

Two-parameter integrable deformations of the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring

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ABSTRACT: For supercosets with isometry group of the form $\hat{G} \times \hat{G}$, the η -deformation can be generalised to a two-parameter integrable deformation with independent q -deformations of the two copies. We study its kappa-symmetry and write down a formula for the Ramond-Ramond fluxes. We then focus on $\hat{G} = \text{PSU}(1, 1|2)$ and construct two supergravity backgrounds for the two-parameter integrable deformation of the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring, as well as explore their limits. We also construct backgrounds that are solutions of the weaker generalised supergravity equations of motion and compare them to the literature.

KEYWORDS: Integrable Field Theories, Sigma Models, Superstrings and Heterotic Strings

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1 Introduction

The AdS/CFT correspondence is a duality between string theories in d -dimensional Anti-de-Sitter space and Conformal Field Theories living in $d - 1$ dimensions [1, 2]. In special cases, it is possible to investigate the AdS/CFT setup thanks to techniques based on supersymmetry, conformal field theory, and integrability. It is natural to ask whether the better-understood AdS/CFT instances, which are often the most (super-)symmetric ones, admit deformations that preserve their solvability. Here we consider the AdS_3 superstring, which is integrable [3, 4] and admits integrable deformations. AdS_3 offers a particularly good setting, providing more control than in other dimensional cases for two main reasons. Firstly, string theories on AdS_3 backgrounds are dual to two-dimensional CFTs which are

often exactly solvable. Secondly, the background can be supported by a mixture of R-R and NS-NS fluxes, offering a richer landscape than in the AdS₅ case. Moreover, specific points allow for particularly simple solutions which can be analysed either by integrability [5–11] (for a review and further references see [12]) or by CFT (Wess-Zumino-Witten model) techniques [13–15]. AdS₃ string theories also naturally emerge when studying black-hole configurations, such as those arising in the celebrated D1–D5 system (see e.g. [16] for a review). Consequently, it is of interest to construct new, exactly solvable string backgrounds as deformations of the AdS₃ ones.

In this paper we will focus on one particular type of integrable deformation of the type II Green-Schwarz superstring known in the literature as η -deformation or inhomogeneous Yang-Baxter deformation [17, 18]. This generalises the η -deformations of the principal chiral model [19, 20] and the symmetric space sigma model [21]. The shape of the deformation is governed by an R-matrix solving the non-split modified classical Yang-Baxter equation on the superisometry algebra of the undeformed background. We will restrict ourselves to R-matrices of Drinfel'd Jimbo type [22–24], which are defined through their action on a Cartan-Weyl basis of the superisometry algebra. More precisely, they annihilate the Cartan elements and multiply by $-i$ (respectively $+i$) the positive (respectively negative) roots. Generically, the deformed backgrounds do not solve the supergravity equations of motion [25, 26]. Rather, they satisfy a set of generalised supergravity equations of motion that follow from imposing kappa-symmetry or equivalently scale invariance of the model, but not its Weyl invariance [27, 28]. Progress has been made in trying to give a good string theory interpretation to these generalised supergravity backgrounds but there are a number of remaining issues [29–31]. An elegant formula for the target-space supergeometry of the η -deformed model was derived in [32]. There it was shown that in order to obtain a supergravity background the R-matrix has to satisfy the so-called unimodularity condition: the supertrace of the structure constants built out of the R-bracket should vanish. This was not the case for the R-matrix chosen in [26]. However, superalgebras admit inequivalent Dynkin diagrams, and supergravity backgrounds for the η -deformed AdS₂ × S² × T⁶ and AdS₅ × S⁵ superstrings were finally presented in [33].

This solved one of the main puzzles in the field of η -deformations, but a number remain, including the behaviour in the maximal deformation limit and its link to the undeformed *mirror theory* [34–36]. Under the deformation the superisometry algebra of the model gets q -deformed [18, 21, 37], with parameter

$$q = e^{-\kappa/T}, \quad \kappa = \frac{2\eta}{1 - \eta^2}, \quad (1.1)$$

where η is the strength of the deformation and T is the string tension. A conjecture for the (centrally extended) $\mathfrak{psu}_q(2|2) \oplus \mathfrak{psu}_q(2|2)$ invariant S-matrix, which gives a quantum deformation of the AdS₅ × S⁵ worldsheet S-matrix, has been given in [38]. This S-matrix admits three interesting limits. First of all, sending $\kappa \rightarrow 0$ gives the S-matrix of the undeformed light-cone gauge fixed AdS₅ × S⁵ theory. But the $q \rightarrow 1$ limit can also be reached in another way, by first rescaling the tension $T \rightarrow \kappa^2 T$ and then sending the deformation parameter to infinity. In this maximal deformation limit one gets the S-matrix of the mirror

AdS₅ × S⁵ theory. The q -deformed S-matrix thus interpolates between the S-matrices of the undeformed theory and its mirror. An interesting feature of the q -deformed S-matrix is that it is covariant under the mirror transformation: the mirror of the q -deformed S-matrix with deformation parameters q is again the q -deformed S-matrix with deformation parameter q' [39]. This behaviour is referred to as mirror duality. Another interesting case is when q is pure phase, which, in a particular scaling limit, gives the S-matrix of the Pohlmeyer reduced theory [40–42]. It is an interesting and open question whether these latter two limits are also realised at the level of the background, as well as in the light-cone gauge fixed worldsheet S-matrix. For the Pohlmeyer limit, encouraging results in this direction have been obtained [33]. However, neither the generalised supergravity background of [26] nor the supergravity background of [33] reduce to the undeformed mirror theory in the maximal deformation limit.

To shed more light on this, as yet, unresolved problem we will consider deformations of the AdS₃ × S³ × T⁴ superstring. The novelty in this case is that the superisometry algebra has a group-product structure $\hat{G} \times \hat{G}$ and thus allows for a two-parameter integrable deformation [43]. The latter generalises the bi-Yang-Baxter sigma model of [20, 44] to semi-symmetric space sigma models. There are now two real deformation parameters η_L and η_R controlling the strength of the deformation in the left and right \hat{G} copy. The limiting case $\eta_L = \eta_R = \eta$ reduces to the usual one-parameter η -deformation. We extend the results of [32] to the two-parameter deformation and write down an explicit formula for the Ramond-Ramond (R-R) fluxes in this more general setting. We then apply these results to the AdS₃ × S³ × T⁴ superstring and present two supergravity backgrounds corresponding to two different unimodular Drinfel'd Jimbo R-matrices associated to the fully fermionic Dynkin diagram

$$\otimes - \otimes - \otimes \quad \otimes - \otimes - \otimes . \tag{1.2}$$

The two backgrounds are similar to the ones constructed in [45], where the metric of the two-parameter deformation of the AdS₃ × S³ × T⁴ superstring was embedded into type II supergravity in two different ways. The two supergravity backgrounds remain distinct in the limiting $\eta_L = \eta_R$ case. Studying their limits, we will observe that they have different Pohlmeyer and maximal deformation limits. Interestingly, we find that one of the background exhibits mirror duality, while the other does not. This may give new insights into how to recover the mirror background in other cases and construct integrable supergravity backgrounds for the η -deformed AdS₅ × S⁵ superstring with explicit mirror duality.

The outline of this paper is as follows. In section 2 we review the construction of the two-parameter deformation, study its kappa-symmetry and present a closed formula for the R-R fluxes. We then extract the supergravity backgrounds for the two-parameter deformation of the AdS₃ × S³ × T⁴ superstring in section 3 and explore their limits. In particular we will show how mirror duality arises in this context. In section 4 the results are also compared to backgrounds that are solutions to the generalised supergravity equations of motion. Finally we end with some conclusions in section 5. Our conventions for gamma matrices and generators are given in appendix A.

2 Two-parameter deformation

In this section the two-parameter deformation [43] of the Metsaev-Tseytlin action for supercosets with isometry group of the form $\hat{G} \times \hat{G}$ [3] is reviewed. The kappa-symmetry of the deformed model is studied, the supervielbein are identified and a formula for the dilaton and R-R fluxes is written down. Examples of interest in the context of AdS string backgrounds are $\hat{G} = \text{PSU}(1, 1|2)$ for strings moving in $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ and $\hat{G} = \text{D}(2, 1; \alpha)$ for strings moving in $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{S}^1$, where the parameter α is related to the relative radii of the two three-spheres.

2.1 The action, equations of motion and kappa-symmetry

Algebraic setting. We shall consider deformations of semi-symmetric space sigma models on supercosets of the type

$$\frac{\hat{G} \times \hat{G}}{\text{F}_0}, \tag{2.1}$$

where F_0 is the bosonic diagonal subgroup of the product supergroup $\hat{F} = \hat{G} \times \hat{G}$. We denote by $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ and $\hat{\mathfrak{f}} = \hat{\mathfrak{g}} \oplus \hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ the Lie algebras corresponding to the supergroup \hat{G} and \hat{F} respectively. The basic Lie superalgebra $\hat{\mathfrak{f}}$ admits a \mathbb{Z}_4 grading consistent with the (anti-)commutation relations,

$$\hat{\mathfrak{f}} = \mathfrak{f}^{(0)} + \mathfrak{f}^{(1)} + \mathfrak{f}^{(2)} + \mathfrak{f}^{(3)}, \quad [\mathfrak{f}^{(i)}, \mathfrak{f}^{(j)}] \subset \mathfrak{f}^{(i+j \pmod{4})}, \tag{2.2}$$

with the grade zero subalgebra $\mathfrak{f}^{(0)}$ being the Lie algebra of F_0 . The subspaces $\mathfrak{f}^{(0)}$ and $\mathfrak{f}^{(2)}$ have even grading, while the subspaces $\mathfrak{f}^{(1)}$ and $\mathfrak{f}^{(3)}$ have odd grading. For elements in the Lie algebra $\hat{\mathfrak{f}}$ we use the standard block-diagonal matrix realisation $\mathcal{X} = \text{diag}(X^L, X^R) \in \hat{\mathfrak{f}}$ with $X^L, X^R \in \hat{\mathfrak{g}}$, and define the supertrace $\text{STr}[\mathcal{X}] = \text{STr}[X^L] + \text{STr}[X^R]$. Let us also introduce the projectors $P^{(i)}$ onto the subspaces $\mathfrak{f}^{(i)}$, as well as P_B and P_F , which project onto the even and odd parts of $\hat{\mathfrak{g}}$ respectively. The \mathbb{Z}_4 grading is defined through

$$\begin{aligned} P^{(0)}\mathcal{X} &= \mathcal{X}^{(0)} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} P_B(X^L + X^R) & 0 \\ 0 & P_B(X^L + X^R) \end{pmatrix}, \\ P^{(1)}\mathcal{X} &= \mathcal{X}^{(1)} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} P_F(X^L + iX^R) & 0 \\ 0 & -iP_F(X^L + iX^R) \end{pmatrix}, \\ P^{(2)}\mathcal{X} &= \mathcal{X}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} P_B(X^L - X^R) & 0 \\ 0 & -P_B(X^L - X^R) \end{pmatrix}, \\ P^{(3)}\mathcal{X} &= \mathcal{X}^{(3)} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} P_F(X^L - iX^R) & 0 \\ 0 & iP_F(X^L - iX^R) \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

The generators $\mathcal{T}_A, A = 1, \dots, \dim \hat{\mathfrak{f}}$ of the superisometry algebra $\hat{\mathfrak{f}}$ can then be split into generators \mathcal{J}_{ab} of grade 0, \mathcal{P}_a of grade 2, as well as supercharges $\mathcal{Q}_{1\alpha}$ and $\mathcal{Q}_{2\alpha}$ of grades 1 and 3 respectively. Let us also define

$$\mathcal{K}_{AB} = \text{STr}[\mathcal{T}_A \mathcal{T}_B], \tag{2.4}$$

as well as its inverse

$$\mathcal{K}_{AB}\widehat{\mathcal{K}}^{BC} = \delta_A^C. \quad (2.5)$$

Action. The action of the two-parameter deformed semi-symmetric space sigma model for the group-valued field $g \in \widehat{\mathbb{F}}$ depends on two real deformation parameters η_L and η_R and reads

$$S_{\eta_L, \eta_R}[g] = -T \int d^2\sigma \Xi_-^{ij} \text{STr}[g^{-1} \partial_i g d_- O_-^{-1} g^{-1} \partial_j g]. \quad (2.6)$$

We assume that the fields are in the defining matrix representation. T is the overall coupling constant playing the role of the effective string tension, $d^2\sigma = d\tau d\sigma$ and $\Xi_{\pm}^{ij} = (\gamma^{ij} \pm \epsilon^{ij})/2$, where γ^{ij} is the Weyl invariant worldsheet metric with $\gamma^{\tau\tau} < 0$ and ϵ^{ij} is the Levi-Civita symbol with $\epsilon^{\tau\sigma} = 1$. The operators d_{\pm} are defined in terms of the \mathbb{Z}_4 projectors as

$$d_{\pm} = P^{(2)} \mp \frac{\bar{\eta}}{2}(P^{(1)} - P^{(3)}), \quad \bar{\eta} = \sqrt{(1 - \eta_L^2)(1 - \eta_R^2)}, \quad (2.7)$$

and

$$O_{\pm} = 1 \pm \text{diag}(\kappa_L, \kappa_R) \mathcal{R}_g d_{\pm}, \quad \kappa_L = \frac{2\eta_L}{\bar{\eta}}, \quad \kappa_R = \frac{2\eta_R}{\bar{\eta}}. \quad (2.8)$$

The operator $\mathcal{R}_g = \text{Ad}_g^{-1} \mathcal{R} \text{Ad}_g$ acts on $\mathcal{X} \in \widehat{\mathfrak{f}}$ as $\mathcal{R}_g(\mathcal{X}) = g^{-1} \mathcal{R}(g \mathcal{X} g^{-1}) g$. The R-matrix \mathcal{R} governing the shape of the deformation is antisymmetric with respect to the supertrace

$$\text{STr}[\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{X})\mathcal{Y}] = -\text{STr}[\mathcal{X}\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{Y})], \quad \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y} \in \widehat{\mathfrak{f}}, \quad (2.9)$$

and solves the non-split modified classical Yang-Baxter equation¹

$$[\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{X}), \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{Y})] - \mathcal{R}([\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{X}), \mathcal{Y}] + [\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{Y})]) = [\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}], \quad \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y} \in \widehat{\mathfrak{f}}. \quad (2.10)$$

It has been conjectured that the symmetry of this model is, at least at the classical level, given by the asymmetrical q -deformation [43]

$$\mathcal{U}_{q_L}(\widehat{\mathbb{G}}) \times \mathcal{U}_{q_R}(\widehat{\mathbb{G}}), \quad q_L = e^{-\kappa_L/T}, \quad q_R = e^{-\kappa_R/T}. \quad (2.11)$$

It reduces to the one-parameter η -deformation if $\eta_L = \eta_R = \eta$ and to the undeformed sigma model when the deformation parameters $\eta_L = \eta_R = 0$.

To write down the equations of motion and the kappa symmetry variation it will be useful to define the deformation parameters

$$\kappa_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}(\kappa_L \pm \kappa_R) \quad (2.12)$$

as well as the auxiliary operator

$$\tilde{\mathcal{R}} \equiv \text{diag}(\kappa_L, \kappa_R) \mathcal{R} = (\kappa_+ \mathbb{1} + \kappa_- W) \mathcal{R}, \quad (2.13)$$

where we have introduced $W = \text{diag}(1, -1)$. This new operator is still antisymmetric with respect to the supertrace,

$$\text{STr}[\tilde{\mathcal{R}}(\mathcal{X})\mathcal{Y}] = -\text{STr}[\mathcal{X}\tilde{\mathcal{R}}(\mathcal{Y})]. \quad (2.14)$$

¹We use the mixed bracket notation. If the two elements in the bracket are of odd grading then the bracket is the anti-commutator. Otherwise, it is the commutator.

Furthermore, the fact that \mathcal{R} satisfies the modified classical Yang-Baxter equation implies a similar equality for $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}$ but with the right hand side given by

$$\tilde{C}[X, Y], \quad \tilde{C} = (\kappa_+^2 + \kappa_-^2)\mathbf{1} + 2\kappa_+\kappa_-W. \quad (2.15)$$

Equations of motion. Defining the one-forms $A_\pm = O_\pm^{-1}g^{-1}dg$ with components $A_{\pm i}$, the equations of motion corresponding to the action (2.6) can be written as $\mathcal{E} = 0$, with

$$\mathcal{E} = d_-\partial_i(\Xi_-A_-)^i + d_+\partial_i(\Xi_+A_+)^i + [(\Xi_+A_+)_i, d_-(\Xi_-A_-)^i] + [(\Xi_-A_-)_i, d_+(\Xi_+A_+)^i]. \quad (2.16)$$

The flatness condition for the undeformed currents $g^{-1}dg$ also implies $\mathcal{Z} = 0$, with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Z} = & \partial_i(\Xi_+A_+)^i - \partial_i(\Xi_-A_-)^i + [(\Xi_-A_-)_i, (\Xi_+A_+)^i] \\ & + \tilde{C}[d_-(\Xi_-A_-)_i, d_+(\Xi_+A_+)^i] + \tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g(\mathcal{E}). \end{aligned} \quad (2.17)$$

Virasoro constraints. These equations of motion are supplemented by the Virasoro constraints, which are obtained by varying the action with respect to the worldsheet metric. They are equivalent to imposing a vanishing worldsheet stress tensor. To derive the Virasoro constraints we focus on the part of the action that is proportional to the Weyl-invariant metric. Its variation gives

$$\delta_\gamma S_{\eta_L, \eta_R}[g] = -\frac{T}{2} \int d^2\sigma \delta\gamma^{ij} \text{STr}[A_{-i}^{(2)}A_{-j}^{(2)}] = -\frac{T}{2} \int d^2\sigma \delta\gamma^{ij} \text{STr}[A_{+i}^{(2)}A_{+j}^{(2)}], \quad (2.18)$$

from which we deduce the Virasoro constraints

$$\text{STr}[(\Xi_-A_-^{(2)})_i(\Xi_-A_-^{(2)})^j] = 0, \quad \text{STr}[(\Xi_+A_+^{(2)})_i(\Xi_+A_+^{(2)})^j] = 0. \quad (2.19)$$

Kappa-symmetry. In addition to reparametrisation invariance and local right-acting gauge symmetry $g \rightarrow gh, h \in \mathbb{F}_0$, the action (2.6) also has a local right-acting fermionic kappa symmetry reducing the number of physical fermionic degrees of freedom.

Let us consider an infinitesimal right translation of the field $\delta_\varkappa g = g\epsilon$ with

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon = & \left(W_- - \frac{\bar{\eta}}{2}W_+\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g\right)\rho^{(1)} + \left(W_- + \frac{\bar{\eta}}{2}W_+\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g\right)\rho^{(3)}, \\ W_\pm = & 1 \pm \frac{2\bar{\eta}^2\kappa_+\kappa_-W}{4(1+\bar{\eta}) - \bar{\eta}^2(\kappa_+^2 + \kappa_-^2)}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.20)$$

where W has been defined under (2.13), and $\rho^{(1)}$ and $\rho^{(3)}$ are yet arbitrary functions on the string worldsheet. Equivalently, this transformation can be written as

$$O_+^{-1}(g^{-1}\delta_\varkappa g) = W_-(\rho^{(1)} + \rho^{(3)}). \quad (2.21)$$

The variation of the action with respect to the field g is then

$$\delta_g S_{\eta_L, \eta_R}[g] = T \int d^2\sigma \text{STr} \left[\rho^{(1)} P_3 \left(W_- + \frac{\bar{\eta}}{2} W_+ \tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g \right) (\mathcal{E}) + \rho^{(3)} P_1 \left(W_- - \frac{\bar{\eta}}{2} W_+ \tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g \right) (\mathcal{E}) \right]. \quad (2.22)$$

To simplify the expression within the supertrace we use the following combination of the equations of motion and the flatness condition

$$\begin{aligned} P_1 \left(W_- - \frac{\bar{\eta}}{2} W_+ \tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g \right) (\mathcal{E}) + \frac{\bar{\eta}}{2} P_1 W_+ (\mathcal{Z}) &= -2\bar{\eta} [(\Xi_+ A_+^{(2)})_i, (\Xi_- \mathcal{A}_-^{(3)})^i], \\ P_3 \left(W_- + \frac{\bar{\eta}}{2} W_+ \tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g \right) (\mathcal{E}) - \frac{\bar{\eta}}{2} P_1 W_+ (\mathcal{Z}) &= -2\bar{\eta} [(\Xi_- A_-^{(2)})_i, (\Xi_+ \mathcal{A}_+^{(1)})^i], \end{aligned} \quad (2.23)$$

where, for convenience, we have defined

$$\mathcal{A}_\pm = W_+ A_\pm. \quad (2.24)$$

The variation of the action (2.22) can then be rewritten

$$\delta_g S_{\eta_L, \eta_R}[g] = -2\bar{\eta} T \int d^2\sigma \text{STr} \left[\rho^{(1)} [(\Xi_- A_-^{(2)})_i, (\Xi_+ \mathcal{A}_+^{(1)})^i] + \rho^{(3)} P_1 [(\Xi_+ A_+^{(2)})_i, (\Xi_- \mathcal{A}_-^{(3)})^i] \right]. \quad (2.25)$$

As usual we then make the ansatz

$$\rho^{(1)} = \{i(\Xi_+ \varkappa^{(1)})_j, (\Xi_- A_-^{(2)})^j\}, \quad \rho^{(3)} = \{i(\Xi_- \varkappa^{(3)})_j, (\Xi_+ A_+^{(2)})^j\}, \quad (2.26)$$

where $\varkappa^{(1)}$ and $\varkappa^{(3)}$ belong to the grade 1 and grade 3 subspaces respectively. Using the fact that the τ and σ components of the projections are proportional to each other, for instance $(\Xi_+ A_+)^{\tau} \sim (\Xi_+ A_+)^{\sigma}$, one can show that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{STr} [\rho^{(1)} [(\Xi_- A_-^{(2)})_i, (\Xi_+ \mathcal{A}_+^{(1)})^i]] &= \text{STr} [(\Xi_- A_-^{(2)})_i (\Xi_- A_-^{(2)})_j [(\Xi_+ \mathcal{A}_+^{(1)})^i, i(\Xi_+ \varkappa^{(1)})^j]], \\ \text{STr} [\rho^{(3)} [(\Xi_+ A_+^{(2)})_i, (\Xi_- \mathcal{A}_-^{(3)})^i]] &= \text{STr} [(\Xi_+ A_+^{(2)})_i (\Xi_+ A_+^{(2)})_j [(\Xi_- \mathcal{A}_-^{(3)})^i, i(\Xi_- \varkappa^{(3)})^j]]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.27)$$

As discussed in [46, 47], the square of an elements of grade 2 yields two terms: one is proportional to the identity while the other is proportional to the fermionic parity operator, or hypercharge, $\Upsilon_{\hat{F}} = \text{diag}(\Upsilon_{\hat{G}}, \Upsilon_{\hat{G}})$, where $\Upsilon_{\hat{G}} = \text{diag}(1, -1)$ in the defining representation. The part proportional to the identity drops out since the supertrace of a commutator vanishes. Finally, the variation of the action coming from the variation of the field g is

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_g S_{\eta_L, \eta_R}[g] &= -\frac{T\bar{\eta}}{4} \int d^2\sigma \left(\text{STr} [(\Xi_- A_-^{(2)})_i (\Xi_- A_-^{(2)})_j] \text{STr} [\Upsilon_{\hat{F}} [(\Xi_+ \mathcal{A}_+^{(1)})^i, i(\Xi_+ \varkappa^{(1)})^j]] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{STr} [(\Xi_+ A_+^{(2)})_i (\Xi_+ A_+^{(2)})_j] \text{STr} [\Upsilon_{\hat{F}} [(\Xi_- \mathcal{A}_-^{(3)})^i, i(\Xi_- \varkappa^{(3)})^j]] \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.28)$$

This term can then be compensated by the following change in the metric,

$$\delta_{\varkappa} \gamma^{ij} = \frac{\bar{\eta}}{2} \text{STr} \left[\Upsilon_{\hat{F}} [i(\Xi_+ \varkappa^{(1)})^i, (\Xi_+ \mathcal{A}_+^{(1)})^j] + \Upsilon_{\hat{F}} [i(\Xi_- \varkappa^{(3)})^j, (\Xi_- \mathcal{A}_-^{(3)})^i] \right], \quad (2.29)$$

which shows that the action (2.6) is kappa-symmetric.

Identification of supervielbein. Let us now bring the kappa-symmetry transformations (2.21) and (2.29) into their standard Green-Schwarz form. This in turn will allow us to identify the supervielbein of the deformed theory.

We start by considering the equations of motion in the fermionic sector, which, according to (2.25), are

$$[(\Xi_+ A_+^{(2)})_i, (\Xi_- \mathcal{A}_-^{(3)})^i] = 0, \quad [(\Xi_- A_-^{(2)})_i, (\Xi_+ \mathcal{A}_+^{(1)})^i] = 0. \quad (2.30)$$

To compare these expressions with the equations of motion of the undeformed model we need to find a relation between $A_+^{(2)}$ and $A_-^{(2)} = P^{(2)} O_-^{-1} O_+ A_+$. Defining $M = O_-^{-1} O_+$ we find, just as for the one-parameter deformation, that $P^{(2)} M P^{(2)}$ implements a Lorentz transformation on the grade-2 subspace of the superisometry algebra,

$$P^{(2)} M P^{(2)} = \text{Ad}_h^{-1} P^{(2)} = P^{(2)} \text{Ad}_h^{-1}, \quad h \in \mathbb{F}_0. \quad (2.31)$$

Furthermore,

$$M = 1 - 2P^{(2)} + 2O_-^{-1} P^{(2)} \quad (2.32)$$

also still holds. Therefore, $A_{-i}^{(2)} = \text{Ad}_h^{-1} A_{+i}^{(2)}$ and the equations of motion (2.30) take the same form as the equations of motion of the undeformed model if one identifies the supervielbein as

$$E^{(2)} = A_+^{(2)}, \quad E^{(1)} = \zeta \text{Ad}_h \mathcal{A}_+^{(1)}, \quad E^{(3)} = \zeta \mathcal{A}_-^{(3)}, \quad (2.33)$$

with normalisation²

$$\zeta = \frac{\sqrt{1 + \bar{\eta} - \frac{\bar{\eta}^2}{4}(\kappa_+^2 + \kappa_-^2)}}{\sqrt{2}}. \quad (2.34)$$

In the above $E^{(2)} \equiv E^a \mathcal{P}_a$ is the bosonic supervielbein, and $E^{(1)} \equiv E^{1\alpha} \mathcal{Q}_{1\alpha}$, $E^{(3)} \equiv E^{2\alpha} \mathcal{Q}_{2\alpha}$ are the fermionic supervielbein.

Finally, if one identifies the supervielbein in this way, we can write the kappa transformations (2.21) and (2.29) as³

$$\begin{aligned} \iota_{\delta_\varkappa} E^{(2)} &= 0, & \iota_{\delta_\varkappa} E^{(1)} &= \Xi_-^{ij} \{i \hat{\varkappa}_i^{(1)}, E_j^{(2)}\}, & \iota_{\delta_\varkappa} E^{(3)} &= \Xi_+^{ij} \{i \hat{\varkappa}_i^{(3)}, E_j^{(2)}\}, \\ \delta_\varkappa \gamma^{ij} &= \frac{1}{2} \text{STr} \left[\Upsilon_{\hat{\mathbb{F}}} [(\Xi_+ i \hat{\varkappa}^{(1)})^i, (\Xi_+ E^{(1)})^j] + \Upsilon_{\hat{\mathbb{F}}} [(\Xi_- i \hat{\varkappa}^{(3)})^i, (\Xi_- E^{(3)})^j] \right], \\ \hat{\varkappa}^{(1)} &= \frac{\bar{\eta}}{\zeta} \text{Ad}_h \varkappa^{(1)}, & \hat{\varkappa}^{(3)} &= \frac{\bar{\eta}}{\zeta} \varkappa^{(3)}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.35)$$

This shows that the kappa-symmetry variation takes the standard Green-Schwarz form and that the vielbein have been chosen appropriately.

²We will see later in section 2.2 that it is this normalisation that brings the torsion into its standard Green-Schwarz form.

³The interior derivative ι_{δ_\varkappa} is such that, for instance, $\iota_{\delta_\varkappa} O_+^{-1}(g^{-1} dg) = O_+^{-1}(g^{-1} \delta_\varkappa g)$.

2.2 Extracting the Ramond-Ramond fluxes

In [32] a formula expressing the R-R bispinor in terms of the operators O_{\pm} appearing in the η -deformed sigma model has been written down. We would like to extend those results to the two-parameter deformation. To achieve this, we will follow the same steps as in [32], generalising when needed. The strategy is as follows. The study of the kappa-symmetry variation has allowed us to identify the supervielbein. By comparing the superspace torsion with its usual Green-Schwarz expression, the exterior derivative of the supervielbein can be linked to the spin connection Ω_{ab} , NS-NS three-form H_{abc} , R-R bispinor $\mathcal{S}^{1\alpha 2\beta}$, as well as the dilatino and gravitino field strength superfields. In contrast to [32], we shall only be concerned with extracting the R-R fluxes and thus will only need the leading terms in the expansion in fermions. To leading order the relations take the form⁴

$$\begin{aligned} dE^a &= -\frac{i}{2}E^1\gamma^a E^1 - \frac{i}{2}E^2\gamma^a E^2 - E^b\Omega_b^a, \\ dE^{1\alpha} &= \frac{1}{4}(\gamma_{ab}E^2)^\alpha\Omega^{ab} - \frac{1}{8}E^a(E^1\gamma^{bc})^\alpha H_{abc} - \frac{1}{8}E^a(E^2\gamma_a\mathcal{S}^{12})^\alpha, \\ dE^{2\alpha} &= \frac{1}{4}(\gamma_{ab}E^2)^\alpha\Omega^{ab} + \frac{1}{8}E^a(E^2\gamma^{bc})^\alpha H_{abc} - \frac{1}{8}E^a(E^1\gamma_a\mathcal{S}^{12})^\alpha. \end{aligned} \quad (2.36)$$

We start by calculating the exterior derivative of A_+ ,⁵

$$\begin{aligned} dA_+ &= -\frac{1}{2}O_+^{-1}\{A_+, A_+\} - O_+^{-1}\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g\{A_+, d_+A_+\} - O_+^{-1}\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g\{\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g d_+A_+, d_+A_+\} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}O_+^{-1}\{\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g d_+A_+, \tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g d_+A_+\} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}O_+^{-1}\{A_+, A_+\} + \frac{1}{2}O_+^{-1}\tilde{C}\{d_+A_+, d_+A_+\} - O_+^{-1}\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g\{A_+, d_+A_+\}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.37)$$

where in the last equation we have used the modified classical Yang Baxter equation. We also introduced the notation $\{X, Y\} = X^A \wedge Y^B [\mathcal{T}_A, \mathcal{T}_B]$ for one-forms $X = X^A \mathcal{T}_A$ and $Y = Y^B \mathcal{T}_B$. Similarly, the result for dA_- is

$$dA_- = -\frac{1}{2}O_-^{-1}\{A_-, A_-\} + \frac{1}{2}O_-^{-1}\tilde{C}\{d_-A_-, d_-A_-\} + O_-^{-1}\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g\{A_-, d_-A_-\}. \quad (2.38)$$

To proceed we rewrite these expressions as

$$\begin{aligned} dA_+ &= -\frac{1}{2}\{A_+, A_+\} + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{C}\{d_+A_+, d_+A_+\} - (O_+^{-1} - 1)(X_+) - O_+^{-1}\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g\{A_+^{(2)}, A_+^{(2)}\}, \\ dA_- &= -\frac{1}{2}\{A_-, A_-\} + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{C}\{d_-A_-, d_-A_-\} - (O_-^{-1} - 1)(X_-) + O_-^{-1}\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g\{A_-^{(2)}, A_-^{(2)}\}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.39)$$

⁴We have contracted spinor indices and suppressed the \wedge for readability.

⁵Some of the following results differ from [32] by a sign. This comes from the fact that in our conventions the exterior derivative d is acting from the left. We also use a different convention for the components of n -forms, namely $A_n = \frac{1}{n!}A_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} dX^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dX^{\mu_n}$.

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{\pm} &= \frac{\bar{\eta}^2}{2} \kappa_+ \kappa_- W \{A_{\pm}^{(1)}, A_{\pm}^{(3)}\} - \kappa_+ \kappa_- W \{A_{\pm}^{(2)}, A_{\pm}^{(2)}\} \\
 &\pm \frac{2}{\bar{\eta}} \left(1 \pm \bar{\eta} - \frac{\bar{\eta}^2}{4} (\kappa_+^2 + \kappa_-^2) - \frac{\bar{\eta}^2}{2} \kappa_+ \kappa_- W \right) \{A_{\pm}^{(2)}, A_{\pm}^{(3)}\} \\
 &+ \frac{1}{2} \left(1 \pm \bar{\eta} - \frac{\bar{\eta}^2}{4} (\kappa_+^2 + \kappa_-^2) \right) \{A_{\pm}^{(1)}, A_{\pm}^{(1)}\} + \frac{1}{2} \left(1 \mp \bar{\eta} - \frac{\bar{\eta}^2}{4} (\kappa_+^2 + \kappa_-^2) \right) \{A_{\pm}^{(3)}, A_{\pm}^{(3)}\} \\
 &\mp \frac{2}{\bar{\eta}} \left(1 \mp \bar{\eta} - \frac{\bar{\eta}^2}{4} (\kappa_+^2 + \kappa_-^2) - \frac{\bar{\eta}^2}{2} \kappa_+ \kappa_- W \right) \{A_{\pm}^{(2)}, A_{\pm}^{(1)}\}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.40}$$

Assuming that the operators $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g$ and O_{\pm} do not mix the bosonic and fermionic sector (which is the case to leading order in the expansion), the projection onto $P^{(2)}$ gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 dE^{(2)} &= -\frac{1}{2} \{E^{(1)}, E^{(1)}\} - \frac{1}{2} \{E^{(3)}, E^{(3)}\} \\
 &- \{A_+^{(0)}, E^{(2)}\} - P_2 O_+^{-1} (\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_g - \kappa_+ \kappa_- W) \{E^{(2)}, E^{(2)}\}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.41}$$

We can thus identify the spin connection as

$$\Omega_{ab} = -(\tilde{A})_{ab} + \frac{1}{2} E^c (2\tilde{M}_{c[a,b]} - \tilde{M}_{ab,c}), \quad \tilde{A} = (1 - \kappa_+ \kappa_- W/2) A_+, \quad \tilde{M} = (1 + \kappa_+ \kappa_- W) M. \tag{2.42}$$

Furthermore, we also find that

$$\begin{aligned}
 dE^{(3)} &= -\{A_+^{(0)}, E^{(3)}\} - 2\{P_0 O_-^{-1} E^{(2)}, E^{(3)}\} - \kappa_+ \kappa_- W \{\text{Ad}_h^{-1} E^{(2)}, E^{(3)}\} \\
 &+ \left(1 + \frac{2}{\bar{\eta}^2} - \frac{1}{2} (\kappa_+^2 + \kappa_-^2) \right) \text{Ad}_h^{-1} \{E^{(2)}, E^{(1)}\} \\
 &- \frac{2}{\bar{\eta}} \left(1 + \bar{\eta} - \frac{\bar{\eta}^2}{4} (\kappa_+^2 + \kappa_-^2) \right) W_+ O_-^{-1} W_- \text{Ad}_h^{-1} \{E^{(2)}, E^{(1)}\},
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.43}$$

from which we obtain the NS-NS three-form and R-R bispinor

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{abc} &= 3\tilde{M}_{[ab,c]}, \quad \tilde{M} = \tilde{M} + \frac{1}{3} \kappa_+ \kappa_- W, \\
 \mathcal{S}^{1\alpha 2\beta} &= 8i \left[\text{Ad}_h \left(1 + \frac{1}{1 - \eta_L^2} + \frac{1}{1 - \eta_R^2} - 4\tilde{O}_+^{-1} \right) \right]_{1\gamma}^{1\alpha} \hat{K}^{1\gamma 2\beta},
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.44}$$

where

$$\tilde{O}_{\pm} = (1 + \tilde{\Omega}_{\pm})^{-1}, \quad \tilde{\Omega}_{\pm} = \pm \text{diag} \left(\frac{\eta_L}{1 - \eta_L^2}, \frac{\eta_R}{1 - \eta_R^2} \right) \mathcal{R}_g d_{\pm}. \tag{2.45}$$

In the above expression g is a purely bosonic group-valued field. We immediately see that when $\eta_L = \eta_R = \eta$ this formula reduces to the one of [32].

The bispinor (2.44) should then be compared to the familiar expression

$$\mathcal{S} = -i\sigma_2 \gamma^a \mathcal{F}_a - \frac{1}{3!} \sigma_1 \gamma^{abc} \mathcal{F}_{abc} - \frac{1}{2 \cdot 5!} i\sigma_2 \gamma^{abcde} \mathcal{F}_{abcde}, \tag{2.46}$$

valid for a type IIB supergravity background and written in terms of 16×16 chiral gamma matrices. Comparing the two expressions gives the one-form \mathcal{F}_1 , three-form \mathcal{F}_3 and five-form \mathcal{F}_5 . Moreover, for standard supergravity backgrounds the R-R fluxes are

$$F_n = e^{-\Phi} \mathcal{F}_n, \tag{2.47}$$

where Φ is the dilaton. In analogy with the one-parameter deformation we postulate that the latter is given by

$$e^{-2\Phi} = e^{-2\Phi_0} \text{sdet}(O_+), \tag{2.48}$$

which will be supported by specific examples. We also define the R-R potentials C_n , defined though

$$F_n = dC_{n-1} + H \wedge C_{n-3}. \tag{2.49}$$

Condition for Weyl invariance. In [32], a condition on the R-matrix for the one-parameter η -deformation to be a standard supergravity solution was given. This is the unimodularity property

$$\hat{\mathcal{K}}^{AB} \text{STr}[[\mathcal{T}_A, R(\mathcal{T}_B)]\mathcal{Z}] = 0, \quad \forall \mathcal{Z} \in \mathfrak{f}. \tag{2.50}$$

For Lie superalgebras of the type that we are considering in this paper, this unimodularity condition is equivalent to the vanishing of the supertrace of the structure constants associated to the R-bracket [33]

$$[\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y}]_{\mathcal{R}} = [\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{R}(\mathcal{Y})] + [\mathcal{R}(\mathcal{X}), \mathcal{Y}], \quad \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y} \in \mathfrak{f}, \tag{2.51}$$

which is the generalisation to superalgebras of the R-bracket [48]. For the two-parameter deformation it is natural to postulate that if the deformation is governed by a unimodular R-matrix then the theory will be Weyl invariant and the background will solve the standard supergravity equations of motion. While our results give arguments in favour of this claim we will not provide a proof of it.⁶

3 Supergravity backgrounds for the two-parameter deformation of the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring

In this section we shall focus on the case $\hat{\mathcal{G}} = \text{PSU}(1, 1|2)$ and consider deformations of the semi-symmetric space sigma model based on the supercoset

$$\frac{\text{PSU}(1, 1|2) \times \text{PSU}(1, 1|2)}{\text{SU}(1, 1) \times \text{SU}(2)}. \tag{3.1}$$

We choose unimodular R-matrices and construct the embedding of the 6-dimensional backgrounds in 10 dimensions with the remaining compact dimensions given by a four-torus. This then gives supergravity backgrounds for the two-parameter deformation of the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring.

⁶Since the one-parameter deformation is a particular case of the two-parameter deformation, the unimodularity condition (2.50) is a necessary condition (although see [49, 50]) to have a supergravity solution. In order to prove that it is also a sufficient condition one would need to calculate the dilatinos $\chi_{I\alpha}$ and check that they match the spinor derivatives of the dilaton, $\nabla_{I\alpha}\Phi$. This calculation requires going to higher order in fermions and hence we do not perform it here.

3.1 Choice of R-matrix

The superisometry algebra of the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3$ semi-symmetric space is $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)_L \oplus \mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)_R$, with two copies of the $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)$ superalgebra that we shall refer to as the left copy (subscript L) and the right copy (subscript R). We consider deformations governed by R-matrices of the type $\mathcal{R} = \text{diag}(R_L, R_R)$, where R_L and R_R are Drinfel'd Jimbo R-matrices satisfying the non-split modified classical Yang-Baxter equation on $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)_L$ and $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)_R$ respectively.

As already discussed in [33], the complexified algebra $(\mathfrak{p})\mathfrak{sl}(2|2)$ admits three inequivalent Dynkin diagrams, $\circ - \otimes - \circ$, $\otimes - \circ - \otimes$ and $\otimes - \otimes - \otimes$, each of which can be realised by a different choice of simple roots. The associated R-matrices generically lead to inequivalent backgrounds. In particular, while R-matrices associated to the fully fermionic Dynkin diagram $\otimes - \otimes - \otimes$ are unimodular and hence are expected to give rise to supergravity backgrounds, this is not the case for R-matrices associated with the other two Dynkin diagrams.

Let us recall how to construct the different R-matrices associated with the superalgebra $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)$. We consider a realisation of the $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)$ algebra in terms of 4×4 supermatrices. The 2×2 upper left block generates the $\mathfrak{su}(1,1)$ subalgebra, while the lower right block generates the $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ subalgebra. The remaining entries are fermionic; see appendix A for the conventions we use. The various R-matrices can then be constructed by considering permutations of 4 elements. Namely, starting from a reference R-matrix R_0 associated with the distinguished Dynkin diagram $\circ - \otimes - \circ$ and whose explicit action on an element $M \in \mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)$ is given by

$$R_0(M)_{ij} = -i\epsilon_{ij}M_{ij}, \quad \epsilon = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +1 & +1 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & +1 & +1 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3.2)$$

we act with the permutation matrix $P_{ij} = \delta_{\mathbb{P}(i)j}$ to obtain the new R-matrix

$$R_{\mathbb{P}} = \text{Ad}_P^{-1} R_0 \text{Ad}_P. \quad (3.3)$$

Of the 24 possible permutations, 8 give rise to unimodular R-matrices. If one further demands the action on $\mathfrak{su}(1,1)$ and $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ is left invariant (that is to say, the new R-matrix $R_{\mathbb{P}}$ and the reference R-matrix R_0 have the same action on the bosonic generators) then only the permutations that do not exchange the order of $\{1,2\}$ and $\{3,4\}$ need to be considered. This leads to the two following unimodular R-matrices

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}, & R_{\mathbb{P}_1}(M)_{ij} &= -i\epsilon_{ij}M_{ij}, & \epsilon &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +1 & +1 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & +1 \\ -1 & +1 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \mathbb{P}_2 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 1 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, & R_{\mathbb{P}_2}(M)_{ij} &= -i\epsilon_{ij}M_{ij}, & \epsilon &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +1 & -1 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ +1 & +1 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & +1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.4)$$

In the $\text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2$ case examined in [33] these two R-matrices were not considered inequivalent, as the backgrounds are related to each other by analytical continuation.

For the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3$ case there are two copies of the $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)$ superalgebra. We focus our attention on unimodular R-matrices $\mathcal{R} = \text{diag}(R_L, R_R)$ associated to the completely fermionic Dynkin diagram,

$$(\otimes - \otimes - \otimes)_L \quad (\otimes - \otimes - \otimes)_R. \tag{3.5}$$

The two R-matrices R_L and R_R do not need to be identical and one can take different sets of positive and negative roots in the two copies of $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)$. We restrict our attention to R-matrices with the desired action on the bosonic generators and thus R_L and R_R can be $R_{\mathbb{P}_1}$ or $R_{\mathbb{P}_2}$. This then leads to four different unimodular R-matrices on the $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)_L \oplus \mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)_R$ superisometry algebra of the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3$ semi-symmetric space,⁷

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_1 &= \text{diag}(R_{\mathbb{P}_1}, -R_{\mathbb{P}_1}), & \mathcal{R}_2 &= \text{diag}(R_{\mathbb{P}_1}, -R_{\mathbb{P}_2}), \\ \mathcal{R}_3 &= \text{diag}(R_{\mathbb{P}_2}, -R_{\mathbb{P}_1}), & \mathcal{R}_4 &= \text{diag}(R_{\mathbb{P}_2}, -R_{\mathbb{P}_2}). \end{aligned} \tag{3.6}$$

It transpires that the R-matrices \mathcal{R}_1 and \mathcal{R}_4 , as well as \mathcal{R}_2 and \mathcal{R}_3 , give rise to equivalent backgrounds related by analytic continuations and in the following we shall only consider the two inequivalent unimodular R-matrices

$$\mathcal{R}_1 = \text{diag}(R_{\mathbb{P}_1}, -R_{\mathbb{P}_1}), \quad \mathcal{R}_2 = \text{diag}(R_{\mathbb{P}_1}, -R_{\mathbb{P}_2}). \tag{3.7}$$

By virtue of their unimodularity we expect the corresponding deformed backgrounds to solve the supergravity equations of motion for arbitrary deformation parameters η_L and η_R .

3.2 Supergravity backgrounds

In this section we extract the supergravity backgrounds corresponding to the unimodular R-matrices \mathcal{R}_1 and \mathcal{R}_2 by using the formula (2.44) for the R-R fluxes and (2.48) for the dilaton. We choose the following parametrisation for the gauge-fixed group-valued field $g \in \hat{\mathbb{F}}$,

$$\begin{aligned} g &= \text{diag}(g_L, g_R), \\ g_L &= \begin{pmatrix} \exp \left[\frac{i}{2}(t+\psi)\sigma_3 \right] \exp \left[\frac{1}{2} \text{arsinh}(\rho)\sigma_1 \right] & 0 \\ 0 & \exp \left[\frac{i}{2}(\varphi+\phi)\sigma_3 \right] \exp \left[\frac{i}{2} \arcsin(r)\sigma_1 \right] \end{pmatrix}, \\ g_R &= \begin{pmatrix} \exp \left[-\frac{i}{2}(t-\psi)\sigma_3 \right] \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{arsinh}(\rho)\sigma_1 \right] & 0 \\ 0 & \exp \left[-\frac{i}{2}(\varphi-\phi)\sigma_3 \right] \exp \left[-\frac{i}{2} \arcsin(r)\sigma_1 \right] \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \tag{3.8}$$

⁷Here by convention we use opposite signs in the left and right sectors. Of course, for the two-parameter deformation the combination that enters the action is $\text{diag}(\eta_L R_L, \eta_R R_R)$ and since η_L and η_R are arbitrary one can always reabsorb the minus sign by sending $\eta_R \rightarrow -\eta_R$. Our convention makes it easier to compare our results with [43], where the bosonic background has been obtained for this choice of R-matrix.

The bosonic background is common to the two choices of R-matrix, with the metric and closed B-field given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 ds^2 &= \frac{1}{F(\rho)} \left[-[1+\rho^2][1+\kappa_-^2(1+\rho^2)]dt^2 + \frac{d\rho^2}{1+\rho^2} + \rho^2[1-\kappa_+^2\rho^2]d\psi^2 + 2\kappa_-\kappa_+\rho^2[1+\rho^2]dt d\psi \right] \\
 &+ \frac{1}{\tilde{F}(r)} \left[[1-r^2][1+\kappa_-^2(1-r^2)]d\varphi^2 + \frac{dr^2}{1-r^2} + r^2[1+\kappa_+^2r^2]d\phi^2 + 2\kappa_-\kappa_+r^2[1-r^2]d\varphi d\phi \right] \\
 &+ dx^i dx^i, \tag{3.9} \\
 B &= \frac{\rho}{F(\rho)} (\kappa_+ dt \wedge d\rho + \kappa_- d\rho \wedge d\psi) + \frac{r}{\tilde{F}(r)} (\kappa_+ d\varphi \wedge dr + \kappa_- dr \wedge d\phi),
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$F(\rho) = 1 + \kappa_-^2(1 + \rho^2) - \kappa_+^2\rho^2, \quad \tilde{F}(r) = 1 + \kappa_-^2(1 - r^2) + \kappa_+^2r^2. \tag{3.10}$$

The dilaton and R-R sector depend on the choice of R-matrix. The background corresponding to the R-matrix $\mathcal{R}_1 = \text{diag}(R_{\mathbb{P}_1}, -R_{\mathbb{P}_1})$ is

$$e^{-2\Phi} = e^{-2\Phi_0} \frac{F(\rho)\tilde{F}(r)}{P(\rho, r)^2}, \quad P(\rho, r) = 1 - \kappa_+^2(\rho^2 - r^2 - \rho^2r^2) + \kappa_-^2(1 + \rho^2)(1 - r^2), \tag{3.11}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_2 &= -\sqrt{\frac{1 + \kappa_+^2}{1 + \kappa_-^2}} \frac{e^{-\Phi_0}}{P(\rho, r)} [\rho^2 dt \wedge d\psi + r^2 d\varphi \wedge d\phi + \kappa_-^2(1 + \rho^2)r^2 dt \wedge d\phi \\
 &\quad - \kappa_-^2\rho^2(1 - r^2)d\psi \wedge d\varphi + \kappa_+\kappa_-(\rho^2 - r^2 - \rho^2r^2)dt \wedge d\varphi - \kappa_+\kappa_-\rho^2r^2d\psi \wedge d\phi], \\
 C_4 &= -\sqrt{\frac{1 + \kappa_+^2}{1 + \kappa_-^2}} \frac{e^{-\Phi_0}}{P(\rho, r)} [\kappa_-\rho^2 dt \wedge d\psi + \kappa_-r^2 d\varphi \wedge d\phi - \kappa_-(1 + \rho^2)r^2 dt \wedge d\phi \\
 &\quad + \kappa_-\rho^2(1 - r^2)d\psi \wedge d\varphi - \kappa_+(\rho^2 - r^2 - \rho^2r^2)dt \wedge d\varphi + \kappa_+\rho^2r^2d\psi \wedge d\phi] \wedge J_2,
 \end{aligned}$$

while the background corresponding to the R-matrix $\mathcal{R}_2 = \text{diag}(R_{\mathbb{P}_1}, -R_{\mathbb{P}_2})$ is

$$\begin{aligned}
 e^{-2\Phi} &= e^{-2\Phi_0} \frac{F(\rho)\tilde{F}(r)}{P(\rho, r)^2}, \quad P(\rho, r) = 1 - \kappa_+^2\rho^2r^2 + \kappa_-^2(1 + \rho^2r^2), \tag{3.12} \\
 C_2 &= -\sqrt{\frac{1 + \kappa_-^2}{1 + \kappa_+^2}} \frac{e^{-\Phi_0}}{P(\rho, r)} [(1 + \rho^2)dt \wedge d\psi - (1 - r^2)d\varphi \wedge d\phi + \kappa_+^2(1 + \rho^2)r^2 dt \wedge d\phi \\
 &\quad - \kappa_+^2\rho^2(1 - r^2)d\psi \wedge d\varphi + \kappa_+\kappa_-(1 + \rho^2)(1 - r^2)dt \wedge d\varphi - \kappa_+\kappa_-(1 + \rho^2r^2)d\psi \wedge d\phi], \\
 C_4 &= -\sqrt{\frac{1 + \kappa_-^2}{1 + \kappa_+^2}} \frac{e^{-\Phi_0}}{P(\rho, r)} [\kappa_+(1 + \rho^2)dt \wedge d\psi - \kappa_+(1 - r^2)d\varphi \wedge d\phi - \kappa_+(1 + \rho^2)r^2 dt \wedge d\phi \\
 &\quad + \kappa_+\rho^2(1 - r^2)d\psi \wedge d\varphi - \kappa_-(1 + \rho^2)(1 - r^2)dt \wedge d\varphi + \kappa_-(1 + \rho^2r^2)d\psi \wedge d\phi] \wedge J_2.
 \end{aligned}$$

The Kähler form on the torus is $J_2 = dx^1 \wedge dx^2 - dx^3 \wedge dx^4$. Due to their gauge symmetries the expressions for the potentials C_2 and C_4 are not unique. The form chosen here makes it

manifest that in the $\kappa_{\pm} \rightarrow 0$ limit one recovers the undeformed background, with constant dilaton and a three-form $F_3 = dC_2$ proportional to the volume form on $\text{AdS}_3 \times S^3$. Let us also notice that C_2 and C_4 only contain even and odd powers of the deformation parameters κ_{\pm} respectively. Since the bosonic roots are not simple the R-R fluxes mix the AdS_3 and S^3 coordinates in a non-trivial way. As expected, these two backgrounds satisfy the standard supergravity equations of motion.

Relation between the two supergravity backgrounds. It has been observed [43, 45] that the metric and B-field of the two-parameter deformed model are left invariant under the formal transformations

$$\rho \rightarrow \frac{i\sqrt{1+\kappa_-^2}\sqrt{1+\rho^2}}{\sqrt{F(\rho)}}, \quad r \rightarrow \frac{\sqrt{1+\kappa_-^2}\sqrt{1-r^2}}{\sqrt{F(r)}}, \quad t \leftrightarrow \psi, \quad \varphi \leftrightarrow \phi, \quad (3.13)$$

and

$$\rho \rightarrow i\sqrt{1+\rho^2}, \quad r \rightarrow \sqrt{1-r^2}, \quad t \leftrightarrow \psi, \quad \varphi \leftrightarrow \phi, \quad \kappa_+ \leftrightarrow \kappa_-. \quad (3.14)$$

While these two transformations involve an analytic continuation in ρ , it is possible to combine them to find a real transformation

$$\kappa_+ \leftrightarrow \kappa_-, \quad \rho \rightarrow \frac{\sqrt{1+\kappa_-^2}\rho}{\sqrt{1+\kappa_-^2(1+\rho^2)-\kappa_+^2\rho^2}}, \quad r \rightarrow \frac{\sqrt{1+\kappa_-^2}r}{\sqrt{1+\kappa_-^2(1-r^2)+\kappa_+^2r^2}}, \quad (3.15)$$

where we first interchange κ_+ and κ_- and then do the redefinition of ρ and r . What happens to the R-R sector under these transformations is summarised in figure 1. The backgrounds (3.11) and (3.12), including the dilaton and the R-R fluxes, are invariant under the map (3.13). However, invariance is broken by the second set of transformations (3.14), whose effect is to exchange (3.11) and (3.12). Thus, also the real transformations (3.15) do not leave the supergravity backgrounds invariant but instead map between them.

It is only in the special case $\kappa_+^2 = \kappa_-^2$, reached when one of the deformation parameters, either in the left or right sector, is set to zero, i.e. $\eta_L = 0$ or $\eta_R = 0$, that the background remains invariant under all three maps. In that case the two backgrounds (3.11) and (3.12) are equal, with constant dilaton.

Relation to previously studied supergravity backgrounds. In [45], two solutions to the supergravity equations of motion with bosonic background (3.9) and supported by a R-R three-form flux have been constructed. Using the same terminology as in the aforementioned paper we shall refer to these two backgrounds as the $a = 0$ and $a = 1$ solutions.⁸ We then observe that (3.11) and (3.12) are the analogues of the $a = 1$ and $a = 0$ solution of [45] respectively. The dilatons are indeed exactly the same, but we find slightly different R-R fluxes. This is a consequence of the fact that the authors of [45]

⁸In [45] the authors started by solving the supergravity equations of motion perturbatively in κ_+ and κ_- and then generalized to arbitrary deformation parameter. The constant a parametrizes the different solutions.

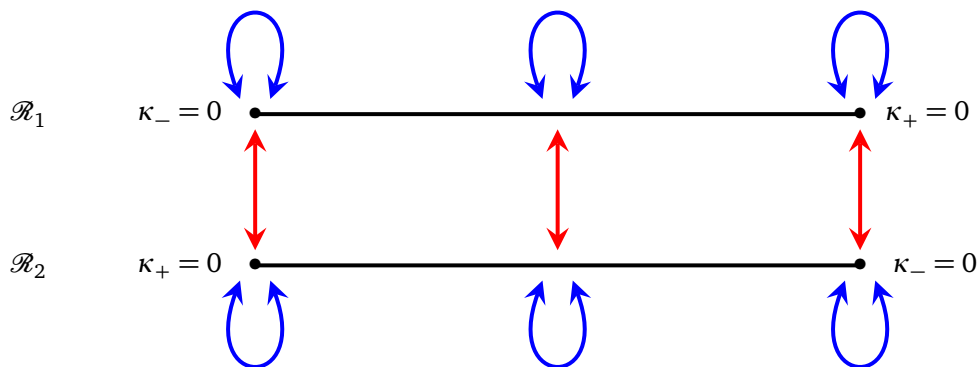


Figure 1. The two supergravity backgrounds. The top and bottom lines represent the solutions corresponding to the R-matrices \mathcal{R}_1 and \mathcal{R}_2 respectively. At the four end-points, one of the deformation parameters, κ_+ or κ_- , is set to zero. The backgrounds are left invariant under the redefinition (3.13) (blue arrows), while the transformation (3.14) swaps the two solutions (red arrows).

were seeking solutions of the supergravity equations of motion that are only supported by a three-form flux, while the deformed backgrounds possess both a three-form and a five-form flux (or two different three-forms upon dimensional reduction). Accordingly, the three-form of [45] mixes even and odd powers of the deformation parameters κ_{\pm} . It is not clear if one can recover the backgrounds of [45] by performing a sequence of dualities (e.g. T-dualities on the torus T^4), and thus their integrability remains an open question.

3.3 Limits of the supergravity backgrounds

Let us now explore some limits of the supergravity backgrounds of section 3.2. We start by considering the plane-wave limit corresponding to zooming into the geometry seen by a particle moving on a light-like geodesic along a great circle of the (deformed) three-sphere. This limit can be taken for both backgrounds and for arbitrary deformation parameters κ_{\pm} . We also study the Pohlmeyer ($\kappa \rightarrow i$) and maximal deformation limit ($\kappa \rightarrow \infty$) of the two supergravity backgrounds when $\kappa_+ = \kappa$ and $\kappa_- = 0$, which corresponds to the one-parameter η -deformation of the $AdS_3 \times S^3 \times T^4$ superstring.

Plane-wave limit. We consider the trajectory parametrised by τ along

$$t = t(\tau), \quad \rho = 0, \quad \psi = \psi(\tau), \quad \varphi = \varphi(\tau), \quad r = 0, \quad \phi = \phi(\tau). \quad (3.16)$$

Using the metric of the deformed theory, we find that a relativistic particle moving along this geodesic has action

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int d\tau e^{-1} \left[- \left(\frac{dt}{d\tau} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{d\varphi}{d\tau} \right)^2 \right], \quad (3.17)$$

where e is the einbein. Clearly $t = \mu\tau$, $\varphi = \mu\tau$ is a solution of the equations of motion, where we have introduced a mass scale μ in order to preserve the dimensionality of the

coordinates. In order to study the geometry near this trajectory we make the transformations [51, 52]⁹

$$t = \mu x^+ + \frac{x^-}{\mu L^2}, \quad \varphi = \mu x^+ - \frac{x^-}{\mu L^2}, \quad \rho \rightarrow \frac{\rho \sqrt{1 + \kappa_-^2}}{L}, \quad r \rightarrow \frac{r \sqrt{1 + \kappa_-^2}}{L}. \quad (3.18)$$

as well as $x^i \rightarrow x^i/L, T \rightarrow L^2 T$.

In the limit $L \rightarrow \infty$ both backgrounds of section 3.2 have the same plane-wave form¹⁰

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= -4dx^+ dx^- - \mu^2(1 + \kappa_+^2)(1 + \kappa_-^2)(\rho^2 + r^2)(dx^+)^2 \\ &\quad + d\rho^2 + dr^2 + \rho^2(d\psi + \kappa_+ \kappa_- \mu dx^+)^2 + r^2(d\phi + \kappa_+ \kappa_- \mu dx^+)^2 + dx^i dx^i, \quad (3.19) \\ B &= \rho(\mu \kappa_+ dx^+ \wedge d\rho + \kappa_- d\rho \wedge d\psi) + r(\mu \kappa_+ dx^+ \wedge dr + \kappa_- dr \wedge d\phi), \\ e^{-2\Phi} &= e^{-2\Phi_0}, \quad C_2 = -e^{-\Phi_0} \sqrt{(1 + \kappa_+^2)(1 + \kappa_-^2)} \mu (\rho^2 dx^+ \wedge d\psi + r^2 dx^+ \wedge d\phi), \quad C_4 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Discarding the total derivative B-field we observe that in the plane-wave limit, similarly to the one-parameter deformation of the $\text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2 \times \text{T}^4$ and $\text{AdS}_5 \times \text{S}^5$ superstrings [33, 53], the deformation only enters the plane-wave background through a rescaling of the mass parameter μ .

Pohlmeyer limit. The limit $\kappa_+ = \kappa \rightarrow i, \kappa_- = 0$ is interesting due to its relation to the Pohlmeyer reduced model of the undeformed $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring [54]. To take into account the fact that the string tension goes to zero in that limit we rescale, or more precisely twist, the coordinates t and φ ,

$$t = \frac{\mu x^+}{\epsilon} + \frac{\epsilon x^-}{\mu}, \quad \varphi = \frac{\mu x^+}{\epsilon} - \frac{\epsilon x^-}{\mu}, \quad \kappa = i\sqrt{1 - \epsilon^2}, \quad (3.20)$$

and take $\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+$. Only (3.11) is finite and real in this limit, giving the pp-wave background

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= -4dx^+ dx^- - \mu^2 \left(\frac{\rho^2}{1 + \rho^2} + \frac{r^2}{1 - r^2} \right) (dx^+)^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{d\rho^2}{(1 + \rho^2)^2} + \frac{dr^2}{(1 - r^2)^2} + \rho^2 d\psi^2 + r^2 d\phi^2 + dx^i dx^i, \\ e^{-2\Phi} &= e^{-2\Phi_0} \frac{1}{(1 + \rho^2)(1 - r^2)}, \\ C_2 &= -\frac{\mu e^{-\Phi_0}}{(1 + \rho^2)(1 - r^2)} (\rho^2 dx^+ \wedge d\psi + r^2 dx^+ \wedge d\phi), \quad C_4 = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (3.21)$$

We have not included the B-field, which is a divergent closed two-form with no finite contribution. This pp-wave background matches the one constructed in [54]. Its light-cone gauge fixing gives the Pohlmeyer reduced theory for strings moving in undeformed

⁹The additional factor $\sqrt{1 + \kappa_-^2}$ in the rescaling of ρ and r brings the pp-wave metric into its canonical form.

¹⁰One should keep in mind that the string tension is rescaled $T \rightarrow L^2 T$ under these transformations, and that the potentials scale with the tension as $C_n \sim T^{n/2}, n = 0, 2, 4$.

AdS₃ × S³, which was constructed in [55]. The bosonic part of the reduced theory is given by the sum of the complex sine-Gordon model and its sinh-Gordon counterpart. Taking the same limit but without twisting the coordinates t and φ gives the same expression but with mass $\mu = 0$.

Maximal deformation limit. Another interesting limit is when the deformation parameter goes to infinity. More precisely, the maximal deformation limit [35, 56] is given by first rescaling

$$t \rightarrow \frac{t}{\kappa}, \quad \rho \rightarrow \frac{\rho}{\kappa}, \quad \phi \rightarrow \frac{\phi}{\kappa}, \quad r \rightarrow \frac{r}{\kappa}, \quad x^i \rightarrow \frac{x^i}{\kappa} \quad T \rightarrow \kappa^2 T, \quad (3.22)$$

and then taking the limit $\kappa \rightarrow \infty$. In this limit the metric and B-field become

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{1-\rho^2}(-dt^2 + d\rho^2) + \rho^2 d\psi^2 + \frac{1}{1+r^2}(d\varphi^2 + dr^2) + r^2 d\phi^2 + dx^i dx^i, \quad (3.23)$$

$$B = \frac{\rho}{1-\rho^2} dt \wedge d\rho + \frac{r}{1+r^2} d\varphi \wedge dr.$$

The two supergravity backgrounds are both finite but remain different in this limit. The maximal deformation limit of (3.11) is

$$e^{-2\Phi} = e^{-2\Phi_0} \frac{(1-\rho^2)(1+r^2)}{(1-\rho^2+r^2)^2}, \quad C_2 = -\frac{e^{-\Phi_0}}{1-\rho^2+r^2}(\rho^2 dt \wedge d\psi + r^2 d\varphi \wedge d\phi), \quad (3.24)$$

$$C_4 = \frac{e^{-\Phi_0}}{1-\rho^2+r^2}((\rho^2-r^2)dt \wedge d\varphi - \rho^2 r^2 d\psi \wedge d\phi).$$

while the maximal deformation limit of (3.12) is

$$e^{-2\Phi} = e^{-2\Phi_0}(1-\rho^2)(1+r^2), \quad C_2 = e^{-\Phi_0}(\rho^2 d\psi \wedge d\varphi - r^2 dt \wedge d\phi), \quad C_4 = 0. \quad (3.25)$$

Further swapping

$$r \leftrightarrow \rho, \quad \psi \leftrightarrow \phi, \quad (3.26)$$

in (3.23) and (3.25) gives the mirror model of the undeformed AdS₃ × S³ × T⁴ superstring [36],

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{1-r^2}(-dt^2 + dr^2) + r^2 d\phi^2 + \frac{1}{1+\rho^2}(d\varphi^2 + d\rho^2) + \rho^2 d\psi^2 + dx^i dx^i, \quad (3.27)$$

$$B = \frac{r}{1-r^2} dt \wedge dr + \frac{\rho}{1+\rho^2} d\varphi \wedge d\rho, \quad e^{-2\Phi} = e^{-2\Phi_0}(1-r^2)(1+\rho^2),$$

$$C_2 = -e^{-\Phi_0}(r^2 d\varphi \wedge d\phi + \rho^2 dt \wedge d\psi), \quad C_4 = 0.$$

On the other hand, this is not the case for the other background (3.24).

Conclusions. Investigating limits of the two supergravity solutions for $\kappa_+ = \kappa, \kappa_- = 0$, which corresponds to the one-parameter η -deformation of the AdS₃ × S³ × T⁴ superstring, we found that the background (3.11) has the expected Pohlmeyer limit, while the maximal deformation limit of the background (3.12) corresponds to the undeformed AdS₃ × S³ × T⁴ mirror theory. We will now show that more is true: the background (3.12) actually exhibits mirror duality.

3.4 Mirror model and mirror duality

The mirror model of the light-cone gauge-fixed string introduced in [34] plays an important role in the Thermodynamic Bethe Ansatz approach and the calculation of finite-size corrections in the context of integrable models [57]. It is constructed out of the original theory by performing a double Wick rotation in the worldsheet coordinates, $\tau \rightarrow i\sigma$, $\sigma \rightarrow i\tau$. While this transformation does not affect Lorentz-invariant theories (up to a parity reflection), this is no longer the case for a non-relativistic theory, whose mirror describes a new model. This is in particular true for the worldsheet theory of an AdS superstring upon light-cone gauge fixing, whose mirror defines a new two-dimensional quantum field theory. It is the thermodynamics of this new QFT that plays a central role in solving the spectral problem of AdS/CFT using integrability. In addition to being a useful tool, one may wonder if there exists a more physical interpretation of this mirror model. This question was investigated in [35, 36], where it was shown that the latter can be seen as the light-cone gauge theory of a free string on a different, mirror, background. Furthermore, for the η -deformed $\text{AdS}_n \times \text{S}^n \times \text{T}^{10-2n}$ superstring, $n = 2, 3, 5$, it was observed that at the bosonic level the mirror background can also be reached directly from the original background by a field and parameter redefinition [35]. This is the concept of mirror duality. In this section we construct the mirror background of (3.12) and show that the mirror duality also extends to the full background, including the dilaton and the R-R fluxes.

Mirror model. We start by constructing the mirror model of the background (3.12), first discussing the metric. If we denote the two light cone directions by t and φ and assume that there is no cross term $G_{t\varphi} = 0$ in the metric, then the mirror metric is obtained by interchanging G_{tt} and $1/G_{\varphi\varphi}$.¹¹ For the particular example of the deformed $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring with $\kappa_+ = \kappa$, $\kappa_- = 0$, the mirror metric is

$$\begin{aligned}
 ds^2 = & -\frac{1 + \kappa^2 r^2}{1 - r^2} dt^2 + \frac{d\rho^2}{(1 - \kappa^2 \rho^2)(1 + \rho^2)} + \rho^2 d\psi^2 \\
 & + \frac{1 - \kappa^2 \rho^2}{1 + \rho^2} d\varphi^2 + \frac{dr^2}{(1 + \kappa^2 r^2)(1 - r^2)} + r^2 d\phi^2 + dx^i dx^i.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.28}$$

In principle the B-field also transforms but since it is a closed two-form we will drop it altogether. The mirror fluxes (tilded quantities) are related to the original fluxes through [36]

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{a_1 \dots a_n} = i^n \mathcal{F}_{a_1 \dots a_n},
 \tag{3.29}$$

where $a_1 \dots a_n$ are flat indices and we choose the labelling of the transverse space to be common to the theory and its mirror. In order to disentangle the contributions from the dilaton and the R-R fluxes we solve the supergravity equations of motion. Applying this transformation rule to the background (3.12) with $\kappa_+ = \kappa$, $\kappa_- = 0$ yields the following

¹¹Alternatively, this can be seen as doing a T-duality in t and φ and then exchanging the two coordinates. This point of view has the advantage that the transformation of the dilaton under T-duality is known.

potentials of the mirror model

$$\begin{aligned}
 e^{-2\Phi} &= e^{-2\Phi_0} \frac{(1-r^2)(1+\rho^2)}{P(\rho,r)^2}, & P(\rho,r) &= 1 - \kappa^2 \rho^2 r^2, \\
 C_2 &= \frac{e^{-\Phi_0}}{\sqrt{1+\kappa^2 P(\rho,r)}} (\kappa^2 r^2 (1+\rho^2) dt \wedge d\phi - \kappa^2 \rho^2 (1-r^2) d\psi \wedge d\varphi \\
 &\quad - (1-r^2) d\varphi \wedge d\phi + (1+\rho^2) dt \wedge d\psi) \\
 C_4 &= -\frac{\kappa e^{-\Phi_0}}{\sqrt{1+\kappa^2 P(\rho,r)}} (r^2 (1+\rho^2) dt \wedge d\phi - \rho^2 (1-r^2) d\psi \wedge d\varphi \\
 &\quad + (1-r^2) d\varphi \wedge d\phi - (1+\rho^2) dt \wedge d\psi) \wedge J_2.
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.30}$$

One immediately sees that the limit $\kappa \rightarrow 0$ gives the mirror model of undeformed $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$, as expected.

Mirror duality. Now that we have constructed the mirror model, we can prove that the mirror duality extends to the full background if one stays within the realm of deformations generated by the R-matrix \mathcal{R}_2 . Starting from the supergravity background (3.12) with $\kappa_+ = \kappa$, $\kappa_- = 0$, and rescaling

$$t \rightarrow \frac{t}{\kappa}, \quad \rho \rightarrow \frac{\rho}{\kappa}, \quad \varphi \rightarrow \frac{\varphi}{\kappa}, \quad r \rightarrow \frac{r}{\kappa}, \tag{3.31}$$

together with $x^i \rightarrow x^i/\kappa$ in the torus directions, defining $\hat{\kappa} = 1/\kappa$ and then interchanging the coordinates

$$\rho \leftrightarrow r, \quad \psi \leftrightarrow \phi, \tag{3.32}$$

indeed gives the mirror background defined through (3.28) and (3.30), up to identifying $\hat{\kappa}$ and κ .¹²

4 Examples of generalised supergravity backgrounds for the two-parameter deformation of the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring

For completeness and to make the link with the literature, let us also extract the fluxes corresponding to deformations governed by non-unimodular R-matrices. For the $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)$ superalgebra, R-matrices associated to the Dynkin diagrams $\circ - \otimes - \circ$ or $\otimes - \circ - \otimes$ are non-unimodular. Thus, for the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstrings, deformations based on R-matrices corresponding to the following Dynkin diagrams

$$\begin{array}{cc}
 \circ - \otimes - \circ & \circ - \otimes - \circ \\
 \otimes - \circ - \otimes & \otimes - \circ - \otimes \\
 \circ - \otimes - \circ & \otimes - \circ - \otimes \\
 \circ - \otimes - \circ & \otimes - \otimes - \otimes \\
 \otimes - \circ - \otimes & \otimes - \otimes - \otimes
 \end{array} \tag{4.1}$$

are expected to lead to generalised supergravity backgrounds. In the first two cases the $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)$ Dynkin diagram is the same in both copies of the algebras, while in the remaining three cases the Dynkin diagrams are different in the two copies.

¹²We also exploit the gauge symmetries of the potentials C_2 and C_4 to match the expressions.

4.1 Dynkin diagram $(\bigcirc - \otimes - \bigcirc)^2$

We start by considering R-matrices associated to the Dynkin diagram

$$\bigcirc - \otimes - \bigcirc \quad \bigcirc - \otimes - \bigcirc. \quad (4.2)$$

In other words, when constructing $\mathcal{R} = (R_L, R_R)$, both R_L and R_R are R-matrices associated to the distinguished Dynkin diagram $\bigcirc - \otimes - \bigcirc$ of $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)$. As before, we keep the same action on the $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1)$ and $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ algebras and hence we are left with two such R-matrices, namely R_0 given in (3.2) and

$$R'_0(M)_{ij} = -i\epsilon_{ij}M_{ij}, \quad \epsilon = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ +1 & +1 & 0 & +1 \\ +1 & +1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (4.3)$$

We can then define the two following R-matrices governing the deformation of the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3$ supercoset,

$$\mathcal{R}_0 = \text{diag}(R_0, -R_0), \quad \mathcal{R}'_0 = \text{diag}(R_0, -R'_0). \quad (4.4)$$

To extract the fluxes we use the same parametrisation (3.8). The background corresponding to the R-matrix $\mathcal{R}_0 = (R_0, -R_0)$ is then¹³

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_1 &= N \hat{\mathcal{F}}_1, \\ \mathcal{F}_3 &= N \left(\hat{\mathcal{F}}_3 + \frac{2\kappa_-}{1 - \kappa_-^2} \hat{\mathcal{F}}_1 \wedge J_2 \right), \\ \mathcal{F}_5 &= N \left((1 + \star) \hat{\mathcal{F}}_1 \wedge J_2 \wedge J_2 + \frac{2\kappa_-}{1 - \kappa_-^2} \hat{\mathcal{F}}_3 \wedge J_2 \right), \\ N &= 2 \sqrt{\frac{1 + \kappa_+^2}{1 + \kappa_-^2}} \frac{1 - \kappa_-^2}{\sqrt{F(\rho) \tilde{F}(r)}}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

where we introduced the auxiliary one-form and three-form

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathcal{F}}_1 &= \kappa_- [(1 + \rho^2)dt + (1 - r^2)d\varphi] + \kappa_+ [-\rho^2 d\psi + r^2 d\phi], \\ \hat{\mathcal{F}}_3 &= \frac{1}{F(\rho)} [\rho dt \wedge d\rho \wedge d\psi - \kappa_+^2 \rho r^2 dt \wedge d\rho \wedge d\phi - \kappa_-^2 \rho (1 - r^2) d\rho \wedge d\psi \wedge d\varphi \\ &\quad - \kappa_+ \kappa_- \rho (1 - r^2) dt \wedge d\rho \wedge d\varphi - \kappa_+ \kappa_- \rho r^2 d\rho \wedge d\psi \wedge d\phi] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\tilde{F}(r)} [r d\varphi \wedge dr \wedge d\phi + \kappa_+^2 \rho^2 r d\psi \wedge d\varphi \wedge dr - \kappa_-^2 (1 + \rho^2) r dt \wedge dr \wedge d\phi \\ &\quad - \kappa_+ \kappa_- (1 + \rho^2) r dt \wedge d\varphi \wedge dr + \kappa_+ \kappa_- \rho^2 r d\psi \wedge dr \wedge d\phi]. \end{aligned} \quad (4.7)$$

¹³In our conventions the Hodge star \star acts on a n -form $A_n = \frac{1}{n!} A_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} dX^{\mu_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dX^{\mu_n}$ as

$$(\star A_n)_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{d-n}} = \frac{1}{n!} \sqrt{-G} \epsilon_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_{d-n} \nu_1 \dots \nu_n} A^{\nu_1 \dots \nu_n}, \quad (4.5)$$

where G is the determinant of the metric. The self-duality condition for the five-form reads $\mathcal{F}_5 = \star \mathcal{F}_5$.

Setting $\kappa_- = 0$ and changing the sign of κ_+ gives the ABF-type background of [27], obtained by starting from a supergravity solution with a dilaton linear in some isometries and formally dualising the metric and the fluxes in those isometries. The resulting background solves the generalised supergravity equations of motion [27, 28]. These equations depend on a vector X , which can be split into a background Killing vector I , and a remaining part Z . The standard supergravity equations of motion correspond to $I = 0$ and $Z = d\Phi$. The full background (4.6) satisfies the generalised supergravity equations of motion with

$$\begin{aligned}
 I &= 2\kappa_+(1 + \kappa_-^2) \left(\frac{1 + \rho^2}{F(\rho)} dt + \frac{1 - r^2}{\tilde{F}(r)} d\varphi \right) + 2\kappa_-(1 + \kappa_+^2) \left(-\frac{\rho^2}{F(\rho)} d\psi + \frac{r^2}{\tilde{F}(r)} d\phi \right), \\
 Z &= d \left(\frac{1}{2} \log F(\rho) + \frac{1}{2} \log \tilde{F}(r) \right).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.8}$$

While the auxiliary one-form $\hat{\mathcal{F}}_1$ and three-form $\hat{\mathcal{F}}_3$ are both invariant under the transformations (3.14), this is not the case of the background (4.6), since the deformation parameters κ_{\pm} do not appear on an equal footing in the fluxes. Similarly to what we observed for the two supergravity solutions in section 3, we find that applying the transformations (3.14) to (4.6) yields a new background, which actually corresponds to choosing the R-matrix $\mathcal{R}'_0 = (R_0, -R'_0)$. It is also a generalised supergravity solution and has fluxes

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{F}_1 &= N \hat{\mathcal{F}}_1, \\
 \mathcal{F}_3 &= N \left(\hat{\mathcal{F}}_3 + \frac{2\kappa_+}{1 - \kappa_+^2} \hat{\mathcal{F}}_1 \wedge J_2 \right), \\
 \mathcal{F}_5 &= N \left((1 + \star) \hat{\mathcal{F}}_1 \wedge J_2 \wedge J_2 + \frac{2\kappa_+}{1 - \kappa_+^2} \hat{\mathcal{F}}_3 \wedge J_2 \right), \\
 N &= 2 \sqrt{\frac{1 + \kappa_-^2}{1 + \kappa_+^2}} \frac{1 - \kappa_+^2}{\sqrt{F(\rho)\tilde{F}(r)}}.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.9}$$

On the other hand, contrary to the supergravity case, the transformations (3.13) do not leave the backgrounds invariant. Rather, they give two new generalised supergravity solutions. It is not clear if these correspond to deformations based on Drinfel'd Jimbo R-matrices.

Relating the two backgrounds by TsT transformations. Interestingly, one can also go from one background to the other by doing TsT transformations on the torus that depend on the deformation parameters. This is a new feature that was not true for the supergravity backgrounds in section 3. Indeed, these had different dilatons and since a TsT transformation on the torus does not affect the dilaton, it cannot be sufficient to go from one background to the other.

Starting from (4.6) and dualising along one torus direction, say x_1 , and then doing a metric and B-field preserving SO(2) rotation

$$x_1 = \cos \theta y_1 - \sin \theta y_2, \quad x_2 = \sin \theta y_1 + \cos \theta y_2, \quad \theta = \arcsin \frac{\kappa_-}{\sqrt{1 + \kappa_-^2}}, \tag{4.10}$$

and finally T-dualising in the new coordinate y_1 gives the intermediate background¹⁴

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_1 &= N\hat{\mathcal{F}}_1, & \mathcal{F}_3 &= N\hat{\mathcal{F}}_3, & \mathcal{F}_5 &= N(1 + \star)\hat{\mathcal{F}}_1 \wedge J_2 \wedge J_2, \\ N &= 2 \frac{\sqrt{(1 + \kappa_-^2)(1 + \kappa_+^2)}}{\sqrt{F(\rho)\tilde{F}(r)}}. \end{aligned} \tag{4.11}$$

The $\kappa_- = 0$ point of (4.6) is rotated by $\theta = 0$ and is thus unaffected by this TsT transformation. Indeed, (4.11) coincides with (4.6) for $\kappa_- = 0$. Starting from the intermediate background (4.11) and doing the same steps, but now with rotation angle

$$\theta = \arcsin \frac{\kappa_+}{\sqrt{1 + \kappa_+^2}}, \tag{4.12}$$

we arrive at the background (4.9) associated to the second R-matrix $\mathcal{R}'_0 = (R_0, -R'_0)$. This second TsT now leaves the $\kappa_+ = 0$ point of (4.11) invariant and indeed (4.11) and (4.9) coincide when $\kappa_+ = 0$. The intermediary background (4.11) thus interpolates between the $\kappa_- = 0$ point of (4.6) and the $\kappa_+ = 0$ point of (4.9).

4.2 Dynkin diagram $(\otimes - \circ - \otimes)^2$

Let us now consider R-matrices associated with the Dynkin diagram

$$\otimes - \circ - \otimes \quad \otimes - \circ - \otimes, \tag{4.13}$$

so when constructing $\mathcal{R} = (R_L, R_R)$, both R_L and R_R are R-matrices associated to the Dynkin diagram $\otimes - \circ - \otimes$ of $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)$. Again, we fix the action on the $\mathfrak{su}(1,1)$ and $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ algebras to be the same as for the reference R-matrix R_0 and hence we are left with two such R-matrices, namely

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}_3 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 1 & 3 & 4 & 2 \end{pmatrix}, & R_{\mathbb{P}_3}(M)_{ij} &= -i\epsilon_{ij}M_{ij}, & \epsilon &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +1 & +1 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & +1 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & +1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \mathbb{P}_4 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ 3 & 1 & 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix}, & R_{\mathbb{P}_4}(M)_{ij} &= -i\epsilon_{ij}M_{ij}, & \epsilon &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & +1 & -1 & +1 \\ -1 & 0 & -1 & +1 \\ +1 & +1 & 0 & +1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \tag{4.14}$$

For $R_{\mathbb{P}_1}$ the central bosonic node corresponds to an element of $\mathfrak{su}(2)$, while for $R_{\mathbb{P}_2}$ the central bosonic node corresponds to an element of $\mathfrak{su}(1,1)$. Constructing the backgrounds corresponding to the two choices

$$\mathcal{R}_3 = \text{diag}(R_{\mathbb{P}_3}, -R_{\mathbb{P}_3}), \quad \mathcal{R}_4 = \text{diag}(R_{\mathbb{P}_3}, -R_{\mathbb{P}_4}), \tag{4.15}$$

¹⁴For notational convenience we identify the x and y coordinates. In particular the Kähler form on the torus is $J_2 = dy_1 \wedge dy_2 - dx_3 \wedge dx_4 = dx_1 \wedge dx_2 - dx_3 \wedge dx_4$.

for the first R-matrix \mathcal{R}_3 we find that the R-R fluxes are the same as (4.11) up to a change of sign in t and ψ and thus is also a generalised supergravity background. Furthermore, it is invariant under the transformations (3.14). It is not, however, invariant under the redefinitions of (3.13), which generate a new generalised supergravity solution. The latter is nothing else than the background associated to the R-matrix \mathcal{R}_4 .

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic representation of the relations between the various generalised supergravity backgrounds that we have constructed.

Comparison with the literature. A proposal for the background of the two-parameter deformed $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring has been derived in [58] by using a descent procedure involving the Page forms. It solves the generalised supergravity equations of motion and, up to signs, agrees with (4.11). We thus conclude that the background of [58] corresponds to the choice (4.13).

4.3 Limits

The generalised supergravity backgrounds associated to the Dynkin diagrams (4.2) and (4.13) are all related to the background (4.11), either via field redefinitions and/or T-dualities on the torus (see figure 2). Therefore we shall only discuss limits of the background (4.11) here. First of all, implementing the transformations (3.18) and taking the limit $L \rightarrow \infty$ we find the same pp-wave background as for the two supergravity solutions. Second, the Pohlmeyer limit (3.20) is identical to (3.21). Therefore in these two limits the generalised supergravity background actually becomes a standard supergravity background. On the other hand, it remains a generalised supergravity background in the maximal deformation limit and in particular does not match the mirror model. This behaviour is reminiscent of the η -deformed $\text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2 \times \text{T}^6$ superstring [33].

4.4 Different Dynkin diagrams in the two copies

Let us finish this section by commenting on deformations constructed out of R-matrices associated to different Dynkin diagrams in the two copies of the $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)$ superalgebra. We take $\mathcal{R} = \text{diag}(R_L, R_R)$ with R_L associated to the Dynkin diagram D_L and R_R associated to the Dynkin diagram D_R .

When the deformation parameter in the right copy is set to zero, $\eta_R = 0$ or equivalently $\kappa_+ = \kappa_-$ then the choice of R-matrix in the right copy is not relevant since it is multiplied by $\eta_R = 0$ in the action. Therefore at $\kappa_+ = \kappa_-$ all R-matrices of the form $\mathcal{R} = \text{diag}(R_L, -)$ (the symbol $-$ denoting any R-matrix) will give rise to the same background. On the other hand, when the deformation parameter in the left copy $\eta_L = 0$, or equivalently $\kappa_+ = -\kappa_-$, then it is the choice of R-matrix in the left copy that does not play any role. Hence at $\kappa_+ = -\kappa_-$ all R-matrices of the form $\mathcal{R} = \text{diag}(-, R_R)$ give the same background.

Let us illustrate this for the R-matrices associated to the Dynkin diagram

$$\circ - \otimes - \circ \quad \otimes - \circ - \otimes. \tag{4.16}$$

The corresponding background will interpolate between the point $\kappa_+ = \kappa_-$ of (4.6) or (4.9) (depending on the specific choice of Cartan-Weyl basis in the left copy of the algebra) and

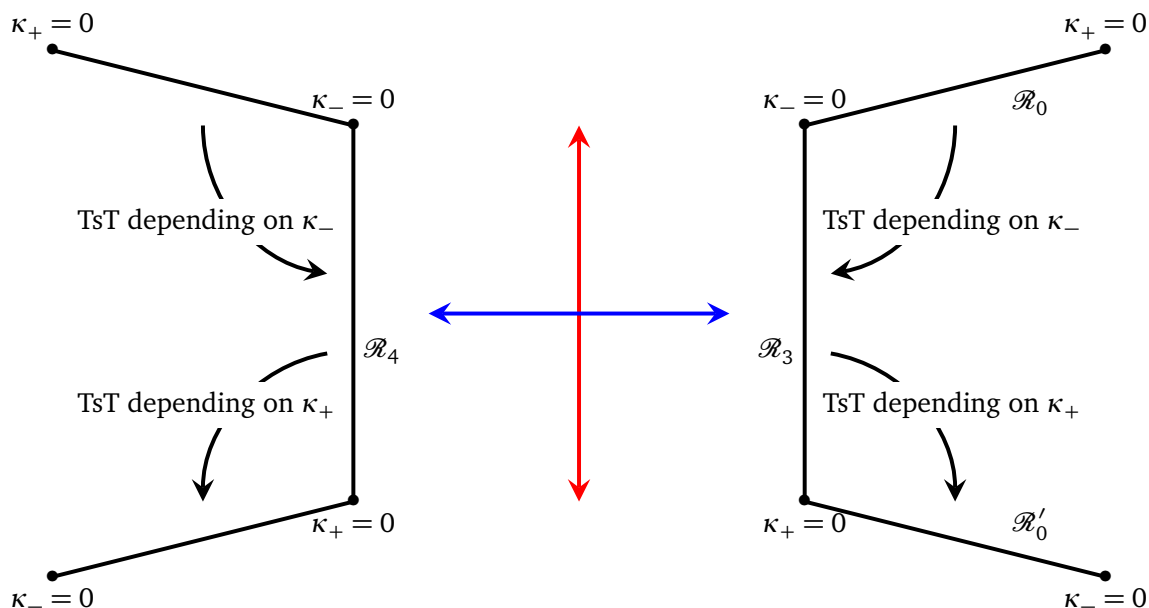


Figure 2. A window into the space of generalised supergravity backgrounds for the two-parameter deformation of the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring. The two vertical lines in the middle represent the two backgrounds based on R-matrices associated to the Dynkin diagram $(\otimes - \circ - \otimes)^2$, namely \mathcal{R}_3 and \mathcal{R}_4 . The top right and bottom right tilted lines correspond to the two backgrounds based on R-matrices associated to the Dynkin diagram $(\circ - \otimes - \circ)^2$, namely \mathcal{R}_0 and \mathcal{R}'_0 . The transformation (3.13) (respectively (3.14)) is represented by the blue (respectively red) arrow. (3.14) leaves the two backgrounds corresponding to \mathcal{R}_3 and \mathcal{R}_4 invariant and swaps the two backgrounds corresponding to \mathcal{R}_0 and \mathcal{R}'_0 . The transformation (3.13) swaps the backgrounds corresponding to \mathcal{R}_3 and \mathcal{R}_4 but does not leave the backgrounds associated to \mathcal{R}_0 or \mathcal{R}'_0 invariant. Rather it generates new generalised supergravity backgrounds (the two tilted lines on the left). It is not clear if these also correspond to particular Drinfel'd Jimbo R-matrices. Of course, since they are obtained from the \mathcal{R}_0 and \mathcal{R}'_0 backgrounds by a field redefinition they are also related to the \mathcal{R}_4 background by TsT transformations on the torus.

the point $\kappa_+ = -\kappa_-$ of (4.11) or (4.11) followed by the field redefinition (3.13) (depending on the specific choice of Cartan-Weyl basis in the right copy of the algebra).

Also R-matrices associated to the Dynkin diagrams

$$\circ - \otimes - \circ \quad \otimes - \otimes - \otimes \tag{4.17}$$

or

$$\otimes - \circ - \otimes \quad \otimes - \otimes - \otimes \tag{4.18}$$

are of this type. The novelty here is that the R-matrix is non-unimodular in one copy of the $\mathfrak{psu}(1,1|2)$ superalgebra, but unimodular in the other copy. Let us focus on the first Dynkin diagram (4.17), the analysis being similar for the other choice. At the point $\kappa_+ = \kappa_-$, depending on the specific choice of Cartan-Weyl basis in the left copy of the algebra, the background will then coincide either with (4.6) or (4.9). In particular, it will still be a generalised supergravity background. On the other hand, when $\kappa_+ = -\kappa_-$, the background

will then become the supergravity solution (3.11) or (3.12). This provides an example of a two-parameter integrable deformation that interpolates between a generalised supergravity and a standard supergravity solution.

5 Conclusions

In this paper we proposed an explicit formula for the R-R fluxes of the two-parameter deformation of the Metsaev-Tseytlin action for supercosets with isometry group of the form $\hat{G} \times \hat{G}$. We then applied this result to the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring and constructed two supergravity backgrounds analogous to the $a = 0$ and $a = 1$ solutions of [45]. The two solutions correspond to two different choices of Drinfel'd Jimbo R-matrices satisfying the non-split modified classical Yang-Baxter equation on the $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)_L \oplus \mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)_R$ superisometry algebra. The two R-matrices both correspond to the fully fermionic Dynkin diagram

$$\otimes - \otimes - \otimes \quad \otimes - \otimes - \otimes, \tag{5.1}$$

and satisfy the unimodularity property of [32]. They differ, however, in the specific choice of Cartan-Weyl basis used in the two copies of the $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)$ superalgebra.

The two solutions have the same metric and B-field, but different dilatons and three-form and five-form R-R fluxes. This provides further new examples of different embeddings of a given bosonic background into supergravity. The two solutions are related by a complex field redefinition and swapping of the deformation parameters. It would be interesting to understand if they can also be related by a set of target space dualities, for instance fermionic T-dualities. Such a transformation should modify the dilaton but leave the metric invariant.

Let us stress that the existence of two supergravity backgrounds is not particular to the two-parameter deformation — this property is still present after setting $\eta_L = \eta_R$, which corresponds to the usual one-parameter η -deformed $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring. Studying limits of the two η -deformed $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ supergravity backgrounds we found that they have different Pohlmeyer and maximal deformation limits. Taking the Pohlmeyer limit of one of the solutions gives a pp-wave supergravity background whose light-cone gauge-fixing gives the Pohlmeyer reduced theory of the $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ superstring. On the other hand, the other background is not finite in that limit. For the maximal deformation limit, both backgrounds are finite but only the latter solution gives the mirror $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ background. Motivated by this observation we constructed its mirror theory and showed that the mirror duality previously observed in [35] also extends to the full supergravity background in that case.

Another interesting limit of the supergravity backgrounds is the type of homogeneous limit considered in [59, 60]. By taking particular singular boosts of the η -deformed backgrounds one can construct homogeneous Yang-Baxter deformations [61], based on R-matrices solving the classical Yang-Baxter equation. This boosting procedure has recently been applied to find new homogeneous R-matrices involving odd generators and construct unimodular jordanian R-matrices for $\mathfrak{psu}(2, 2|4)$ [60]. It would be interesting to explore

this type of limit for the two inhomogeneous R-matrices and associated supergravity background considered in this paper.

To complete our study we also explicitly constructed generalised supergravity backgrounds associated to the Dynkin diagrams

$$\circ - \otimes - \circ \quad \circ - \otimes - \circ, \tag{5.2}$$

and

$$\otimes - \circ - \otimes \quad \otimes - \circ - \otimes. \tag{5.3}$$

The various generalised supergravity backgrounds are all related by (complex) field redefinitions and/or T-dualities on the torus. Moreover, we were able to make the link with the results of [58] obtained by a descent procedure involving the page forms, which appear to correspond to the choice (5.3). It remains to be understood why this is the case.

Can these results be used to answer some of the questions raised in the context of η -deformations of other-dimensional spaces? In the $\text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2 \times \text{T}^6$ case, a family of supergravity solutions with parameter a interpolating between 0 and 1 has been constructed in [45]. The background at $a = 0$ has explicit mirror duality. However, in [33] only one supergravity background of the η -deformed $\text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2 \times \text{T}^6$ superstring was found, matching the $a = 1$ solution. It remains unclear how the other solutions $a \in [0, 1)$ can be generated and if there exists an R-matrix giving rise to the interpolating background, within or outside the realm of Drinfel'd Jimbo R-matrices. To gain more insight it might be interesting to study consistent truncations of the different $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3 \times \text{T}^4$ backgrounds down to 4 dimensions. For the η -deformed $\text{AdS}_5 \times \text{S}^5$ superstring, finding a supergravity background with explicit mirror duality remains an important open question.

Furthermore, the fact that the perturbative worldsheet S-matrix obtained in [26] for the $\text{AdS}_5 \times \text{S}^5$ superstring does not match the expansion of the exact light-cone gauge fixed S-matrix of [38] when including fermions remains a puzzling problem. Focussing on AdS_3 one could calculate the light-cone gauge fixed S-matrices describing scattering above BMN strings [51] for the two supergravity solutions and compare them to each other. Deformed R-matrices have been constructed in [43] but the overall dressing phases obeying unitary, braiding unitary and crossing symmetry remains to be found.

The presence of a naked singularity for some value of ρ due to the non-compactness of the original AdS space is also a long standing problem in the context of η -deformations. While this singularity cannot be avoided for AdS_2 and AdS_5 , the case of AdS_3 is special and offers the intriguing possibility of obtaining a smooth deformation. Indeed, when one of the deformation parameters vanishes, either $\eta_L = 0$ or $\eta_R = 0$, then the curvature singularity disappears. The metric becomes the one of a warped AdS_3 and squashed S^3 metric, together with the flat T^4 metric. Moreover, half of the supersymmetries of the original theory are preserved. The two supergravity backgrounds (3.11) and (3.12) coincide, with constant dilaton. Backgrounds containing warped AdS_3 or squashed S^3 geometries are related to $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3$ via T-duality [62]. It would be interesting to analyse what happens upon including fermions.

Another direction concerns the relation of the two-parameter deformation to other known integrable deformations. Indeed, the η -deformation is a Poisson-Lie symmetric

model [63, 64] and it has been conjectured in [65] that its Poisson-Lie dual in the full superisometry algebra is related via analytic continuation to the λ model of [66]. The latter is yet another instance of an integrable q -deformation, but with $|q| = 1$. In contrast to the η -deformation, the λ -deformation always defines a critical string theory [32]. Embeddings of the λ -deformed $\text{AdS}_3 \times \text{S}^3$ metric into supergravity have been proposed in [67] and [68]. It is an interesting open question to find the Poisson-Lie duals of the two-parameter deformations considered in this paper and compare them to the multi-parameter λ -deformation constructed in [69].

Last but not least, for supercosets with superisometry algebra $\mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g}$ a Wess-Zumino-Witten term can be added to the action, corresponding to the introduction of NS-NS flux [4]. Combining the WZW term with the two-parameter deformation, one can construct an integrable three-parameter deformation of the semi-symmetric space sigma model [70]. It would be interesting to obtain a closed formula for the NS-NS and R-R fluxes and see if unimodular R-matrices also give rise to Weyl-invariant theories in this more general setting. Starting from the undeformed pure NS-NS background and requiring that the deformation does not turn on R-R fluxes, one could then investigate the possibility of finding marginal deformations of the WZW point (see [50] for related work in the context of homogeneous Yang-Baxter deformations). This is particularly interesting because these new pure NS-NS backgrounds could then be analysed with integrability and CFT techniques, which have recently been used to investigate the dual CFTs of AdS_3 superstrings with pure NS-NS fluxes [71–74]. This would then open the door to the exciting possibility of finding CFT duals of the η -deformed theories.

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A Conventions

A.1 Gamma matrices

Pauli matrices. The gamma matrices are constructed out of the 2×2 Pauli matrices

$$\sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

Gamma matrices. We choose the following basis for the ten 32×32 dimensional gamma matrices,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma^0 &= -i\sigma_1 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \sigma_3 \otimes \mathbb{1}, & \Gamma^1 &= \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_3 \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}, \\
 \Gamma^2 &= \sigma_1 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \sigma_1 \otimes \mathbb{1}, & \Gamma^3 &= -\sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \sigma_3, \\
 \Gamma^4 &= \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \sigma_2, & \Gamma^5 &= \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \sigma_1, \\
 \Gamma^6 &= \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}, & \Gamma^7 &= \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1} \\
 \Gamma^8 &= \sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_1 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \sigma_2, & \Gamma^9 &= \sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_3 \otimes \mathbb{1} \otimes \sigma_2.
 \end{aligned} \tag{A.2}$$

They satisfy the Clifford algebra $\{\Gamma^a, \Gamma^b\} = 2\eta^{ab}$ with

$$\Gamma^{11} = \Gamma^0 \Gamma^1 \dots \Gamma^9 = \sigma_3 \otimes \mathbb{1}_{16}, \quad \mathcal{C} = i\sigma_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}_{16}, \quad (\mathcal{C}\Gamma^a)^t = \mathcal{C}\Gamma^a. \tag{A.3}$$

The ten 16×16 chiral blocks γ^a are then identified using

$$\Gamma^a = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & (\gamma^a)^{\alpha\beta} \\ (\gamma^a)_{\alpha\beta} & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{A.4}$$

and satisfy $\gamma_{\alpha\beta}^a (\gamma^b)^{\beta\gamma} + \gamma_{\alpha\beta}^b (\gamma^a)^{\beta\gamma} = 2\eta^{ab} \delta_{\alpha}^{\gamma}$. The projector

$$\text{Proj} = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbb{1}_{16} + \gamma^{6789}) = \text{diag}(1, 0) \otimes \mathbb{1}_8, \tag{A.5}$$

projects onto a 8-dimensional spinor subspace and thus can be used to effectively make these matrices 8×8 with spinor index $\alpha = 1, \dots, 8$. In particular, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Proj} \gamma^a \text{Proj} &\rightarrow \bar{\gamma}^a, & a &= 0, \dots, 5, \\
 \text{Proj} \gamma^a \text{Proj} &\rightarrow 0, & a &= 6, 7, 8, 9,
 \end{aligned} \tag{A.6}$$

where the arrow represents the projection onto 8×8 matrices.

A.2 Generators of $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)$

The real form $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1|2)$ is given by those elements of the complexified superalgebra $\mathfrak{sl}(2|2; \mathbb{C})$ satisfying

$$M^\dagger H + H M = 0, \quad H = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_3 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbb{1}_2 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{A.7}$$

The superalgebra $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1|2)$ contains the 1-dimensional ideal $\mathfrak{u}(1)$ generated by $i\mathbb{1}_4$. The quotient of $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1|2)$ over this $\mathfrak{u}(1)$ subalgebra defines the superalgebra $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)$.

Bosonic generators. Our choice for the three $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1)$ generators is

$$L_1 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad L_2 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad L_3 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} i\sigma_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{A.8}$$

and for the three $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ generators is

$$J_1 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & i\sigma_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad J_2 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -i\sigma_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad J_3 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & i\sigma_3 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{A.9}$$

Fermionic generators. The $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)$ superalgebra also contains eight fermionic generators $Q_{I\tilde{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}}$, where $I = 1, 2$, $\tilde{\alpha} = 1, 2$ is the $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1)$ spinor index and $\hat{\alpha} = 1, 2$ is the $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ spinor index. We choose them to be

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q_{1\tilde{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} i^{(\tilde{\alpha}-\hat{\alpha})} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & N_{\tilde{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}} \\ i\sigma_3(N_{\tilde{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}})^t\sigma_3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\
 Q_{2\tilde{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} i^{(\tilde{\alpha}-\hat{\alpha})} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & iN_{\tilde{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}} \\ \sigma_3(N_{\tilde{\alpha}\hat{\alpha}})^t\sigma_3 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{A.10}$$

The indices I , $\tilde{\alpha}$ and $\hat{\alpha}$ can be gathered into a single index, $\alpha = 1, \dots, 8$, and we define the generators Q_α as

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q_1 &= Q_{111}, & Q_2 &= Q_{112}, & Q_3 &= Q_{121}, & Q_4 &= Q_{122}, \\
 Q_5 &= Q_{211}, & Q_6 &= Q_{212}, & Q_7 &= Q_{221}, & Q_8 &= Q_{222}.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{A.11}$$

While these generators themselves do not satisfy the reality condition (A.7), elements of the Grassmann envelope $\theta^\alpha Q_\alpha$ will do so if one imposes suitable reality conditions on the fermions θ^α .

A.3 Two copies of $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)$

For elements in the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)_L \oplus \mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)_R$ we use the standard block-diagonal matrix realisation $\mathcal{X} = \text{diag}(X^L, X^R)$ with $X^L \in \mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)_L$ and $X^R \in \mathfrak{psu}(1, 1|2)_R$. Furthermore, the generators are chosen so that they belong to a specific \mathbb{Z}_4 grading as defined in (2.3). The elements of grade 0 generate the $\mathfrak{su}(1, 1) \oplus \mathfrak{su}(2)$ subalgebra and are

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{J}_{01} &= \text{diag}(L_2, L_2), & \mathcal{J}_{02} &= -\text{diag}(L_1, L_1), & \mathcal{J}_{12} &= -\text{diag}(L_3, L_3), \\
 \mathcal{J}_{34} &= \text{diag}(J_2, J_2), & \mathcal{J}_{35} &= -\text{diag}(J_1, J_1), & \mathcal{J}_{45} &= \text{diag}(J_3, J_3).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{A.12}$$

The ones of grade 2 are given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{P}_0 &= \text{diag}(L_3, -L_3), & \mathcal{P}_1 &= \text{diag}(L_1, -L_1), & \mathcal{P}_2 &= \text{diag}(L_2, -L_2), \\
 \mathcal{P}_3 &= \text{diag}(J_3, -J_3), & \mathcal{P}_4 &= \text{diag}(J_1, -J_1), & \mathcal{P}_5 &= \text{diag}(J_2, -J_2).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{A.13}$$

Finally, the fermionic generators of grade 1 are denoted by $\mathcal{Q}_{1\alpha}$, while the ones of grade 3 are denoted by $\mathcal{Q}_{2\alpha}$. They are defined through

$$\mathcal{Q}_{1\alpha} = \text{diag}(Q_\alpha, -iQ_\alpha), \quad \mathcal{Q}_{2\alpha} = \text{diag}(Q_\alpha, iQ_\alpha).
 \tag{A.14}$$

Our choice of generators matches the conventions of [32], in particular we have the anti-commutation relations

$$\{\mathcal{Q}_{1\alpha}, \mathcal{Q}_{1\beta}\} = \{\mathcal{Q}_{2\alpha}, \mathcal{Q}_{2\beta}\} = i\bar{\gamma}_{\alpha\beta}^a \mathcal{P}_a.
 \tag{A.15}$$

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