}}{}^\delta \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

From $Q^2 = 0$ we obtain the nilpotency constraints

$$\lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta T_{\alpha\beta}{}^A = \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta R_{\alpha\beta\widehat{\gamma}}{}^\delta = \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta \lambda^\gamma R_{\alpha\beta\gamma}{}^\delta = 0, \quad (3.17)$$

$$\widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} T_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}{}^A = \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} R_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}\gamma}{}^\delta = \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} R_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\gamma}}{}^\delta = 0, \quad (3.18)$$

$$T_{\alpha\widehat{\beta}}{}^A = \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta R_{\gamma\alpha\beta}{}^\delta = \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} R_{\gamma\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}{}^\delta = 0, \quad (3.19)$$

which are the constraints from nilpotency of the type II superstring BRST operator in [12] involving torsion and curvature components. Note that the action the action (3.1) is identically invariant under BRST transformations and it does not provide new constraints on background fields.

We will prove now that the remaining nilpotency constraints of [12] come from BRST invariance of the curved background generalization of (2.10), that is

$$\mathcal{K} = \oint \lambda^\alpha \Pi^A B_{A\alpha} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \Pi^A B_{A\widehat{\alpha}} = \oint \lambda^\alpha \partial Z^M B_{M\alpha} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \partial Z^M B_{M\widehat{\alpha}}. \quad (3.20)$$

We will first prove that \mathcal{K} is invariant, up to a BRST term, under

$$\delta B_{NM} = \partial_{[N} \Lambda_{M]}, \quad (3.21)$$

where the parameter Λ_M allows to define the (1,0) world-sheet form $\Lambda = \partial Z^M \Lambda_M$. Note that this is required to have a theory invariant under this gauge symmetry. Varying \mathcal{K} under (3.21) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \mathcal{K} &= \oint -(-1)^M \lambda^\alpha \partial Z^M \partial_\alpha \Lambda_M + \lambda^\alpha \partial \Lambda_\alpha - \lambda^\alpha \partial Z^N (\partial_N E_\alpha{}^M) \Lambda_M \\ &+ \oint -(-1)^M \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \partial Z^M \partial_{\widehat{\alpha}} \Lambda_M + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \partial \Lambda_{\widehat{\alpha}} - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \partial Z^N (\partial_N E_{\widehat{\alpha}}{}^M) \Lambda_M. \end{aligned} \quad (3.22)$$

Note that the first terms in both lines combine to produce a term with $\lambda^\alpha \partial_\alpha \Lambda_M + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \partial_{\widehat{\alpha}} \Lambda_M = Q\Lambda_M$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta\mathcal{K} &= \oint -(-1)^M \partial Z^M Q\Lambda_M + \lambda^\alpha \partial \Lambda_\alpha + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \partial \Lambda_{\widehat{\alpha}} \\
 &\quad - \lambda^\alpha \partial Z^N (\partial_N E_\alpha^M) \Lambda_M - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \partial Z^N (\partial_N E_{\widehat{\alpha}}^M) \Lambda_M \\
 &= \oint -Q(\partial Z^M \Lambda_M) + \partial(QZ^M) \Lambda_M + \lambda^\alpha \partial \Lambda_\alpha + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \partial \Lambda_{\widehat{\alpha}} \\
 &\quad - \lambda^\alpha \partial Z^N (\partial_N E_\alpha^M) \Lambda_M - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \partial Z^N (\partial_N E_{\widehat{\alpha}}^M) \Lambda_M \\
 &= \oint -Q(\partial Z^M \Lambda_M) + \partial(\lambda^\alpha \Lambda_\alpha + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \Lambda_{\widehat{\alpha}}) = -Q \oint \Lambda.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.23}$$

Then, we have proved that the variation of (3.20) is invariant under the gauge symmetry of (3.21) up to a BRST-exact term.

We now show that the BRST invariance of (3.20) implies the nilpotency constraints of [12] involving $H = dB$. Using (3.9) and (3.14) we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q\mathcal{K} &= - \oint \frac{1}{2} \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta \Pi^A (H_{A\beta\alpha} - T_{\beta\alpha}^B B_{BA}) + \\
 &\quad \frac{1}{2} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \Pi^A (H_{A\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\alpha}} - T_{\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\alpha}}^B B_{BA}) + \lambda^\alpha \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \Pi^A (H_{A\widehat{\beta}\alpha} - T_{\widehat{\beta}\alpha}^B B_{BA}),
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.24}$$

and after using (3.17)–(3.19) we obtain the nilpotency constraints of [12] for H ,

$$\lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta H_{\alpha\beta A} = \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} H_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta} A} = H_{\alpha\widehat{\beta} A} = 0. \tag{3.25}$$

We can obtain the transformations of the fields in (3.1) under \mathcal{K} . The fields $Z^M, \lambda^\alpha, \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}}$ are invariant. It is easy to obtain the \mathcal{K} -transformations of $P_M, \omega_\alpha, \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\alpha}}$, they are

$$\mathcal{K}\omega_\alpha = \partial Z^M B_{M\alpha} = \Pi^A B_{A\alpha}, \quad \mathcal{K}\widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\alpha}} = \partial Z^M B_{M\widehat{\alpha}} = \Pi^A B_{M\widehat{\alpha}}, \tag{3.26}$$

$$\mathcal{K}P_M = \partial \lambda^\alpha B_{\alpha M} + \partial \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} B_{\widehat{\alpha} M} - (-1)^M \lambda^\alpha \partial Z^N \partial_{[N} B_{M]\alpha} - (-1)^M \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \partial Z^N \partial_{[N} B_{M]\widehat{\alpha}}. \tag{3.27}$$

Using these transformations and (3.10) we obtain the \mathcal{K} -transformations of $d_\alpha, \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}}, P_a$, they are

$$\mathcal{K}d_\alpha = -\lambda^\beta \Pi^a H_{a\beta\alpha} - \lambda^\beta \Pi^\gamma H_{\gamma\beta\alpha} - Qb_\alpha - \lambda^\beta T_{\beta\alpha}^A b_A + \left(\lambda^\gamma \Omega_{\gamma\alpha}^\beta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \Omega_{\widehat{\gamma}\alpha}^\beta \right) b_\beta, \tag{3.28}$$

$$\mathcal{K}\widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} = -\widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \Pi^a H_{a\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\alpha}} - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \Pi^{\widehat{\gamma}} H_{\widehat{\gamma}\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\alpha}} - Qb_{\widehat{\alpha}} - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} T_{\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\alpha}}^A b_A + \left(\lambda^\gamma \widehat{\Omega}_{\gamma\widehat{\alpha}}^{\widehat{\beta}} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\Omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}\widehat{\alpha}}^{\widehat{\beta}} \right) b_{\widehat{\beta}}, \tag{3.29}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{K}P_a &= \lambda^\beta \Pi^b H_{\beta ab} + \lambda^\beta \Pi^\gamma H_{\gamma\beta a} + \lambda^{\widehat{\beta}} \Pi^b H_{\widehat{\beta} ab} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \Pi^{\widehat{\gamma}} H_{\widehat{\gamma}\widehat{\beta} a} + Qb_a \\
 &\quad + \left(\lambda^\beta T_{\beta a}^A + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} T_{\widehat{\beta} a}^A \right) b_A - \left(\lambda^\gamma \Omega_{\gamma a}^b + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \Omega_{\widehat{\gamma} a}^b \right) b_b,
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.30}$$

where $b_A = \Pi^B B_{BA}$. It turns out that the action (3.1) is invariant under \mathcal{K} . The transformation of the action is

$$\mathcal{K}S = \int d^2z \lambda^\alpha \Pi^A \overline{\Pi}^B H_{BA\alpha} + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \Pi^A \overline{\Pi}^B H_{BA\widehat{\alpha}} - Q \left(\Pi^A \overline{\Pi}^B B_{BA} \right), \tag{3.31}$$

which vanishes because the BRST transformation of the second term cancels the first term. Then, the invariance of the action under \mathcal{K} -transformations does not provide new constraints on background fields.

We now generalize (2.22) to get the other supergravity constraints of [12]. We propose that

$$\mathcal{H} = -\frac{1}{2}P_a P_b \eta^{ab} + d_\alpha \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\beta}} P^{\alpha\widehat{\beta}} + d_\alpha \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\beta}}^{\widehat{\gamma}\alpha} + \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} \lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma C_\beta^{\gamma\widehat{\alpha}} + \lambda^\alpha \omega_\beta \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\delta}} S_{\alpha\widehat{\gamma}}^{\beta\widehat{\delta}}, \quad (3.32)$$

is the curved background version of (2.22). Here, $P^{\alpha\widehat{\beta}}$ is a superfield whose lowest components are the Ramond-Ramond field-strength, $C_\beta^{\gamma\widehat{\alpha}}$ and $\widehat{C}_{\widehat{\beta}}^{\widehat{\gamma}\alpha}$ are superfields whose lowest components are related to gravitini and dilatini field-strengths and $S_{\alpha\widehat{\gamma}}^{\beta\widehat{\delta}}$ is a superfield whose lowest component is the space-time curvature [12]. Note that all the terms in (3.32) should respect the pure spinor gauge symmetries $\delta\omega_\alpha = (\gamma^m \lambda)_\alpha \Lambda_m$ and $\delta\widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\alpha}} = (\gamma^m \widehat{\lambda})_{\widehat{\alpha}} \Lambda'_m$.

Defining $P^a = \eta^{ab} P_b$ and using the BRST transformations determined above, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} Q\mathcal{H} = & \frac{1}{2}\lambda^\alpha P^a P^b T_{\alpha(ab)} + \frac{1}{2}\widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} P^a P^b T_{\widehat{\alpha}(ab)} + \lambda^\alpha P^a d_\beta T_{a\alpha}{}^\beta + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} P^a \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\beta}} T_{a\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} \\ & + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} P^a d_\beta \left(T_{a\widehat{\alpha}}{}^\beta - T_{\widehat{\alpha}\gamma a} P^{\beta\widehat{\gamma}} \right) + \lambda^\alpha P^a \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\beta}} \left(T_{a\alpha}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} + T_{\alpha\gamma a} P^{\gamma\widehat{\beta}} \right) \\ & - \lambda^\alpha P^a \lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma R_{a\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma + \lambda^{\widehat{\alpha}} P^a \lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma \left(-R_{a\widehat{\alpha}\beta}{}^\gamma + T_{\widehat{\alpha}\delta a} C_\beta^{\gamma\delta} \right) \\ & + \lambda^\alpha P^a \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}} \left(-R_{a\alpha\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} + T_{\alpha\delta a} \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\beta}}^{\widehat{\gamma}\delta} \right) - \lambda^{\widehat{\alpha}} P^a \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\gamma}} R_{a\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} + \frac{1}{2}\widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} d_\beta d_\gamma T_{\widehat{\alpha}\delta}^{[\beta\gamma]\delta} - \frac{1}{2}\lambda^\alpha \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\gamma}} T_{\alpha\delta}^{[\widehat{\beta}\widehat{\gamma}]\delta} \\ & + \lambda^\alpha d_\beta \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\gamma}} \left(\nabla_\alpha P^{\beta\widehat{\gamma}} - T_{\alpha\delta}{}^\beta P^{\delta\widehat{\gamma}} + C_\alpha{}^{\beta\widehat{\gamma}} \right) + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} d_\beta \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\gamma}} \left(\nabla_{\widehat{\alpha}} P^{\beta\widehat{\gamma}} - T_{\widehat{\alpha}\delta}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} P^{\beta\delta} - \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}\beta} \right) \\ & + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} d_\beta \lambda^\gamma \omega_\delta \left(-R_{\widehat{\rho}\alpha\gamma}{}^\delta P^{\beta\widehat{\rho}} + T_{\widehat{\alpha}\rho}{}^\beta C_\gamma{}^{\delta\rho} \right) + \lambda^\alpha d_\beta \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\delta}} \left(-R_{\widehat{\rho}\alpha\widehat{\gamma}}{}^\delta P^{\beta\widehat{\rho}} + T_{\alpha\rho}{}^\beta \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\delta\rho} - \nabla_\alpha \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\delta\beta} + S_{\alpha\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\beta\delta} \right) \\ & - \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} d_\beta \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\delta}} \left(\nabla_{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\delta\beta} + R_{\widehat{\rho}\alpha\widehat{\gamma}}{}^\delta P^{\beta\widehat{\rho}} \right) - \lambda^\alpha \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\beta}} \lambda^\gamma \omega_\delta \left(\nabla_\alpha C_\gamma{}^{\delta\beta} - R_{\rho\alpha\gamma}{}^\delta P^{\rho\beta} \right) \\ & + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\beta}} \lambda^\gamma \omega_\delta \left(R_{\rho\widehat{\alpha}\gamma}{}^\delta P^{\rho\widehat{\beta}} + T_{\widehat{\alpha}\rho}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} C_\gamma{}^{\delta\rho} - \nabla_{\widehat{\alpha}} C_\gamma{}^{\delta\widehat{\beta}} + S_{\gamma\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\delta\widehat{\beta}} \right) + \lambda^\alpha \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\delta}} \left(R_{\rho\alpha\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} P^{\rho\widehat{\beta}} + T_{\alpha\rho}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\delta\rho} \right) \\ & + \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\delta}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\rho}} \left(R_{\sigma\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\delta}}{}^{\widehat{\rho}\sigma} + R_{\widehat{\sigma}\alpha\delta}{}^{\widehat{\rho}} C_\beta^{\gamma\widehat{\sigma}} + \nabla_\alpha S_{\beta\widehat{\delta}}{}^{\gamma\widehat{\rho}} \right) \\ & + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\delta}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\rho}} \left(R_{\sigma\widehat{\alpha}\beta}{}^\gamma \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\delta}}{}^{\widehat{\rho}\sigma} + R_{\widehat{\sigma}\alpha\delta}{}^{\widehat{\rho}} C_\beta^{\gamma\widehat{\sigma}} + \nabla_{\widehat{\alpha}} S_{\beta\widehat{\delta}}{}^{\gamma\widehat{\rho}} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.33)$$

The BRST invariance of \mathcal{H} implies the constraints

$$T_{\alpha(ab)} = T_{a\alpha}{}^\beta = T_{a\alpha}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} + T_{\alpha\gamma a} P^{\gamma\widehat{\beta}} = \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta R_{a\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma = 0, \quad (3.34)$$

$$T_{\widehat{\alpha}(ab)} = T_{a\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} = T_{a\alpha}{}^\beta - T_{\widehat{\alpha}\gamma a} P^{\beta\widehat{\gamma}} = \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} R_{a\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} = 0, \quad (3.35)$$

$$R_{a\widehat{\alpha}\beta}{}^\gamma - T_{\widehat{\alpha}\delta a} C_\beta^{\gamma\delta} = R_{a\alpha\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} - T_{\alpha\delta a} \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\beta}}^{\widehat{\gamma}\delta} = 0, \quad (3.36)$$

$$\nabla_\alpha P^{\beta\widehat{\gamma}} - T_{\alpha\delta}{}^\beta P^{\delta\widehat{\gamma}} + C_\alpha{}^{\beta\widehat{\gamma}} = \nabla_{\widehat{\alpha}} P^{\beta\widehat{\gamma}} - T_{\widehat{\alpha}\delta}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} P^{\beta\delta} - \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}\beta} = 0, \quad (3.37)$$

$$\nabla_\alpha \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\delta\beta} - T_{\alpha\rho}{}^\beta \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\delta\rho} + R_{\widehat{\rho}\alpha\widehat{\gamma}}{}^\delta P^{\beta\widehat{\rho}} - S_{\alpha\widehat{\gamma}}{}^{\beta\delta} = 0, \quad (3.38)$$

$$\nabla_{\widehat{\alpha}} C_\gamma{}^{\delta\widehat{\beta}} - T_{\widehat{\alpha}\rho}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} C_\gamma{}^{\delta\rho} - R_{\rho\widehat{\alpha}\gamma}{}^\delta P^{\rho\widehat{\beta}} - S_{\gamma\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\delta\widehat{\beta}} = 0, \quad (3.39)$$

$$\lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta \left(\nabla_\alpha C_\beta^{\gamma\delta} - R_{\rho\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma P^{\rho\delta} \right) = \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \left(\nabla_{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\delta\widehat{\gamma}} + R_{\widehat{\rho}\alpha\widehat{\beta}}{}^{\widehat{\gamma}} P^{\rho\widehat{\delta}} \right) = 0, \quad (3.40)$$

$$\lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta \left(R_{\sigma\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\delta}}{}^{\widehat{\rho}\sigma} + R_{\widehat{\sigma}\alpha\delta}{}^{\widehat{\rho}} C_\beta^{\gamma\widehat{\sigma}} + \nabla_\alpha S_{\beta\widehat{\delta}}{}^{\gamma\widehat{\rho}} \right) = 0, \quad (3.41)$$

$$\widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \left(R_{\sigma\widehat{\alpha}\beta}{}^\gamma \widehat{C}_{\widehat{\delta}}{}^{\widehat{\rho}\sigma} + R_{\widehat{\sigma}\alpha\delta}{}^{\widehat{\rho}} C_\beta^{\gamma\widehat{\sigma}} + \nabla_{\widehat{\alpha}} S_{\beta\widehat{\delta}}{}^{\gamma\widehat{\rho}} \right) = 0. \quad (3.42)$$

Note that this gives the holomorphic constraints of Berkovits and Howe that do not involve $H = dB$ [12]. We also obtain the constraints

$$T_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\delta}}^{[\beta} P^{\gamma]\hat{\delta}} = 0, \quad (3.43)$$

$$T_{\alpha\delta}^{[\hat{\beta}} P^{\delta\hat{\gamma}]} = 0, \quad (3.44)$$

$$R_{\hat{\rho}\hat{\alpha}\hat{\gamma}}^{\delta} P^{\beta\hat{\rho}} - T_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\rho}}^{\beta} C_{\gamma}^{\delta\hat{\rho}} = 0, \quad (3.45)$$

$$R_{\rho\alpha\hat{\gamma}}^{\hat{\delta}} P^{\rho\hat{\beta}} + T_{\alpha\rho}^{\hat{\beta}} \hat{C}_{\hat{\gamma}}^{\hat{\delta}\rho} = 0, \quad (3.46)$$

which are implied by the constraints of [12].

What remains to obtain are the constraints coming from the conservation of the BRST charge that involve $H = dB$ in [12]. They are,

$$H_{\alpha ab} = H_{\hat{\alpha} ab} = T_{\alpha\beta a} - H_{\alpha\beta a} = T_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta} a} + H_{\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta} a} = 0, \quad (3.47)$$

$$T_{\gamma\alpha}^{\hat{\beta}} + \frac{1}{2} P^{\delta\hat{\beta}} H_{\delta\gamma\alpha} = T_{\hat{\gamma}\hat{\alpha}}^{\beta} + \frac{1}{2} P^{\beta\hat{\delta}} H_{\hat{\gamma}\hat{\delta}\hat{\alpha}} = 0, \quad (3.48)$$

$$R_{\delta\alpha\hat{\beta}}^{\hat{\gamma}} + \frac{1}{2} \hat{C}_{\hat{\beta}}^{\hat{\gamma}\rho} H_{\rho\delta\alpha} = R_{\hat{\delta}\hat{\alpha}\hat{\beta}}^{\gamma} - \frac{1}{2} C_{\beta}^{\gamma\hat{\rho}} H_{\hat{\rho}\hat{\delta}\hat{\alpha}} = 0. \quad (3.49)$$

Note that (3.49) are implied by the other constraints through Bianchi identities. Using the constraints (3.48) and (3.49) and the conditions from $Q\mathcal{K} = 0$ the equations (3.43)–(3.46) are satisfied. This, however, does not imply we derived the constraints (3.48) and (3.49). We will comment on this at the end of the paper.

4 AdS₅ × S⁵ background

The AdS geometry is described by the supercoset $PSU(2, 2|4)/SO(1, 4) \times SO(5)$. The background fields are conveniently described using the Maurer-Cartan currents

$$J_M = g^{-1} \partial_M g = (g^{-1} \partial_M g)^{[ab]} T_{[ab]} + (g^{-1} \partial_M g)^A T_A, \quad (4.1)$$

where g is an element of the coset and $\{T_{[ab]}, T_A\}$ are the generators of the $\mathfrak{psu}(2, 2|4)$ algebra, $T_{[ab]}$ generates the $SO(1, 4) \times SO(5)$ algebra. We will also define

$$J = \partial Z^M g^{-1} \partial_M g, \quad \bar{J} = \bar{\partial} Z^M g^{-1} \partial_M g.$$

The $\mathfrak{psu}(2, 2|4)$ has a \mathbb{Z}_4 symmetry and the generators can be conveniently grouped in four different subspaces labeled by the different \mathbb{Z}_4 charges

$$J = J_0 + J_1 + J_2 + J_3 = \Omega^{[ab]} T_{[ab]} + J^\alpha T_\alpha + J^{\underline{a}} T_{\underline{a}} + J^{\hat{\alpha}} T_{\hat{\alpha}}.$$

We can now identify the vielbein and spin connection

$$\Omega_M^{[ab]} = (g^{-1} \partial_M g)^{[ab]}, \quad E_M^A = (g^{-1} \partial_M g)^A.$$

In the case of $AdS_5 \times S^5$ the previous general curved space action is

$$S = \int d^2 z P_{\underline{a}} \bar{J}^{\underline{a}} + d_\alpha \bar{J}^\alpha + \hat{d}_{\hat{\alpha}} \bar{J}^{\hat{\alpha}} + \omega_\alpha \bar{\nabla} \lambda^\alpha + \hat{\omega}_{\hat{\alpha}} \bar{\nabla} \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}}. \quad (4.2)$$

Introducing the notation

$$\begin{aligned} P_2 &= P_a T_b \eta^{ab}, & P_3 &= -d_\alpha T_{\hat{\beta}} \eta^{\alpha\hat{\beta}}, & P_1 &= \hat{d}_{\hat{\alpha}} T_{\beta} \eta^{\beta\hat{\alpha}}, \\ \lambda &= \lambda^\alpha T_\alpha, & \omega &= -\omega_\alpha T_{\hat{\beta}} \eta^{\alpha\hat{\beta}}, & \hat{\lambda} &= \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} T_{\hat{\alpha}}, & \hat{\omega} &= \hat{\omega}_{\hat{\alpha}} T_{\beta} \eta^{\beta\hat{\alpha}}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

where η^{AB} is the inverse of the Killing form $\eta_{AB} = \text{Str}(T_A T_B)$, we can write the action as

$$S = \int d^2 z \text{Str} \left(P_2 \bar{J}_2 + P_3 \bar{J}_1 + P_1 \bar{J}_3 + \omega \bar{\nabla} \lambda + \hat{\omega} \bar{\nabla} \hat{\lambda} \right), \quad (4.4)$$

and the BRST charge as

$$Q = \oint \text{Str}(\lambda P_3 + \hat{\lambda} P_1). \quad (4.5)$$

The equations of motion that follow from this action are

$$\bar{J}_1 = \bar{J}_2 = \bar{J}_3 = \bar{\nabla} P_1 = \bar{\nabla} P_2 = \bar{\nabla} P_3 = 0, \quad (4.6)$$

$$\bar{\nabla} \lambda = \bar{\nabla} \omega = \bar{\nabla} \hat{\lambda} = \bar{\nabla} \hat{\omega} = 0. \quad (4.7)$$

Note that (4.6) does not imply g is holomorphic. However, using the Maurer-Cartan identities (4.6) implies

$$\bar{\nabla} J_2 = \bar{\nabla} J_1 = \bar{\nabla} J_3 = 0. \quad (4.8)$$

Using the background field values of $P^{\alpha\hat{\beta}}$ and $S_{\alpha\hat{\gamma}}{}^{\beta\hat{\delta}}$ the for AdS case, the constraint \mathcal{H} is given by

$$\mathcal{H} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Str} \left(P_2 P_2 + 2P_3 P_1 + 2N \hat{N} \right),$$

where $N = \{\lambda, \omega\}$ and $\hat{N} = \{\hat{\lambda}, \hat{\omega}\}$. This constraint has precisely the expected form of a curved space laplacian. When acting on physical states, \mathcal{H} is the quadratic Casimir of the representation of the vertex operator.

For the \mathcal{K} charge, we use the background field value of $B_{\alpha\hat{\beta}}$ and the result is

$$\mathcal{K} = \oint \text{Str}(\lambda J_3 - \hat{\lambda} J_1). \quad (4.9)$$

Using the commutation relations obtained in the previous section, one can show that $Q\mathcal{K} = 0$. It is interesting to note that \mathcal{K} resembles the BRST charge of the usual pure spinor string in AdS, where P_1 and P_3 can be integrated out due to the constant Ramond-Ramond field-strength. In the ambitwistor case, this field-strength is not in the action but in \mathcal{H} .

The global $\mathfrak{psu}(2, 2|4)$ symmetry of the usual string in $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$ is promoted to an holomorphic transformation of the coset element

$$\delta g = \Lambda(z)g, \quad \delta P_i = \delta \lambda = \delta \omega = \delta \hat{\lambda} = \delta \hat{\omega} = 0. \quad (4.10)$$

The conserved current that generates this transformation can be calculated from the action (4.4) using the standard Noether procedure and the result is

$$j = g(P_2 + P_1 + P_3 + N + \hat{N})g^{-1}. \quad (4.11)$$

This current is BRST invariant, as opposed to the usual case where the BRST transformation of the symmetry currents is an exact form [16]. As discussed in [10] the integrated vertex operator in flat space is BRST invariant, contrary to the expected $QV = d\Lambda$. Mikhailov has shown in [16] that a class of massless vertex operators for the AdS pure spinor string can be constructed using the symmetry currents. Given this relation, it is not surprising that the currents generating (4.10) are BRST invariant.

Here we conjecture that the components of the current $j = j^A T_A$, where T_A are all $\mathfrak{psu}(2, 2|4)$ generators, satisfy a Kac-Moody algebra

$$j^A(z)j^B(y) \rightarrow \frac{\kappa^{AB}}{(z-y)^2} + \frac{f_C^{AB} j^C(y)}{(z-y)}, \quad (4.12)$$

where κ^{AB} still has to be determined and f_C^{AB} are the $\mathfrak{psu}(2, 2|4)$ structure constants. The usual Sugawara construction using j gives precisely the \mathcal{H} constraint

$$\mathcal{H} = -\frac{1}{2}\text{Str}(j^2). \quad (4.13)$$

We have used the pure spinor constraint to show that $\text{Str}(N^2) = \text{Str}(\hat{N}^2) = 0$. It is important to note that, as in the previous sections, \mathcal{H} is not the stress-energy tensor, which is the conserved current of conformal transformations $\delta g = \epsilon(z)\partial g$ and is given by

$$T = \text{Str}(P_2 J_2 + P_3 J_1 + P_1 J_3 + \omega \nabla \lambda + \hat{\omega} \nabla \hat{\lambda}).$$

5 Concluding remarks

In this paper we have studied the pure spinor formulation in a type II supergravity background for the ambitwistor string. This string describes only the supergravity part of the usual superstring spectrum. As in [11] we expect that the conditions on Q , \mathcal{H} and \mathcal{K} do not receive any quantum correction. However, the quantum version of these constraints could receive corrections. It would be interesting to verify this explicitly.

The curved space action (3.1) is much simpler than the usual pure spinor string. All conjugate momenta appear at most linearly and the equations of motion still imply all fields are holomorphic. These two facts indicates perturbative calculations are easier and, as in [11], could be computed exactly.

As we pointed out in the main text, we do not obtain all supergravity constraints. These missing constraints could be in the correct curved space generalization of the commutator of \mathcal{K} and \mathcal{H}

$$[\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{H}] = 2(\lambda \gamma^m \partial \theta - \hat{\lambda} \gamma^m \partial \hat{\theta}) P_m + Q(\partial \theta \gamma^m \theta P_m). \quad (5.1)$$

Since \mathcal{K} and \mathcal{H} are symmetries of the flat space action, the right hand side of (5.1) also is. Using the curved space versions of these generators we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} [\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{H}] = & -P^a \left(\lambda^\alpha \Pi^A H_{A\alpha a} + \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\alpha}} \Pi^A H_{A\hat{\alpha} a} \right) \\ & - \lambda^\delta \Pi^A H_{A\delta\alpha} \left(\hat{d}_{\hat{\beta}} P^{\alpha\hat{\beta}} + \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\beta}} \hat{\omega}_\gamma \hat{C}_{\hat{\beta}}^{\hat{\gamma}\alpha} \right) - \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\delta}} \Pi^A H_{A\hat{\delta}\hat{\alpha}} \left(-d_\beta P^{\beta\hat{\alpha}} + \lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma C_\beta^{\gamma\hat{\alpha}} \right) \\ & + Q \left(-b_a P^a - b_\alpha \left(\hat{d}_{\hat{\beta}} P^{\alpha\hat{\beta}} + \hat{\lambda}^{\hat{\beta}} \hat{\omega}_\gamma \hat{C}_{\hat{\beta}}^{\hat{\gamma}\alpha} \right) - b_{\hat{\alpha}} \left(-d_\beta P^{\beta\hat{\alpha}} + \lambda^\beta \omega_\gamma C_\beta^{\gamma\hat{\alpha}} \right) \right), \end{aligned} \quad (5.2)$$

where $b_A = \Pi^B B_{BA}$. If one uses the desired constraints (3.47)–(3.49) and the constraints derived from $Q\mathcal{H} = 0$, the expression above can be written, up to BRST exact terms, as

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{H}] = & \left(-\lambda^\alpha \Pi^\beta T_{\alpha\beta}{}^a + \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \Pi^{\widehat{\beta}} T_{\widehat{\alpha}\widehat{\beta}}{}^a \right) P_a \\
 & + \left(\widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \Pi^a T_{a\widehat{\beta}}{}^\alpha + 2\widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\beta}} \Pi^{\widehat{\gamma}} T_{\widehat{\gamma}\widehat{\beta}}{}^\alpha \right) d_\alpha + \left(\lambda^\beta \Pi^a T_{a\beta}{}^{\widehat{\alpha}} - 2\lambda^\beta \Pi^\gamma T_{\gamma\beta}{}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \right) \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} \\
 & + \left(\widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \Pi^a R_{a\widehat{\gamma}\alpha}{}^\beta + 2\widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\gamma}} \Pi^{\widehat{\delta}} R_{\widehat{\delta}\widehat{\gamma}\alpha}{}^\beta \right) \lambda^\alpha \omega_\beta - \left(\lambda^\gamma \Pi^a R_{a\gamma\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} + 2\lambda^\gamma \Pi^\delta R_{\delta\gamma\widehat{\alpha}}{}^{\widehat{\beta}} \right) \widehat{\lambda}^{\widehat{\alpha}} \widehat{\omega}_{\widehat{\beta}}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.3}$$

As of yet, we do not have an explanation for why the form (5.3) is preferred over (5.2). A possible way to solve this issue is to consider the sum of the two nilpotent charges $Q + \mathcal{K}$ as the new BRST charge [17]. This can be interpreted as a redefinition of the conjugate momenta

$$d_\alpha \rightarrow d_\alpha + b_\alpha, \quad \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} \rightarrow \widehat{d}_{\widehat{\alpha}} + b_{\widehat{\alpha}}. \tag{5.4}$$

One can go further and also redefine $P_a \rightarrow P_a - b_a$. After defining a new \mathcal{H}' using these new momenta, the commutator $[Q + \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{H}'] = 0$ could give the missing constraints. The problem with this approach is that flat space limit of the modified BRST charge is not equal to the BRST charge defined originally by Berkovits in [10]. So this modification would imply in a further change in the vertex operators found in that paper. We plan to return to this problem together with questions about the quantum version of the constraints.

The case of type IIB supergravity in an $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$ background is also simpler than the usual string. As it was shown in section 4, the global $\mathfrak{psu}(2, 2|4)$ symmetry is enhanced to an holomorphic symmetry. This symmetry could be used to completely solve the theory. If unintegrated and integrated vertex operators can be constructed explicitly, following [18], correlation functions could be computed exactly.

While this work was being completed we learned that Adamo, Berkovits and Casali have been working on similar problems [19].

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