



Ambitwistor Yang–Mills Theory Revisited

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Abstract. Inspired by the Movshev–Mason–Skinner Cauchy–Riemann (CR) ambitwistor approach, we provide a rigorous yet elementary construction of a twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons action on CR ambitwistor space for maximally supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory on four-dimensional Euclidean space. The key ingredient in our discussion is the homotopy algebraic perspective on perturbative quantum field theory. Using this technology, we show that both theories are semi-classically equivalent, that is, we construct a quasi-isomorphism between the cyclic L_∞ -algebras governing both field theories. This confirms a conjecture from the literature. Furthermore, we also show that the Yang–Mills action is obtained by integrating out an infinite tower of auxiliary fields in the Chern–Simons action, that is, the two theories are related by homotopy transfer. Given its simplicity, this Chern–Simons action should form a fruitful starting point for analysing perturbative properties of Yang–Mills theory.

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1. Introduction and Summary

It is well known that holomorphic Chern–Simons theory on the ambitwistor space is classically equivalent to $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory in four dimensions (a theory perturbatively equivalent to $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory) at the level of the moduli spaces of solutions and their gauge equivalence classes [1–9] (see also [10] for a review). The construction of a corresponding action functional, however, is non-trivial. Whilst ambitwistor space is a Calabi–Yau supermanifold, and hence a natural holomorphic volume form exists [11], the required Lagrangian is unclear. In particular, ambitwistor space has a five-dimensional body, which is incompatible with the usual Chern–Simons-type Lagrangian.¹

For non-supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory in Euclidean signature, this obstruction can be evaded by using the Movshev–Mason–Skinner Cauchy–Riemann (CR) ambitwistor construction [14, 15]. Whilst the treatment in [14, 15] is rigorous and complete in the non-supersymmetric case, the generalisation to the supersymmetric setting is rather indirect and somewhat conjectural, principally due to the subtleties entailed by the superspace torsion and complex fermions in Euclidean signature. Here, we resolve these issues by providing a rigorous yet elementary construction of a twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons action for Yang–Mills theory in the case of $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetry. See e.g. [16–20] for other approaches of formulating twistorial actions for Yang–Mills theories with varying amounts of supersymmetry.²

Key to our discussion is the homotopy algebraic perspective on perturbative quantum field theory. This is a dictionary between objects and tools in perturbative quantum field theory on the one side and objects and tools in homotopical algebra on the other side. In particular, any perturbative field theory given in terms of a polynomial action can be reformulated as a cyclic L_∞ -algebra, cf. e.g. [26].³ Similarly, semi-classical equivalence⁴ corresponds to the natural notion of equivalence for these L_∞ -algebras, namely quasi-isomorphisms. The final aspect of this dictionary we will put to use is that the procedure of integrating out fields is encoded in the so-called homotopy transfer, a technique from homological perturbation theory which reproduces the tree-level Feynman-diagram expansion [26, 28–33].

Using this technology, we prove that the aforementioned twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons theory is, in fact, semi-classically equivalent to $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory. This is the statement of Theorem 3.5, our first central result. This confirms a conjecture made in [14], albeit using an L_∞ -algebra that differs in some key details from the one we use here. In Theorem

¹It is, however, possible to construct an action for ‘higher’ holomorphic Chern–Simons theory with a Lie 3-group as gauge group, providing a higher ambitwistor space action functional for maximally supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory [12]. See [13] for a recent review on higher gauge theory.

²See [21–25] for twistorial action formulations of supergravity theories.

³or [27] at the level of equations of motion.

⁴i.e. having isomorphic tree-level S-matrices.

3.6, our second central result, we moreover show that this semi-classical equivalence simply amounts to integrating out an infinite tower of auxiliary fields, that is, to homotopy transfer.

Given its simplicity, our CR ambitwistor action should form a fruitful starting point for analysing various aspects of Yang–Mills theory; see the reviews [34–38] and the references therein for twistor theory actions and their applications.⁵ Indeed, the primary motivation underlying the present contribution is the conjectured colour–kinematics duality of Yang–Mills scattering amplitudes [44–46] (see [47, 48] for reviews). In [49], we presented a route to proving all-loop-order colour–kinematics duality for maximally supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory. The key observation is that the tower of interaction terms constructed in [50–52] to generate colour–kinematics-duality-respecting Feynman rules may be geometrised⁶ as the ‘Kaluza–Klein tower’ following from dimensional reduction on the $\mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ of the ambitwistor space.⁷ In doing so, the proof of colour–kinematics duality is simplified to establishing that our CR ambitwistor action for Yang–Mills theory has an associated BV^\square -algebra,⁸ together with an appropriate Ward-identity-like argument for the twistorial gauge symmetries [49]. Evidently, a prerequisite for this to work is the generalisation of the semi-classical equivalence to the loop level and this, in turn, would most certainly rely on the vanishing of certain twistor anomalies [69]. This approach to colour–kinematics duality has successfully been applied to self-dual supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory [49, 55, 66], where the use of holomorphic Chern–Simons theory and Penrose’s twistor space obviates the need to apply a supplementary Ward identity argument. Hence, the generalisation of this approach to full maximally supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory would first require a complete, rigorous, and explicit formulation of a Chern–Simons-type action, which we provide here.

⁵See [39–43] for analysing classical integrability of maximally supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory using twistor methods.

⁶whilst also avoiding the potential need for non-local field redefinitions that require counterterms breaking colour–kinematics duality, as discussed in detail in [52]

⁷A conceptually similar approach employing, instead, pure spinor space has been used to show that ten-dimensional supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory and its dimensional reductions have tree-level colour–kinematics duality [53, 54] and, similarly, that the low energy effective world-volume theories of M2-branes have tree-level colour–kinematics duality [54, 55], as previously conjectured in [56, 57]. The restriction to the tree-level in both cases is a consequence of the need to regularise the integrals over pure spinor space, i.e. there is no known scheme that is guaranteed to preserve colour–kinematics duality at the loop-level. In this regard the use of twistor spaces has a clear advantage.

⁸See [58] for the original definition of BV^\square -algebras, where they were used to prove colour–kinematics duality for the tree-level Yang–Mills S-matrix. See [52, 53, 55, 59–68] for related work on BV^\square -algebras, colour–kinematics duality, and the double copy at the level of actions.

2. CR Ambitwistor Space and Supersymmetric Yang–Mills Equations

We shall use the conventions of the review [35] in the following. See also [34, 36–38] for other reviews on twistor theory and applications to gauge theory.

2.1. Bosonic CR Ambitwistor Space

CR Ambitwistor Space. Given the factorisation $T_{\mathbb{C}}\mathbb{R}^4 \cong S \otimes \tilde{S}$ of the complexified tangent bundle of \mathbb{R}^4 into S , the chiral spin bundle, and \tilde{S} , the anti-chiral spin bundle, we consider the projectivisation $\mathbb{P}(S^*) \times \mathbb{P}(\tilde{S}^*) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$. Evidently, this space is

$$L := \mathbb{R}^4 \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1. \quad (2.1)$$

We may choose $(x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \mu_{\alpha})$ as coordinates on L for $\alpha, \beta, \dots, \dot{\alpha}, \dot{\beta}, \dots = 1, 2$ with $x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}$ coordinates⁹ on Euclidean \mathbb{R}^4 and $(\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \mu_{\alpha})$ complex homogeneous coordinates on $\mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1$. The coordinates manifest the action of $\text{Spin}(4) \cong \text{SU}(2) \times \text{SU}(2)$ on L .

On the fibres of $L \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$ there is a natural *quaternionic structure*¹⁰

$$\tau : (\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \mu_{\alpha}) = \left(\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \mu_1 \\ \mu_2 \end{pmatrix} \right) \mapsto (\hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}, \hat{\mu}_{\alpha}) := \left(\begin{pmatrix} -\overline{\lambda_2} \\ \overline{\lambda_1} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} -\overline{\mu_2} \\ \overline{\mu_1} \end{pmatrix} \right), \quad (2.2)$$

where the bar denotes complex conjugation. This induces the spinor norms

$$|\lambda|^2 := \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} \text{ with } \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} = \varepsilon^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\beta}} \text{ and } |\mu|^2 := \mu_{\alpha} \hat{\mu}^{\alpha} \text{ with } \hat{\mu}^{\alpha} = \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} \hat{\mu}_{\beta}. \quad (2.3)$$

Here, $\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} = -\varepsilon_{\beta\alpha}$ and $\varepsilon_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} = -\varepsilon_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\alpha}}$ are the standard symplectic structures on S and \tilde{S} with $\varepsilon_{12} = 1 = \varepsilon_{\dot{1}\dot{2}}$. We also define $\varepsilon^{\alpha\beta}$ and $\varepsilon^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}$ by $\varepsilon_{\alpha\gamma}\varepsilon^{\gamma\beta} = \delta_{\alpha}^{\beta}$ and $\varepsilon_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\gamma}}\varepsilon^{\dot{\gamma}\dot{\beta}} = \delta_{\dot{\alpha}}^{\dot{\beta}}$, respectively, and raise and lower spinorial indices using these symplectic forms. Note that $\tau(|\lambda|^2) = |\lambda|^2$ and $\tau(|\mu|^2) = |\mu|^2$. Furthermore, τ also induces the reality conditions

$$\overline{x^{1\dot{1}}} = x^{2\dot{2}} \text{ and } \overline{x^{1\dot{2}}} = -x^{2\dot{1}}, \quad (2.4)$$

so that the Euclidean line element is simply

$$(\text{d}s_{\mathbb{R}^4})^2 = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} \varepsilon_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \text{d}x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \text{d}x^{\beta\dot{\beta}} = |\text{d}x^{1\dot{1}}|^2 + |\text{d}x^{1\dot{2}}|^2. \quad (2.5)$$

We note that L can be shown to be diffeomorphic to a real quadric of co-dimension two inside the complex ambitwistor space (which, in turn, is a complex quadric hypersurface in the product of the Penrose twistor space with its dual) [14, 15]. Following these papers, we call (2.1) the *CR ambitwistor space*.

⁹We have $x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = \sigma_{\mu}^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} x^{\mu}$ with $\sigma_{\mu}^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}$ the standard sigma matrices.

¹⁰Recall that a quaternionic structure is an anti-linear endomorphism τ with $\tau^2 = -\text{id}$.

CR Structure. The reason for this name stems from the fact that L comes with a natural almost CR structure¹¹

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}L &:= \text{span}\{\hat{E}_{\text{F}}, \hat{E}_{\text{L}}, \hat{E}_{\text{R}}\}, \\ \hat{E}_{\text{F}} &:= \mu^{\alpha}\lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}}, \quad \hat{E}_{\text{L}} := |\lambda|^2\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}\frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}, \quad \hat{E}_{\text{R}} := |\mu|^2\mu_{\alpha}\frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{\mu}_{\alpha}}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.6a)$$

where $|\lambda|^2$ and $|\mu|^2$ were defined in (2.3). The use of ‘F’, ‘L’, and ‘R’ is to remind the reader that the corresponding vector fields are along the flat Euclidean, left \mathbb{CP}^1 , and right \mathbb{CP}^1 directions, respectively. We also set

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}L} &:= \text{span}\{E_{\text{F}}, E_{\text{L}}, E_{\text{R}}\}, \\ E_{\text{F}} &:= \frac{\hat{\mu}^{\alpha}\hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2|\lambda|^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}}, \quad E_{\text{L}} := -\frac{\hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}}, \quad E_{\text{R}} := -\frac{\hat{\mu}_{\alpha}}{|\mu|^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_{\alpha}}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.6b)$$

and

$$W := \text{span}\{E_{\text{W}}, E_{\hat{\text{W}}}\} \text{ with } E_{\text{W}} := \frac{\mu^{\alpha}\hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} \text{ and } E_{\hat{\text{W}}} := -\frac{\hat{\mu}^{\alpha}\lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2}\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}}. \quad (2.6c)$$

Evidently, each of these distributions is integrable. We also have the decomposition

$$T_{\mathbb{C}}L \cong T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}L \oplus \underbrace{\overline{T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}L}}_{=: T_{\text{CR}}^{1,0}L} \oplus W. \quad (2.7)$$

Moreover, we have $\tau(T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}L) = \overline{T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}L}$ and $\tau(W) = W$ under the quaternionic structure defined in (2.2), that is, the distributions $\overline{T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}L}$ and $T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}L$ are complex conjugates of each other and W is real. Note also that $T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}L \cap \overline{T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}L} = \{0\}$ as is required for an (almost) CR structure.

Dually, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}(L) &:= \text{span}\{\hat{e}^{\text{F}}, \hat{e}^{\text{L}}, \hat{e}^{\text{R}}\}, \\ \hat{e}^{\text{F}} &:= \frac{dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}\hat{\mu}_{\alpha}\hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2|\lambda|^2}, \quad \hat{e}^{\text{L}} := \frac{d\hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}\hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^4}, \quad \hat{e}^{\text{R}} := \frac{d\hat{\mu}_{\alpha}\hat{\mu}^{\alpha}}{|\mu|^4}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.8a)$$

as well as

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}(L)} &:= \text{span}\{e^{\text{F}}, e^{\text{L}}, e^{\text{R}}\}, \\ e^{\text{F}} &:= dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}\mu_{\alpha}\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \quad e^{\text{L}} := d\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}\lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}, \quad e^{\text{R}} := d\mu_{\alpha}\mu^{\alpha}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.8b)$$

and

$$\Omega_{\hat{W}}^1(L) := \text{span}\{e^{\text{W}}, e^{\hat{\text{W}}}\} \text{ with } e^{\text{W}} := -\frac{dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}\hat{\mu}_{\alpha}\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2} \text{ and } e^{\hat{\text{W}}} := \frac{dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}\mu_{\alpha}\hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2}. \quad (2.8c)$$

¹¹See e.g. the text book [70] for a general account on CR manifolds.

Furthermore, because of (2.7), the exterior derivative on L decomposes as $d = \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}} + \partial_{\text{CR}}$ with

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}} &:= \hat{e}^{\text{F}} \hat{E}_{\text{F}} + \hat{e}^{\text{L}} \hat{E}_{\text{L}} + \hat{e}^{\text{R}} \hat{E}_{\text{R}} , \\ \partial_{\text{CR}} &:= e^{\text{F}} E_{\text{F}} + e^{\text{L}} E_{\text{L}} + e^{\text{R}} E_{\text{R}} + e^{\text{W}} E_{\text{W}} + e^{\hat{\text{W}}} E_{\hat{\text{W}}} .\end{aligned}\tag{2.9}$$

The commutation relations amongst the vector fields (2.6) then yield

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}} e^{\text{W}} &= e^{\text{L}} \wedge \hat{e}^{\text{F}} - \hat{e}^{\text{R}} \wedge e^{\text{F}} , \quad \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}} e^{\hat{\text{W}}} = \hat{e}^{\text{L}} \wedge e^{\text{F}} - e^{\text{R}} \wedge \hat{e}^{\text{F}} , \\ \partial_{\text{CR}} e^{\text{F}} &= -e^{\text{L}} \wedge e^{\hat{\text{W}}} + e^{\text{R}} \wedge e^{\text{W}} , \quad \partial_{\text{CR}} \hat{e}^{\text{F}} = -\hat{e}^{\text{L}} \wedge e^{\text{W}} + \hat{e}^{\text{R}} \wedge e^{\hat{\text{W}}}\end{aligned}\tag{2.10}$$

as the only non-vanishing actions of $\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}}$ and ∂_{CR} , respectively.

2.2. Supersymmetric Extension and Constraint System

Euclidean $\mathcal{N} = 3$ Supersymmetry. To incorporate Euclidean $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetry, we enlarge (2.1) and consider

$$F := \mathbb{R}_{\text{cpl}}^{4|12} \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \text{ with } \mathbb{R}_{\text{cpl}}^{4|12} := \mathbb{R}^{4|0} \times \mathbb{C}^{0|12} .\tag{2.11}$$

We coordinatise $\mathbb{R}_{\text{cpl}}^{4|12}$ by $(x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}, \theta^{i\alpha})$ with $i, j, \dots = 1, 2, 3$ and $\mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ by $(\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \mu_{\alpha})$, respectively. In this Euclidean setting, the fermionic coordinates remain complex,¹² and we restrict to functions and differential forms on F that depend on the fermionic coordinates only via $\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}$ and $\theta^{i\alpha}$ and *not* their complex conjugates. We shall refer to F as the augmented CR ambitwistor space. The (integrable) CR structure (2.6) extends as

$$\begin{aligned}T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1} F &:= \text{span}\{\hat{E}_{\text{F}}, \hat{E}_{\text{L}}, \hat{E}_{\text{R}}, \hat{E}^i, \hat{E}_i\} , \\ \hat{E}_{\text{F}} &:= \mu^{\alpha} \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} , \quad \hat{E}_{\text{L}} := |\lambda|^2 \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}} , \quad \hat{E}_{\text{R}} := |\mu|^2 \mu_{\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{\mu}_{\alpha}} , \\ \hat{E}^i &:= \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \underbrace{\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}} + \theta^{i\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} \right)}_{=: D_{\dot{\alpha}}^i} , \quad \hat{E}_i := \mu^{\alpha} \underbrace{\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^{i\alpha}} + \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} \right)}_{=: D_{i\alpha}} ,\end{aligned}\tag{2.12a}$$

and, dually,

$$\begin{aligned}\Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}(F) &:= \text{span}\{\hat{e}^{\text{F}}, \hat{e}^{\text{L}}, \hat{e}^{\text{R}}, \hat{e}_i, \hat{e}^i\} , \\ \hat{e}^{\text{F}} &:= \frac{(dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} + \theta^{i\alpha} d\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} - d\theta^{i\alpha} \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}) \hat{\mu}_{\alpha} \hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2 |\lambda|^2} , \quad \hat{e}^{\text{L}} := \frac{d\hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^4} , \quad \hat{e}^{\text{R}} := \frac{d\hat{\mu}_{\alpha} \hat{\mu}^{\alpha}}{|\mu|^4} , \\ \hat{e}_i &:= -\frac{d\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} , \quad \hat{e}^i := -\frac{d\theta^{i\alpha} \hat{\mu}_{\alpha}}{|\mu|^2} ,\end{aligned}\tag{2.12b}$$

where we have slightly abused notation and again denoted the dual of \hat{E}_{F} by \hat{e}^{F} . Note that the only non-vanishing commutator amongst the vector fields (2.12a) is

$$[\hat{E}_i, \hat{E}^j] = 2\delta_i^j \hat{E}_{\text{F}} ,\tag{2.13}$$

¹²This is a necessity, as the only reality condition for Euclidean spinors is a symplectic Majorana condition, requiring an even amount of supersymmetry.

where δ_i^j is the Kronecker symbol. Next, set $\Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,\bullet}(F) := \bigwedge^\bullet T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1*} F$ for the distribution $T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1} F$ defined in (2.12a).¹³ This is augmented to a differential graded algebra via the differential

$$\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}} := e^{\text{F}} \hat{E}_{\text{F}} + e^{\text{L}} \hat{E}_{\text{L}} + e^{\text{R}} \hat{E}_{\text{R}} + \hat{e}_i \hat{E}^i + \hat{e}^i \hat{E}_i. \quad (2.14)$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\text{CR}}^{1,0} F &:= \text{span}\{E_{\text{F}}, E_{\text{L}}, E_{\text{R}}, E_{\text{W}}, E_{\hat{\text{W}}}, E^i, E_i\}, \\ E_{\text{F}} &:= \frac{\hat{\mu}^\alpha \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2 |\lambda|^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}}, \quad E_{\text{L}} := -\frac{\hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}}, \quad E_{\text{R}} := -\frac{\hat{\mu}_\alpha}{|\mu|^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_\alpha}, \\ E_{\text{W}} &:= \frac{\mu^\alpha \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}}, \quad E_{\hat{\text{W}}} := -\frac{\hat{\mu}^\alpha \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}}, \\ E^i &:= \frac{\hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} D_{\dot{\alpha}}^i, \quad E_i := \frac{\hat{\mu}^\alpha}{|\mu|^2} D_{i\alpha} \end{aligned} \quad (2.15a)$$

with $D_{\dot{\alpha}}^i$ and $D_{i\alpha}$ as given in (2.12a). Dually,

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_{\text{CR}}^{1,0}(F) &:= \text{span}\{e^{\text{F}}, e^{\text{L}}, e^{\text{R}}, e^{\text{W}}, e^{\hat{\text{W}}}, e_i, e^i\}, \\ e^{\text{F}} &:= (dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} + \theta^{i\alpha} d\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} - d\theta^{i\alpha} \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}) \mu_\alpha \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \quad e^{\text{L}} := d\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}} \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}, \quad e^{\text{R}} := d\mu_\alpha \mu^\alpha, \\ e^{\text{W}} &:= -\frac{(dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} + \theta^{i\alpha} d\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} - d\theta^{i\alpha} \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}) \hat{\mu}_\alpha \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2}, \\ e^{\hat{\text{W}}} &:= \frac{(dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} + \theta^{i\alpha} d\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} - d\theta^{i\alpha} \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}) \mu_\alpha \hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2}, \\ e_i &:= d\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \quad e^i := d\theta^{i\alpha} \mu_\alpha, \end{aligned} \quad (2.15b)$$

where, as before, we have slightly abused notation in labelling our one-forms. Hence,

$$\partial_{\text{CR}} := e^{\text{F}} E_{\text{F}} + e^{\text{L}} E_{\text{L}} + e^{\text{R}} E_{\text{R}} + e^{\text{W}} E_{\text{W}} + e^{\hat{\text{W}}} E_{\hat{\text{W}}} + e_i E^i + e^i E_i \quad (2.15c)$$

with $\partial_{\text{CR}}^2 = 0$, which implies that the distribution $T_{\text{CR}}^{1,0} F$ is integrable as well. Furthermore,

$$\begin{aligned} d &= \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}} + \partial_{\text{CR}} \\ &= \underbrace{dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} + d\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}} + d\theta^{i\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^{i\alpha}}}_{= d_{\mathbb{R}^{4|12}_{\text{cpt}}}} + \underbrace{\hat{e}^{\text{L}} \hat{E}_{\text{L}} + e^{\text{L}} E_{\text{L}} + \hat{e}^{\text{R}} \hat{E}_{\text{R}} + e^{\text{R}} E_{\text{R}}}_{= d_{\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1}} \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

for the exterior derivative on F .¹⁴

¹³With independence on the coordinates $\bar{\eta}_i^{\dot{\alpha}}$ and $\bar{\theta}^{i\alpha}$ implied, as stated above.

¹⁴As mentioned before, we restrict to functions and differential forms on F that depend on the fermionic coordinates only via $\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}$ and $\theta^{i\alpha}$ and not their complex conjugates. Hence, the fermionic part of d only contains $d\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}} + d\theta^{i\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^{i\alpha}}$ and not its complex conjugate.

Constraint System of $\mathcal{N} = 3$ Supersymmetric Yang–Mills Theory. Let now \mathfrak{g} be a Lie algebra with Lie bracket $[-, -]$ and consider $A \in \Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$ for a topologically trivial complex vector bundle over F . The equation of motion for *CR holomorphic Chern–Simons theory*¹⁵ reads

$$\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}} A + \frac{1}{2}[A, A] = 0 \quad (2.17)$$

with the wedge product in the bracket $[-, -]$ understood. Under the standard (twistor) assumption that there is a gauge of A in which¹⁶

$$\hat{E}_{\text{L}} \lrcorner A = 0 = \hat{E}_{\text{R}} \lrcorner A, \quad (2.18)$$

we deduce from (2.17) that the remaining components of A are holomorphic in $\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}$ and μ_{α} . Following [8], we call topologically trivial complex vector bundles over F with a connection that allows for such a gauge *\mathbb{R}^4 -trivial*.¹⁷ Consequently, (2.17) is equivalent to the equations¹⁸

$$[\nabla_{(\dot{\alpha}}, \nabla_{\dot{\beta}}^j] = 0, \quad [\nabla_{i(\alpha}, \nabla_{j\beta)}] = 0, \quad [\nabla_{i\alpha}, \nabla_{\dot{\alpha}}^j] = 2\delta_i^j \nabla_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \quad (2.19a)$$

with¹⁹

$$\nabla_{\dot{\alpha}}^i := D_{\dot{\alpha}}^i + [A_{\dot{\alpha}}^i, -], \quad \nabla_{i\alpha} := D_{i\alpha} + [A_{i\alpha}, -], \quad \nabla_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} := \partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} + [A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, -] \quad (2.19b)$$

which, in turn, constitute the superspace constraint system of the equations of motion of $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory on \mathbb{R}^4 and with gauge algebra \mathfrak{g} . See [1–8] (and also [10] for a review) for full details on this construction.

It is also straightforward to check that infinitesimal gauge transformations of $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory are captured by $c \in \Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,0}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$ and act according to

$$A \mapsto A + \delta A \text{ with } \delta A := \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}} c + [A, c]. \quad (2.20)$$

We thus see that at the level of equations of motion, $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory can be identified with the differential graded Lie algebra²⁰

$$\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}} := (\Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,\bullet}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}, \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}}, [-, -]), \quad (2.21)$$

where elements of degrees 0 and 1 correspond to the gauge parameters and gauge potentials. Elements of degree 2 and 3 correspond to the anti-fields of the gauge potentials and the anti-fields of the ghosts. We have thus obtained the Batalin–Vilkovisky formulation of the CR holomorphic Chern–Simons theory, following the familiar construction for ordinary Chern–Simons theory, at the level of equations of motion.

Recall that any equation of motion can be brought into the form of a homotopy Maurer–Cartan equation associated with an L_{∞} -algebra, the natural

¹⁵In [17], such a theory is referred to as partially holomorphic Chern–Simons theory.

¹⁶The symbol ‘ \lrcorner ’ denotes the interior product.

¹⁷Put differently, all such bundles are given by pull-backs along $F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$.

¹⁸Parentheses denote normalised total symmetrisation of the enclosed indices.

¹⁹ $\partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} := \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}}$.

²⁰As before, the wedge product in the bracket $[-, -]$ is understood.

generalisation of differential graded Lie algebras with products of higher arities. Moreover, *semi-classical equivalence*²¹ corresponds to a *quasi-isomorphism* between L_∞ -algebras. This perspective will prove to be very useful to our discussion; a detailed review can be found e.g. in [26], and a discussion of field theory equivalences is found in [52, Section 3.4].

By construction, any L_∞ -algebra comes with an underlying cochain complex, and any quasi-isomorphism of L_∞ -algebras descends to a quasi-isomorphism of the underlying cochain complexes, that is, a cochain map that descend to an isomorphism on the cohomologies. Therefore, we are interested in the following proposition, which follows from our above considerations.

Proposition 2.1. *Under the assumption of \mathbb{R}^4 -triviality, the cohomology groups $H^0(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}})$ and $H^1(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}})$ are isomorphic to the trivial (i.e. constant) linearised gauge transformations and the quotient space of solutions to the linearised $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills equations modulo linearised gauge transformations, respectively.*

We will discuss the remaining cohomology groups in Sect. 3.2.

2.3. Quasi-isomorphic Differential Graded Lie Algebras

The form of the CR structure (2.12a) is not quite suitable for writing down an action. The main problem is as follows. The gauge potential A includes the fermionic differential form components $\hat{E}^i \lrcorner A$ and $\hat{E}_i \lrcorner A$. However, the Berezin integration over fermionic coordinates requires integral forms, rather than differential forms. Therefore, to make sense of the Berezin integration, one might be tempted to work in a gauge in which the fermionic directions $\hat{E}^i \lrcorner A$ and $\hat{E}_i \lrcorner A$ vanish; see [11] for the chiral setting. However, because of the superspace torsion that is encoded in the non-trivial commutator (2.13), this would imply the vanishing of the bosonic component $\hat{E}_F \lrcorner A$. In turn, we would be left with too few bosonic directions (in fact, only two) to formulate a Chern–Simons-type action. This is in contradistinction with supersymmetric self-dual Yang–Mills theory where one can avoid this issue by working in chiral superspace. To resolve this problem, we shall replace the differential graded Lie algebra (2.21) with a quasi-isomorphic one,

$$\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}} := \left(\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0, \bullet}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}, \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}, [-, -] \right), \quad (2.22)$$

which we develop in the following.

Twisted CR Structure. For brevity, we use the *CR holomorphic* and *CR anti-holomorphic fermionic coordinates*²²

$$\eta_i := \eta_i^\alpha \lambda_\alpha, \quad \theta^i := \theta^{i\alpha} \mu_\alpha, \quad \tilde{\eta}_i := -\frac{\eta_i^\alpha \hat{\lambda}_\alpha}{|\lambda|^2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\theta}^i := -\frac{\theta^{i\alpha} \hat{\mu}_\alpha}{|\mu|^2} \quad (2.23a)$$

²¹i.e. the theories have isomorphic tree-level S-matrices.

²²Whilst η_i and $\tilde{\eta}_i$ and likewise θ^i and $\tilde{\theta}^i$ are not complex conjugates of each other and are not related by the quaternionic structure (2.2), we have $\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}} \eta_i = \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}} \theta^i = 0$ and $\partial_{\text{CR}} \tilde{\eta}_i = \partial_{\text{CR}} \tilde{\theta}^i = 0$.

with the inverse relations

$$\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} = \tilde{\eta}_i \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} + \frac{\eta^i \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} \text{ and } \theta^{i\alpha} = \tilde{\theta}^i \mu^{\alpha} + \frac{\theta^i \hat{\mu}^{\alpha}}{|\mu|^2} \quad (2.23b)$$

and consider the change of basis

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\text{CR}}^{0,1} F &= \text{span}\{\hat{E}'_F, \hat{E}'_L, \hat{E}'_R, \hat{E}'^i, \hat{E}'_i\}, \\ \hat{E}'_F &:= \hat{E}_F, \quad \hat{E}'_L := \hat{E}_L + \tilde{\theta}^i \eta_i \hat{E}_F, \quad \hat{E}'_R := \hat{E}_R - \theta^i \tilde{\eta}_i \hat{E}_F, \\ \hat{E}'^i &:= \hat{E}^i - \tilde{\theta}^i \hat{E}_F, \quad \hat{E}'_i := \hat{E}_i - \tilde{\eta}_i \hat{E}_F \end{aligned} \quad (2.24a)$$

of the CR structure. We stress that these vector fields respect the holomorphic dependence of $\Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,\bullet}(F)$ on $\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}$ and $\theta^{i\alpha}$. Dually, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,1}(F) &:= \text{span}\{\hat{e}'^F, \hat{e}'^L, \hat{e}'^R, \hat{e}'_i, \hat{e}'^i\}, \\ \hat{e}'^F &:= \hat{e}^F - \tilde{\theta}^i \eta_i \hat{e}^L + \theta^i \tilde{\eta}_i \hat{e}^R - \tilde{\theta}_i \hat{e}_i - \tilde{\eta}_i \hat{e}^i, \\ \hat{e}'^L &:= \hat{e}^L, \quad \hat{e}'^R := \hat{e}^R, \quad \hat{e}'_i := \hat{e}_i, \quad \hat{e}'^i := \hat{e}^i. \end{aligned} \quad (2.24b)$$

It is then not difficult to see that the only non-vanishing commutator amongst the vector fields (2.24a) is

$$[\hat{E}'_L, \hat{E}'_R] = 2\theta^i \eta_i \hat{E}'_F. \quad (2.25)$$

Hence, the superspace torsion initially encoded in the fermionic commutator (2.13) has been shifted to a bosonic commutator for the auxiliary spinorial coordinates.

Next, to remove the dependence on the CR anti-holomorphic fermionic coordinates $\tilde{\eta}_i$ and $\tilde{\theta}^i$, let

$$g := e^{\tilde{\theta}^i \eta_i E_W + \theta^i \tilde{\eta}_i E_{\tilde{W}}} \quad (2.26a)$$

with E_W and $E_{\tilde{W}}$ as given in (2.6), and consider the *twisted* almost CR structure

$$\begin{aligned} T_{\text{CR, tw}}^{0,1} F &:= \text{span}\{\hat{V}_F, \hat{V}_L, \hat{V}_R, \hat{V}^i, \hat{V}_i\}, \\ \hat{V}_F &:= g \hat{E}'_F g^{-1} = \hat{E}_F, \\ \hat{V}_L &:= g \hat{E}'_L g^{-1} = \hat{E}_L + \theta^i \eta_i E_{\tilde{W}}, \quad \hat{V}_R := g \hat{E}'_R g^{-1} = \hat{E}_R + \theta^i \eta_i E_W, \\ \hat{V}^i &:= g \hat{E}'^i g^{-1} = \hat{E}^i - \tilde{\theta}^i \hat{E}_F + \theta^i E_{\tilde{W}} = \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}}, \\ \hat{V}_i &:= g \hat{E}'_i g^{-1} = \hat{E}_i - \tilde{\eta}_i \hat{E}_F - \eta_i E_W = \mu^{\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^{i\alpha}}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.26b)$$

One may quickly check that this almost CR structure is again integrable. It is important to stress that after the twisting, the fermionic vector fields \hat{V}^i and \hat{V}_i have become fermionic derivatives with respect to the CR anti-holomorphic coordinates $\tilde{\eta}_i$ and $\tilde{\theta}^i$, and, in addition, the bosonic vector fields depend only

on the CR holomorphic coordinates η_i and θ^i .²³ Dually, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\Omega_{\text{CR, tw}}^{0,1}(F) &:= \text{span}\{\hat{v}^F, \hat{v}^L, \hat{v}^R, \hat{v}_i, \hat{v}^i\}, \\ \hat{v}^F &:= \hat{e}^F - \tilde{\theta}^i \hat{e}_i - \tilde{\eta}_i \hat{e}^i = \frac{dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\mu}_\alpha \hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2 |\lambda|^2}, \\ \hat{v}^L &:= \hat{e}^L = \frac{d\hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^4}, \quad \hat{v}^R := \hat{e}^R = \frac{d\hat{\mu}_\alpha \hat{\mu}^\alpha}{|\mu|^4}, \\ \hat{v}_i &:= \hat{e}_i = -\frac{d\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2}, \quad \hat{v}^i := \hat{e}^i = -\frac{d\theta^{i\alpha} \hat{\mu}_\alpha}{|\mu|^2}.\end{aligned}\tag{2.26c}$$

Upon setting $\Omega_{\text{CR, tw}}^{0,\bullet}(F) := \bigwedge^\bullet T_{\text{CR, tw}}^{0,1*} F$, we obtain the differential graded algebra $(\Omega_{\text{CR, tw}}^{0,\bullet}(F), \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw}})$ with

$$\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw}} := \hat{v}^F \hat{V}_F + \hat{v}^L \hat{V}_L + \hat{v}^R \hat{V}_R + \hat{v}_i \hat{V}^i + \hat{v}^i \hat{V}_i.\tag{2.27}$$

We also have

$$\begin{aligned}T_{\text{CR, tw}}^{1,0} F &:= \text{span}\{V_F, V_L, V_R, V_W, V_{\hat{W}}, V^i, V_i\}, \\ V_F &:= E_F, \quad V_L := E_L - \tilde{\theta}^i \tilde{\eta}_i E_W, \quad V_R := E_R - \tilde{\theta}^i \tilde{\eta}_i E_{\hat{W}}, \\ V_W &:= E_W, \quad V_{\hat{W}} := E_{\hat{W}}, \\ V^i &:= E^i - \theta^i E_F - \tilde{\theta}^i E_W = \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}}, \\ V_i &:= E_i - \eta_i E_F + \tilde{\eta}_i E_{\hat{W}} = \hat{\mu}^\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^{i\alpha}},\end{aligned}\tag{2.28a}$$

and, dually,

$$\begin{aligned}\Omega_{\text{CR, tw}}^{1,0}(F) &:= \text{span}\{v^F, v^L, v^R, v^W, v^{\hat{W}}, v_i, v^i\}, \\ v^F &:= e^F - \theta^i e_i - \eta_i e^i = dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \mu_\alpha \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \\ v^L &:= e^L = d\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}} \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}, \quad v^R := e^R = d\mu_\alpha \mu^\alpha, \\ v^W &:= e^W - \eta_i \hat{e}^i - \tilde{\theta}^i e_i - \theta^i \eta_i \hat{e}^R + \tilde{\theta}^i \tilde{\eta}_i e^L \\ &= -\frac{dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\mu}_\alpha \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2} - \theta^i \eta_i \frac{d\hat{\mu}_\alpha \hat{\mu}^\alpha}{|\mu|^4} + \tilde{\theta}^i \tilde{\eta}_i d\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}} \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}, \\ v^{\hat{W}} &:= e^{\hat{W}} + \theta^i \hat{e}_i + \tilde{\eta}_i e^i - \theta^i \eta_i \hat{e}^L + \tilde{\theta}^i \tilde{\eta}_i e^R \\ &= \frac{dx^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \mu_\alpha \hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} - \theta^i \eta_i \frac{d\hat{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^4} + \tilde{\theta}^i \tilde{\eta}_i d\mu_\alpha \mu^\alpha, \\ v_i &:= e_i = d\eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}} \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \quad v^i := e^i = d\theta^{i\alpha} \mu_\alpha\end{aligned}\tag{2.28b}$$

so that

$$\partial_{\text{CR, tw}} := v^F V_F + v^L V_L + v^R V_R + v^W V_W + v^{\hat{W}} V_{\hat{W}} + v_i V^i + v^i V_i, \tag{2.28c}$$

²³Under the change of coordinates $(\lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}) \mapsto (\pi_{\dot{\alpha}}, \eta_i, \tilde{\eta}_i)$ and $(\mu_\alpha, \theta^{i\alpha}) \mapsto (\rho_\alpha, \theta^i, \tilde{\theta}^i)$ with $\pi_{\dot{\alpha}} := \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}$, $\rho_\alpha := \mu_\alpha$, and (2.23a), it is not difficult to see that $\hat{V}^i = \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\eta}_i}$ and $\hat{V}_L = |\pi|^2 \pi_{\dot{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \pi_{\dot{\alpha}}} - \eta_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\eta}_i} + \theta^i \eta_i E_{\hat{W}}$ as well as $\hat{V}_i = \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\theta}^i}$ and $\hat{V}_R = |\rho|^2 \rho_\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho_\alpha} - \theta^i \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\theta}^i} + \theta^i \eta_i E_W$.

as well as $d = \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}} + \partial_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}$ for the exterior derivative on F ; note that also $\partial_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^2 = 0$, which tells us that the distribution $T_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{1,0} F$ is integrable as well.

Quasi-isomorphic CR Complex. Importantly, the only non-vanishing commutator amongst the vector fields (2.26b) is

$$[\hat{V}_L, \hat{V}_R] = 2\theta^i \eta_i \hat{V}_F \quad (2.29)$$

which is the same as (2.25) and so, the twist in (2.26b) mediated by g is a twist by an (outer) automorphism of the CR structure. This implies the following result.

Proposition 2.2. *The cochain complexes $(\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0,\bullet}(F), \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}})$ and $(\Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,\bullet}(F), \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}})$ are (quasi-)isomorphic.*

Proof. To describe $(\Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,\bullet}(F), \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}})$, we work in the basis (2.24). In particular, let us denote the basis (2.24a) collectively as \hat{E}'_A with A, B, \dots multi-indices. The relation between this basis and the basis (2.26b) is then $\hat{V}_A = g\hat{E}'_A g^{-1}$, and by virtue of (2.25) and (2.29), we also obtain

$$[\hat{V}_A, \hat{V}_B] = C_{AB}^C \hat{V}_C \text{ and } [\hat{E}'_A, \hat{E}'_B] = C_{AB}^C \hat{E}'_C \quad (2.30)$$

with $gC_{AB}^C = C_{AB}^C g \Leftrightarrow g^{-1}C_{AB}^C = C_{AB}^C g^{-1}$. For f a function, this implies

$$\hat{V}_A f = 0 \Leftrightarrow \hat{E}'_A(g^{-1}f) = 0 \quad (2.31)$$

and so, the zeroth cohomology groups of $(\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0,\bullet}(F), \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}})$ and $(\Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,\bullet}(F), \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}})$ are isomorphic by means of $f \mapsto g^{-1}f$. Likewise, for $\alpha \in \Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0,1}(F)$, we obtain

$$\hat{V}_A \alpha_B - (-1)^{|A||B|} \hat{V}_B \alpha_A - C_{AB}^C \alpha_C = 0 \quad (2.32a)$$

for the $\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}$ -closure condition and since $g^{-1}C_{AB}^C = C_{AB}^C g^{-1}$, this is equivalent to

$$\hat{E}'_A(g^{-1}\alpha_B) - (-1)^{|A||B|} \hat{E}'_B(g^{-1}\alpha_A) - C_{AB}^C(g^{-1}\alpha_C) = 0. \quad (2.32b)$$

Since also

$$\alpha_A \mapsto \alpha_A + \hat{V}_A f \Leftrightarrow g^{-1}\alpha_A \mapsto g^{-1}\alpha_A + \hat{E}'_A(g^{-1}f), \quad (2.32c)$$

we thus conclude that the first cohomology groups of $(\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0,\bullet}(F), \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}})$ and $(\Omega_{\text{CR}}^{0,\bullet}(F), \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}})$ are isomorphic by means of $(\alpha_A, f) \mapsto (g^{-1}\alpha_A, g^{-1}f)$. The general case now follows straightforwardly. \square

Quasi-isomorphic Differential Graded Lie Algebras. Proposition 2.2 shows that the asymptotically free fields²⁴ of the CR holomorphic Chern–Simons equations for the differential graded Lie algebras \mathfrak{L}_{CR} and $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}$ defined in (2.21) and (2.22) are isomorphic. For a full equivalence, it remains to show the following.

²⁴i.e. physically, the labels in would-be scattering amplitudes and mathematically, the cohomologies of the CR complexes.

Proposition 2.3. *The CR holomorphic Chern–Simons equations of motion²⁵ defined by the differential graded Lie algebras \mathfrak{L}_{CR} and $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}$ from (2.21) and (2.22) are equivalent, that is, \mathfrak{L}_{CR} and $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}$ are (quasi-)isomorphic as differential graded Lie algebras.*

Proof. The quasi-isomorphism in Proposition 2.2 is mediated by g as defined in (2.26a), and we now need to show that the wedge products are mapped consistently into each other under this quasi-isomorphism. This, however, is a direct consequence of the identity

$$g[g^{-1}\alpha_{A_1 A_2 \dots}, g^{-1}\beta_{B_1 B_2 \dots}] = [\alpha_{A_1 A_2 \dots}, \beta_{B_1 B_2 \dots}] \quad (2.33)$$

for any $\alpha, \beta \in \Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0, \bullet}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$ where we have used the notation of the proof of Proposition 2.2. Note that this identity follows straightforwardly upon setting $c(t) := [e^{-tX}\alpha_{A_1 A_2 \dots}, e^{-tX}\beta_{B_1 B_2 \dots}]$ for all $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and with $X := \tilde{\theta}^i \eta_i E_{\text{W}} + \theta^i \tilde{\eta}_i E_{\tilde{\text{W}}}$ the vector field in the definition (2.26a) of g . Then, we obtain the differential equation $\dot{c}(t) = -Xc(t)$ which has the general solution $c(t) = e^{-tX}c(0)$. The identity now follows for $t = 1$. \square

Recall the notion of \mathbb{R}^4 -triviality from around (2.18).

Corollary 2.4. *For an \mathbb{R}^4 -trivial complex vector bundle over the augmented CR ambitwistor space F , the twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons equation*

$$\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}} A + \frac{1}{2}[A, A] = 0 \quad (2.34)$$

for $A \in \Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0, 1}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$ is equivalent to the equations of motion of $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory on Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^4 .

Proof. This is a direct consequence of Proposition 2.3 and our discussion around (2.17). \square

Witten Gauge. The graded algebra $\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0, \bullet}(F)$ is generated by the differential forms (2.26c), and the coefficient functions generically depend on all the fermionic coordinates η_i^α and $\theta^{i\alpha}$ or, equivalently, on $(\eta_i, \tilde{\eta}_i)$ and $(\theta^i, \tilde{\theta}^i)$ via (2.23a). We now let $\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}^{0, \bullet}(F) \subseteq \Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0, \bullet}(F)$ be the graded subalgebra of $\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0, \bullet}(F)$ that is generated by only the bosonic differential forms from (2.26c) and with coefficient functions which have a dependence on the fermionic coordinates only through the CR holomorphic combinations η_i and θ^i . This graded algebra is augmented to a differential graded algebra via the differential

$$\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}} := \hat{v}^{\text{F}} \hat{V}_{\text{F}} + \hat{v}^{\text{L}} \hat{V}_{\text{L}} + \hat{v}^{\text{R}} \hat{V}_{\text{R}}, \quad (2.35)$$

and we arrive at a third differential graded Lie algebra

$$\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}} := (\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}^{0, \bullet}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}, \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}, [-, -]). \quad (2.36)$$

Proposition 2.5. *The CR holomorphic Chern–Simons equations of motion defined by the differential graded Lie algebras $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}$ and $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}$ from (2.22) and (2.36) (in their Batalin–Vilkovisky formulation including ghosts and anti-fields)²⁶ are equivalent, that is, $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}$ and $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}$ are quasi-isomorphic.*

²⁵physically: in their Batalin–Vilkovisky formulation including ghosts and anti-fields; see the discussion following (2.21).

²⁶See discussion following (2.21).

Proof. The proof requires some preliminary considerations and is postponed to Appendix A.2. \square

From a physical perspective, and for physical on-shell fields, the result is not surprising: it merely means that we can impose the Witten gauge

$$\hat{V}^i \lrcorner A = 0 = \hat{V}_i \lrcorner A \quad (2.37)$$

with \hat{V}^i and \hat{V}_i the (commuting) fermionic vector fields. In this gauge, the remaining components of A will depend on the fermionic coordinates only CR holomorphically via η_i and θ^i . This gauge is very familiar from holomorphic Chern–Simons theory on Penrose’s twistor space [11].

As we shall see next, the Witten gauge makes the twisted CR holomorphic equation of motion (2.34) variational provided, of course, the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} is a metric Lie algebra.

3. CR Ambitwistor Action and Its Space-Time Interpretation

In the following, we shall assume that the Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} also comes with an (invariant) metric $\langle -, - \rangle$.

3.1. CR Ambitwistor Action

CR Holomorphic Volume Form. To write down a Chern–Simons-type action, we need to construct an appropriate volume form. To this end, we consider the twisted CR holomorphic differential form

$$\omega_{\text{CR, tw}} := v^F \wedge v^W \wedge v^{\hat{W}} \wedge v^L \wedge v^R \wedge d\eta_1 \wedge d\eta_2 \wedge d\eta_3 \wedge d\theta^1 \wedge d\theta^2 \wedge d\theta^3. \quad (3.1)$$

Note that we may replace $d\eta_i$ by v_i and $d\theta^i$ by v^i because of the appearance of v^L and v^R and as follows from (2.23).²⁷ For the same reason, the terms proportional to $\tilde{\theta}^i \tilde{\eta}_i$ in v^W and $v^{\hat{W}}$ drop out. Hence, $\omega_{\text{CR, tw}}$ depends on the fermionic coordinates only via the CR holomorphic combinations η_i and θ^i . This allows use now to transition to integral forms by requiring the Berezin integrations²⁸

$$\int d\eta_i \eta_j := \delta_{ij} \text{ and } \int d\theta^i \theta^j := \delta^{ij} \quad (3.2)$$

for the CR holomorphic coordinates. Consequently, we arrive at the integral form

$$\omega_{\text{CR, tw}} \mapsto \Omega_{\text{CR, tw}} := v^F \wedge v^W \wedge v^{\hat{W}} \wedge v^L \wedge v^R \otimes \underbrace{d\eta_1 d\eta_2 d\eta_3}_{=: d^3 \eta} \underbrace{d\theta^1 d\theta^2 d\theta^3}_{=: d^3 \theta} \quad (3.3)$$

which we call the twisted CR holomorphic volume form. It is now not too difficult to see that because of (3.2), $\Omega_{\text{CR, tw}}$ is of homogeneity zero and thus, globally well defined on F . It is also $\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw}}$ -closed which is a direct consequence of the commutation relations amongst the vector fields (2.26b) and (2.28a).

²⁷See also Footnote 1 on page Page 10.

²⁸By a slight abuse of notation, we shall use the same symbol to denote the integral form corresponding to a differential form.

CR Holomorphic Chern–Simons Form and Action. Furthermore, the terms proportional to $\theta^i \eta_i$ in v^W and $v^{\tilde{W}}$ in (3.3) also drop out in the wedge product of (3.3) with the twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons form

$$\text{CS}_{\text{CR, tw}} := \frac{1}{2} \langle A, \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw}} A \rangle + \frac{1}{3!} \langle A, [A, A] \rangle, \quad (3.4a)$$

where now $A \in \Omega_{\text{CR, tw, red}}^{0,1}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$ is taken to be in the Witten gauge (2.37) the latter of which we can always assume by virtue of Proposition 2.5. Therefore, in the Witten gauge, the twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons equation (2.34) follows upon varying the twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons action²⁹

$$S := \int \Omega_{\text{CR, tw}} \wedge \text{CS}_{\text{CR, tw}}. \quad (3.4b)$$

Remark 3.1. Note that the action (3.4b) can be understood to live on the real $8|12$ -dimensional submanifold $L \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4 \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ inside the augmented CR ambitwistor space F with L the pull-back of the fermionic holomorphic vector bundle $[\mathcal{O}(1, 0) \oplus \mathcal{O}(0, 1)] \otimes \mathbb{C}^{0|3} \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ to the body $\mathbb{R}^4 \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ of F . We shall call L the CR ambitwistor space.

We have the commutative triangle of fibrations

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & F & \\ \pi_2 \swarrow & & \searrow \pi_1 \\ L & \xrightarrow{\pi_3} & \mathbb{R}^4 \end{array} \quad (3.5)$$

where π_1 is the trivial projection $\mathbb{R}^4 \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$, $\pi_2 : (x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, \eta_i^{\dot{\alpha}}, \theta^{i\alpha}, \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \mu_{\alpha}) \mapsto (x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, \eta_i, \theta^i, \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}}, \mu_{\alpha})$ with the tangent spaces of the fibres of π_2 spanned by the (commuting) fermionic vector fields \hat{V}^i and \hat{V}_i , and π_3 is the concatenation of the bundle projection $L \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4 \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1$ and the trivial projection $\mathbb{R}^4 \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^4$.

Consequently, the twisted CR holomorphic volume form in (3.4b) can be taken to be

$$\Omega_{\text{CR, tw}} \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{CR, tw, red}} := e^F \wedge e^W \wedge e^{\tilde{W}} \wedge e^L \wedge e^R \otimes \underbrace{d\eta_1 d\eta_2 d\eta_3}_{=: d^3 \eta} \underbrace{d\theta^1 d\theta^2 d\theta^3}_{=: d^3 \theta}, \quad (3.6a)$$

where now e^F , e^W , $e^{\tilde{W}}$, e^L , and e^R are as in (2.8). Likewise, the differential $\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw}}$ in (3.4a) can be taken to be the reduced differential given in (2.35), that is,

$$\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw}} \rightarrow \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw, red}} = \hat{e}^F \hat{E}_F + \hat{e}^L (\hat{E}_L + \theta^i \eta_i E_{\tilde{W}}) + \hat{e}^R (\hat{E}_R + \theta^i \eta_i E_W), \quad (3.6b)$$

where now \hat{e}^F , \hat{e}^L , and \hat{e}^R are as in (2.8). By construction, $\Omega_{\text{CR, tw, red}}$ is $\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw, red}}$ -closed.

²⁹We note that this action is similar in spirit of the Chern–Simons actions discussed e.g. in [17, 71–73].

Batalin–Vilkovisky Action. We may also consider the Batalin–Vilkovisky extension of the CR ambitwistor action (3.4b). This action is obtained by replacing the Lie-algebra valued $(0, 1)$ -form A in the twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons form with a general element $\mathcal{A} \in \Omega_{\text{CR, tw, red}}^{0, \bullet}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$. Such an element is of the form

$$\mathcal{A} = C + A + A^+ + C^+ \quad (3.7a)$$

with $C \in \Omega_{\text{CR, tw, red}}^{0, 0}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$ the ghost, $A^+ \in \Omega_{\text{CR, tw, red}}^{0, 2}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$ the anti-field of the gauge potential A , and $C^+ \in \Omega_{\text{CR, tw, red}}^{0, 3}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$ the anti-field of C . In terms of these component fields, the corresponding Batalin–Vilkovisky action reads as

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{BV}} := \int \Omega_{\text{CR, tw}} \wedge & \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \langle A, \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw}} A \rangle + \frac{1}{3!} \langle A, [A, A] \rangle \right. \\ & \left. + \langle A^+, \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw}} C + [A, C] \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle C^+, [C, C] \rangle \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.7b)$$

3.2. Equivalence to $\mathcal{N} = 3$ Supersymmetric Yang–Mills Theory

Proposition 2.1 shows that the twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons equation of motion and the equations of motion of $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory are equivalent. In the remainder of this paper, we shall demonstrate that this equivalence extends to the level of the ambitwistor action (3.4b) and its Batalin–Vilkovisky extension (3.7b), culminating in Theorem 3.5. Equivalence here is again precisely the semi-classical equivalence mentioned above, i.e. L_∞ -quasi-isomorphism. Concretely, the differential graded Lie algebra defined by the CR holomorphic Chern–Simons action (3.7b) and the differential graded Lie algebra defined by the first-order Batalin–Vilkovisky action (3.11) are quasi-isomorphic.

Furthermore, this L_∞ -quasi-isomorphism can be phrased as a homotopy transfer and thus, physically, corresponds to integrating out infinitely many auxiliary fields in the action (3.7b). For the reader’s convenience, we summarise the key formulas about homotopy transfer in Appendix A.2.

The proof of the corresponding theorems, Theorem 3.5 and Theorem 3.6, is broken down into several steps. Firstly, we give a brief review of the first-order formulation of Yang–Mills theory and its Batalin–Vilkovisky extension. Secondly, we establish that there is a cyclic quasi-isomorphism between the cochain complexes underlying both theories. Finally, we show that this quasi-isomorphism extends to an L_∞ -quasi-isomorphism between the differential graded Lie algebras governing both theories and that this quasi-isomorphism is a homotopy transfer. To keep the formulas manageable, we shall restrict the explicit parts of our calculations to the R-symmetry singlets of the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ multiplet, that is, to the gluons. The full equivalence follows then from covariance of all our constructions under supersymmetry.

First-Order Yang–Mills Action. As before, let \mathfrak{g} be a Lie algebra with Lie bracket $[-, -]$ and inner product $\langle -, - \rangle$. The standard second-order Yang–Mills action is

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \left\{ \langle f^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, f_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \rangle + \langle f^{\alpha\beta}, f_{\alpha\beta} \rangle \right\}, \quad (3.8a)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} &:= \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} \{ \partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} A_{\beta\dot{\beta}} - \partial_{\beta\dot{\beta}} A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} + [A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, A_{\beta\dot{\beta}}] \} \\ &= \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} \partial_{\alpha(\dot{\alpha}} A_{\beta\dot{\beta})} + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} [A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, A_{\beta\dot{\beta}}], \\ f_{\alpha\beta} &:= \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \{ \partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} A_{\beta\dot{\beta}} - \partial_{\beta\dot{\beta}} A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} + [A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, A_{\beta\dot{\beta}}] \} \\ &= \varepsilon^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \partial_{(\alpha\dot{\alpha}} A_{\beta\dot{\beta})} + \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} [A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, A_{\beta\dot{\beta}}] \end{aligned} \quad (3.8b)$$

are the anti-self-dual and self-dual parts of the curvature of the Lie-algebra-valued one-form $A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}$. Introducing the anti-self-dual, $B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} = B_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\alpha}}$, and self-dual, $B_{\alpha\beta} = B_{\beta\alpha}$, parts of an auxiliary Lie-algebra valued auxiliary two-form transforming in the adjoint representation of the gauge group, we can write the first-order action of Yang–Mills theory as

$$S = \int d^4x \left\{ \langle B^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, f_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} - \frac{1}{2} B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \rangle + \langle B^{\alpha\beta}, f_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{2} B_{\alpha\beta} \rangle \right\}. \quad (3.9)$$

Evidently, upon integrating out $B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}$ and $B_{\alpha\beta}$, we recover the second-order Yang–Mills action (3.8a). The equations of motion following from (3.9) read as

$$f_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} = B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, \quad f_{\alpha\beta} = B_{\alpha\beta}, \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon^{\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma}} \nabla_{\alpha\dot{\beta}} B_{\dot{\gamma}\dot{\alpha}} + \varepsilon^{\beta\gamma} \nabla_{\beta\dot{\alpha}} B_{\gamma\alpha} = 0 \quad (3.10a)$$

where, as before, $\nabla_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = \partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} + [A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, -]$. Because of the Bianchi identity,

$$\varepsilon^{\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma}} \nabla_{\alpha\dot{\beta}} f_{\dot{\gamma}\dot{\alpha}} - \varepsilon^{\beta\gamma} \nabla_{\beta\dot{\alpha}} f_{\gamma\alpha} = 0, \quad (3.10b)$$

the equations of motion (3.10a) are equivalent to

$$f_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} = B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, \quad f_{\alpha\beta} = B_{\alpha\beta}, \quad \varepsilon^{\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma}} \nabla_{\alpha\dot{\beta}} B_{\dot{\gamma}\dot{\alpha}} = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad \varepsilon^{\beta\gamma} \nabla_{\beta\dot{\alpha}} B_{\gamma\alpha} = 0. \quad (3.10c)$$

Furthermore, the Batalin–Vilkovisky extension of the first-order Yang–Mills action (3.9) reads as

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{BV}} = \int d^4x \left\{ \langle B^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, f_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} - \frac{1}{2} B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \rangle + \langle B^{\alpha\beta}, f_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{2} B_{\alpha\beta} \rangle \right. \\ \left. + \langle A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+, \nabla^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} c \rangle + \langle B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}^+, [B^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, c] \rangle + \langle B_{\alpha\beta}^+, [B^{\alpha\beta}, c] \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle c^+, [c, c] \rangle \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

where c is the ghost field, and $A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+$, $B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}^+ = B_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\alpha}}^+$, $B_{\alpha\beta}^+ = B_{\beta\alpha}^+$, and c^+ are the evident anti-fields.

As familiar from the example of Chern–Simons theory, also this action defines a differential graded Lie algebra $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ with the underlying cochain

complex

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \underbrace{\Omega^0(\mathbb{R}^4)^c \otimes \mathfrak{g}}_{=: \mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1, 0}} & \xrightarrow{\partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} & \underbrace{\Omega^1(\mathbb{R}^4)^{A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} \otimes \mathfrak{g}}_{=: \mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1, 1}} & \xrightarrow{\partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} & \underbrace{\Omega^1(\mathbb{R}^4)^{A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}}^+ \otimes \mathfrak{g}}_{=: \mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1, 2}} & \xrightarrow{\partial^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} & \underbrace{\Omega^0(\mathbb{R}^4)^{c^+} \otimes \mathfrak{g}}_{=: \mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1, 3}} \\
 & & \oplus & & \oplus & & \\
 & & \underbrace{\Omega^2(\mathbb{R}^4)^{B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, B_{\alpha\beta}} \otimes \mathfrak{g}}_{=: \mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1, 1}} & \xrightarrow{\partial^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} & \underbrace{\Omega^2(\mathbb{R}^4)^{B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}^+, B_{\alpha\beta}^+} \otimes \mathfrak{g}}_{=: \mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1, 2}} & & \\
 & & \searrow & \xrightarrow{-\text{id}} & \searrow & &
 \end{array} \tag{3.12a}$$

and the binary products μ_2 defined by

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu_2(c_1, c_2) &:= [c_1, c_2], \quad \mu_2(c, A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}) := [c, A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}], \\
 \mu_2(c, B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}) &:= [c, B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}], \quad \mu_2(c, B_{\alpha\beta}) := [c, B_{\alpha\beta}], \\
 \mu_2(c, c^+) &:= [c, c^+], \quad \mu_2(c, A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+) := -[c, A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+], \\
 \mu_2(c, B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}^+) &:= -[c, B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}^+], \quad \mu_2(c, B_{\alpha\beta}^+) := -[c, B_{\alpha\beta}^+], \\
 \mu_2(A_{1\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, A_{2\beta\dot{\beta}}) &:= \frac{1}{2}(\varepsilon^{\alpha\beta}[A_{1\alpha(\dot{\alpha}}, A_{2\beta\dot{\beta}}], \varepsilon^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}[A_{1(\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, A_{2\beta\dot{\beta}})]), \\
 \mu_2(A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, B_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma}}) &:= \varepsilon^{\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma}}[A_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}, B_{\dot{\gamma}\dot{\alpha}}], \quad \mu_2(A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, B_{\beta\gamma}) := \varepsilon^{\beta\gamma}[A_{\beta\dot{\alpha}}, B_{\gamma\dot{\alpha}}], \\
 \mu_2(A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, A_{\beta\dot{\beta}}^+) &:= -[A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, A_{\beta\dot{\beta}}^+], \\
 \mu_2(B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, B_{\dot{\gamma}\dot{\delta}}^+) &:= -[B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, B_{\dot{\gamma}\dot{\delta}}^+], \quad \mu_2(B_{\alpha\beta}, B_{\gamma\delta}^+) := -[B^{\alpha\beta}, B_{\alpha\beta}^+].
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.12b}$$

One can show that this first-order formulation is semi-classically equivalent to the second-order formulation following the constructions in [26, 74, 75]. The same applies to the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension.

Embedding of Theories. Consider the differential graded Lie algebras $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}$ and $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ defined in (2.36) and (3.12a), respectively, and define a degree-zero morphism of graded vector spaces

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{e} : \mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1} &\rightarrow \mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}, \\
 c &\mapsto C, \quad \begin{pmatrix} A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \\ B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, B_{\alpha\beta} \end{pmatrix} \mapsto A, \quad \begin{pmatrix} A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+ \\ B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}^+, B_{\alpha\beta}^+ \end{pmatrix} \mapsto A^+, \quad c^+ \mapsto C^+
 \end{aligned} \tag{3.13a}$$

between the field space of first-order Yang–Mills theory and the field space of CR holomorphic Chern–Simons theory by setting

$$C := c \text{ and } C^+ := \hat{v}^{\text{F}} \wedge \hat{v}^{\text{L}} \wedge \hat{v}^{\text{R}} (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \frac{4}{3} c^+, \tag{3.13b}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 A := \hat{v}^F \Bigg\{ & A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \mu^\alpha \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} - \theta^i \eta_i \left(\frac{B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}}}{|\lambda|^2} - \frac{B_{\alpha\beta} \mu^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta}{|\mu|^2} \right) \\
 & - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \left(\frac{\partial_{\alpha(\dot{\alpha}} B_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma})} \hat{\mu}^\alpha \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\gamma}}}{2|\mu|^2 |\lambda|^4} + \frac{\partial_{(\alpha\dot{\alpha}} B_{\beta\gamma)} \mu^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta \hat{\mu}^\gamma \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{2|\mu|^4 |\lambda|^2} \right) \\
 & - (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \left(\frac{\partial_{\alpha(\dot{\alpha}} \partial_{\beta\dot{\beta}} B_{\gamma\dot{\gamma})} \hat{\mu}^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\gamma}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\delta}}}{6|\mu|^4 |\lambda|^6} - \frac{\partial_{(\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \partial_{\beta\dot{\beta}} B_{\gamma\dot{\gamma})} \mu^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta \hat{\mu}^\gamma \hat{\mu}^\delta \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}}}{6|\mu|^6 |\lambda|^4} \right) \Bigg\} \\
 & + \hat{v}^L \left\{ -\theta^i \eta_i \frac{A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\mu}^\alpha \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{3B_{\alpha\beta} \hat{\mu}^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta}{2|\mu|^4} + (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \frac{5\partial_{(\alpha\dot{\alpha}} B_{\beta\gamma)} \hat{\mu}^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta \hat{\mu}^\gamma \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{6|\mu|^6 |\lambda|^2} \right\} \\
 & + \hat{v}^R \left\{ \theta^i \eta_i \frac{A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \mu^\alpha \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{3B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}}}{2|\lambda|^4} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \frac{5\partial_{\alpha(\dot{\alpha}} B_{\beta\dot{\gamma})} \hat{\mu}^\alpha \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\gamma}}}{6|\mu|^2 |\lambda|^6} \right\}, \tag{3.13c}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 A^+ := \hat{v}^L \wedge \hat{v}^R \Bigg\{ & (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \left(\frac{B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}^+ \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}}}{|\lambda|^2} - \frac{B_{\alpha\beta}^+ \mu^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta}{|\mu|^2} \right) + (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \frac{A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+ \hat{\mu}^\alpha \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2 |\lambda|^2} \Bigg\} \\
 & + \hat{v}^F \wedge \hat{v}^L \left\{ -\theta^i \eta_i B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}^+ \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \lambda^{\dot{\beta}} + (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{\hat{\mu}^\alpha \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2} \left(-\frac{5}{6} A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+ - \frac{1}{2} B_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+ \right) \right. \\
 & + (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \frac{\hat{\mu}^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}}}{|\mu|^4 |\lambda|^2} \left(\frac{1}{4} \varepsilon_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \varepsilon^{\dot{\gamma}\dot{\delta}} \partial_{(\alpha\dot{\gamma}} (A_{\beta\dot{\delta}}^+ + B_{\beta\dot{\delta}}^+) + \frac{1}{6} \partial_{(\alpha(\dot{\alpha}} (A_{\beta\dot{\gamma})}^+ + 2B_{\beta\dot{\gamma})}^+) \right) \Bigg\} \\
 & + \hat{v}^F \wedge \hat{v}^R \left\{ \theta^i \eta_i B_{\alpha\beta}^+ \mu^\alpha \mu^\beta + (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{\mu^\alpha \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} \left(-\frac{5}{6} A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+ + \frac{1}{2} B_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+ \right) \right. \\
 & \left. - (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \frac{\mu^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}}}{|\mu|^2 |\lambda|^4} \left(\frac{1}{4} \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} \varepsilon^{\gamma\delta} \partial_{\gamma(\dot{\alpha}} (A_{\delta\dot{\beta}}^+ - B_{\delta\dot{\beta}}^+) + \frac{1}{6} \partial_{(\alpha(\dot{\alpha}} (A_{\beta\dot{\gamma})}^+ - 2B_{\beta\dot{\gamma})}^+) \right) \right\}, \tag{3.13d}
 \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the short-hand notation

$$B_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+ := \varepsilon^{\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma}} \partial_{\alpha\dot{\beta}} B_{\gamma\dot{\alpha}}^+ - \varepsilon^{\beta\gamma} \partial_{\beta\dot{\alpha}} B_{\gamma\alpha}^+. \tag{3.13e}$$

Proposition 3.2. *Restricted to the image of \mathbf{e} defined in (3.13), the action (3.7b) reduces to the action (3.11).*

Proof. The proof follows from a straightforward but lengthy computation. We briefly illustrate the computation using the classical part of the action (3.4b). Firstly, one can check that the derivative terms appearing in the expression of A in (3.13) will not contribute as we are only interested in terms of order $(\theta^i \eta_i)^3$ when computing the action. Next, upon writing

$$\begin{aligned}
 A &= \hat{v}^F A_F + \hat{v}^L A_L + \hat{v}^R A_R \\
 &= \hat{v}^F \sum_n (\theta^i \eta_i)^n A_F^{(n)} + \hat{v}^L \sum_n (\theta^i \eta_i)^n A_L^{(n)} + \hat{v}^R \sum_n (\theta^i \eta_i)^n A_R^{(n)}, \tag{3.14}
 \end{aligned}$$

a straightforward calculation shows that³⁰

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \langle A, \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}} A \rangle \Big|_{(\theta^i \eta_i)^3} \\ &= \hat{e}^{\text{F}} \wedge \hat{e}^{\text{L}} \wedge \hat{e}^{\text{R}} \left\{ \langle A_{\text{F}}^{(1)}, E_{\text{W}} A_{\text{R}}^{(1)} - E_{\text{W}} A_{\text{L}}^{(1)} + \hat{E}_{\text{L}} A_{\text{R}}^{(2)} - \hat{E}_{\text{R}} A_{\text{L}}^{(2)} - A_{\text{F}}^{(1)} \rangle \right. \\ & \quad \left. - \langle A_{\text{L}}^{(2)}, \hat{E}_{\text{F}} A_{\text{R}}^{(1)} - E_{\text{W}} A_{\text{F}}^{(0)} \rangle + \langle A_{\text{R}}^{(2)}, \hat{E}_{\text{F}} A_{\text{L}}^{(1)} - E_{\text{W}} A_{\text{F}}^{(0)} \rangle \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

with the differential forms and vector fields as given in (2.6) and (2.8). Because $e^{\text{F}} \wedge \hat{e}^{\text{F}} \wedge e^{\text{W}} \wedge e^{\hat{\text{W}}}$ is the volume form d^4x on \mathbb{R}^4 up to a multiplicative constant and because of the identities³¹

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int e^{\text{L}} \wedge \hat{e}^{\text{L}} f_{\dot{\alpha}_1 \dots \dot{\alpha}_m} g^{\dot{\beta}_1 \dots \dot{\beta}_m} \frac{\lambda_{\dot{\beta}_1} \dots \lambda_{\dot{\beta}_m} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}_1} \dots \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}_m}}{|\lambda|^{2m}} = \frac{1}{m+1} f_{\dot{\alpha}_1 \dots \dot{\alpha}_m} g^{\dot{\alpha}_1 \dots \dot{\alpha}_m}, \\ & -\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int e^{\text{R}} \wedge \hat{e}^{\text{R}} f_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n} g^{\beta_1 \dots \beta_n} \frac{\mu_{\beta_1} \dots \mu_{\beta_n} \hat{\mu}^{\alpha_1} \dots \hat{\mu}^{\alpha_n}}{|\mu|^{2n}} = \frac{1}{n+1} f_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n} g^{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

the kinematic term (3.15) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}} \wedge \frac{1}{2} \langle A, \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}} A \rangle \\ &= \int d^4x \left\{ \langle B^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} \partial_{\alpha(\dot{\alpha}} A_{\beta\dot{\beta})} - \frac{1}{2} B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \rangle + \langle B^{\alpha\beta}, \varepsilon^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \partial_{(\alpha\dot{\alpha}} A_{\beta)\dot{\beta}} - \frac{1}{2} B_{\alpha\beta} \rangle \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (3.17a)$$

up to an overall multiplicative constant. Likewise, the interaction term becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}} \wedge \frac{1}{3!} \langle A, [A, A] \rangle \\ &= \int d^4x \left\{ \langle B^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}, \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} [A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, A_{\beta\dot{\beta}}] \rangle + \langle B^{\alpha\beta}, \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} [A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, A_{\beta\dot{\beta}}] \rangle \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (3.17b)$$

up to the same overall multiplicative constant. Upon combining the two expressions in (3.17), we conclude that to leading order, the ambitwistor action (3.4b) becomes the first-order Yang–Mills action (3.9), up to an overall multiplicative constant. \square

Physically speaking, we may conclude that the action (3.7b) contains Yang–Mills theory in its first-order formulation, and because our formalism is fully covariant under $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetry, it actually contains $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory. It remains to show that the infinite tower of extra fields not contained in the image of e can be consistently integrated out.

Quasi-isomorphism of Cochain Complexes. Let us now tighten the relation between both actions.

Proposition 3.3. *The morphism of graded vector spaces defined in (3.13) is an injective morphism of cochain complexes. This holds also for the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension.*

³⁰See also (3.6).

³¹Here, $i := \sqrt{-1}$. For details, see e.g. [35].

Proof. It is evident that \mathbf{e} is injective. To check that it is a cochain map, we have to verify that $\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}} \circ \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{e} \circ \mu_1$ where μ_1 is the differential of the cochain complex in (3.12a) and $\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}$ was defined in (2.35). This, however, follows from a direct, albeit lengthy, calculation. \square

Proposition 3.4. *The $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension of the morphism of cochain complexes defined in (3.13) is a quasi-isomorphism of cochain complexes under the assumption of \mathbb{R}^4 -triviality.³²*

Proof. We note that $H^\bullet(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}) \cong H^\bullet(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}})$ by Proposition 2.2 and Proposition 2.5. By Proposition 2.1, we have additionally that $H^p(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}}) \cong H^p(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1})$ for $p = 0, 1$. Therefore,

$$H^p(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}) \cong H^p(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}) \quad (3.18)$$

for $p = 0, 1$. It now remains to show that (3.18) also holds for $p = 2, 3$ and that the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension of \mathbf{e} descends to an isomorphism on cohomology. Both of these statements can be shown by a direct but lengthy computation.

Alternatively, we can invoke the existence³³ of a Hodge–Kodaira decomposition³⁴ compatible with the natural inner product structure on $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ and $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}$, the latter of which pairs elements of degree 0 and 3 as well as elements of degree 1 and 2, respectively. This non-degenerate pairing descends to a non-degenerate pairing on the cohomologies, and we obtain the isomorphisms (3.18) for $p = 2, 3$ from those for $p = 0, 1$ in this manner.³⁵

The fact that the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension of \mathbf{e} descends to an isomorphism on cohomologies follows similarly. Evidently, it descends to an injection on the cohomologies but it remains to show that this is a surjection as well.³⁶ However, a direct computation shows surjectivity $H^p(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}) \rightarrow H^p(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}})$ for $p = 0, 1$, and surjectivity for $p = 2, 3$ can again be gleaned from the cyclic Hodge–Kodaira decomposition. \square

Equivalence Theorems. Let us now promote \mathbf{e} to a full quasi-isomorphism of differential graded Lie algebras, which take the following form.³⁷ Given two differential graded Lie algebras $\mathfrak{L}^{(1)}$ and $\mathfrak{L}^{(2)}$ with differentials $\mu_1^{(1)}$ and $\mu_1^{(2)}$ and binary products $\mu_2^{(1)}$ and $\mu_2^{(2)}$, a weak morphism

$$\mathbf{E} : \mathfrak{L}^{(1)} \rightarrow \mathfrak{L}^{(2)} \quad (3.19a)$$

³²See around (2.18) for the notion of \mathbb{R}^4 -triviality.

³³See e.g. [29, 76].

³⁴See Appendix A.2.

³⁵Strictly speaking, this argument needs to be refined since we are working with infinite-dimensional vector spaces; see Remark A.5 for further details on this point.

³⁶A priori, this is not clear, as the cohomology groups are infinite-dimensional vector spaces.

³⁷See [26] for our conventions of quasi-isomorphism of L_∞ -algebras.

consists of a collection of maps $E_i : \mathfrak{L}^{(1)} \times \cdots \times \mathfrak{L}^{(1)} \rightarrow \mathfrak{L}^{(2)}$ of degree $1 - i$ for $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ which satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{j+k=i} \sum_{\sigma \in \overline{\text{Sh}}(j; i)} (-1)^k \chi(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) E_{k+1}(\mu_j^{(1)}(\ell_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, \ell_{\sigma(j)}), \ell_{\sigma(j+1)}, \dots, \ell_{\sigma(i)}) \\ &= \sum_{j=1}^i \frac{1}{j!} \sum_{k_1 + \dots + k_j = i} \sum_{\sigma \in \overline{\text{Sh}}(k_1, \dots, k_{j-1}; i)} \chi(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) \zeta(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) \\ & \quad \times \mu_j^{(2)}(E_{k_1}(\ell_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, \ell_{\sigma(k_1)}), \dots, E_{k_j}(\ell_{\sigma(k_1 + \dots + k_{j-1} + 1)}, \dots, \ell_{\sigma(i)})) \end{aligned} \quad (3.19b)$$

for all $\ell_1, \ell_2, \ell_3, \dots \in \mathfrak{L}^{(1)}$, where the sum is over unshuffles, $\chi(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i)$ is the Koszul sign, and $\zeta(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i)$ for a $(k_1, \dots, k_{j-1}; i)$ -unshuffle σ is defined as

$$\zeta(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) := (-1)^{\sum_{1 \leq m < n \leq j} k_m k_n + \sum_{m=1}^{j-1} k_m(j-m) + \sum_{m=2}^j (1-k_m) \sum_{k=1}^{k_1 + \dots + k_{m-1}} |\ell_{\sigma(k)}|}. \quad (3.19c)$$

A weak morphisms becomes a quasi-isomorphism if and only if E_1 descends to an isomorphism on cohomology. Note that (3.19) are the defining relations for a *morphism of L_∞ -algebras* if we allow for higher products $\mu_i^{(1)}$ and $\mu_i^{(2)}$ with $i = 3, 4, \dots$. See e.g. [26, 77] for details.

Returning to our differential graded Lie algebras $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}$ and $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ defined in (3.12a) and (2.36), we take E with only E_1 , E_2 , and E_3 nonzero and given by

$$E := e|_{\partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \rightarrow \nabla_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}} \text{ with } \nabla_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = \partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} + [A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}, -] \quad (3.20)$$

with e as defined in (3.13).³⁸ Evidently, $E_1 = e$. We have now all the ingredients to state and prove the first central result.³⁹

Theorem 3.5. *Let us assume \mathbb{R}^4 -triviality.⁴⁰ Then, the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension of the map E defined in (3.20) is a cyclic-structure preserving weak quasi-isomorphism between the differential graded Lie algebras $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ and $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}$ defined in (2.36) and (3.12a). Put differently, the twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons theory defined by the Batalin–Vilkovisky CR ambiwistor action (3.7b) is semi-classically equivalent to $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory defined by the Batalin–Vilkovisky space-time action (3.11)*

Proof. A lengthy but straightforward computation shows that the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension of the map E defines a weak morphism of differential graded Lie algebras in the sense of (3.19). Since $E_1 = e$ descends to an isomorphism on cohomology, this shows that it is a quasi-isomorphism. Finally, the cyclicity-preserving property follows from the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension of Proposition 3.2. \square

³⁸Note that this morphism is reminiscent of the ‘on-shell’ expansions [10, 17, 78–80] in the self-dual sector, although these references only discuss gauge potentials.

³⁹In the self-dual sector and in the fully complex setting, the Penrose–Ward transform was shown to be a quasi-isomorphism using spans of L_∞ -algebras and homotopy transfer in [81].

⁴⁰See around (2.18) for the notion of \mathbb{R}^4 -triviality.

Note that if we let $\mathcal{F}_{\text{CR, tw, red}}$ and $\mathcal{F}_{\text{YM}_1}$ be the equations of motion of the twisted CR holomorphic Chern–Simons theory and the first-order $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory in their Batalin–Vilkovisky forms, then the quasi-isomorphism relations (3.19) amount to the fact that $\mathcal{F}_{\text{CR, tw, red}} \circ \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{E} \circ \mathcal{F}_{\text{YM}_1}$, that is, the embedding commutes with applying the equations of motion.

Note also that the above theorem does not imply that $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ is obtained from $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR, tw, red}}$ by integrating out some of the fields: the latter corresponds to a homotopy transfer, which is a stronger requirement than that of a quasi-isomorphism; see e.g. [81] for a discussion of this point. We have, however, also the following result:

Theorem 3.6. *There is a quasi-isomorphism from the differential graded Lie algebra $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR, tw, red}}$ defined in (2.36) to the differential graded Lie algebra $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ defined in (3.12a) which is computed by homotopy transfer. Put differently, integrating out the fields complementary to the image of the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension of the embedding \mathbf{e} defined in (3.13) in the CR ambitwistor action (3.7b) yields the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension of the space-time action (3.11).*

Proof. Because the $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension of \mathbf{e} defined in (3.13) is an injective quasi-isomorphism between the cochain complexes underlying $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ and $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR, tw, red}}$, by Proposition A.3, we have a special deformation retract⁴¹

$$\mathbf{h} \left(\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR, tw, red}}, \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw, red}} \right) \xrightleftharpoons[\mathbf{e}]{\mathbf{p}} (\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}, \mu_1), \quad (3.21)$$

where μ_1 is the differential of the cochain complex in (3.12a) and $\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw, red}}$ as defined in (2.35).

To construct the projection \mathbf{p} explicitly, as for \mathbf{e} , we restrict our discussion to the R-singlets for simplicity, that is, to the gluonic sector. The $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric extension follows straightforwardly. In particular, we expand $\mathcal{A} \in \Omega_{\text{CR, tw, red}}^{0, \bullet}(F) \otimes \mathfrak{g}$ as $\mathcal{A} = C + A + A^+ + C^+$ with

$$\begin{aligned} C &= c + \dots, \\ A &= \hat{v}^F \left\{ A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^F \mu^\alpha \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} - \theta^i \eta_i \left(\frac{B_{\dot{\alpha}\beta}^F \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}}}{|\lambda|^2} - \frac{B_{\alpha\beta}^F \mu^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta}{|\mu|^2} \right) \right\} \\ &\quad + \hat{v}^L \left\{ -\theta^i \eta_i \frac{A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^L \hat{\mu}^\alpha \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{3B_{\alpha\beta}^L \hat{\mu}^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta}{2|\mu|^4} \right\} \\ &\quad + \hat{v}^R \left\{ \theta^i \eta_i \frac{A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^R \mu^\alpha \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{3B_{\dot{\alpha}\beta}^R \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}}}{2|\lambda|^4} \right\} + \dots, \\ A^+ &:= \hat{v}^L \wedge \hat{v}^R \left\{ (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \left(\frac{B_{\dot{\alpha}\beta}^{+LR} \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\beta}}}{|\lambda|^2} - \frac{B_{\alpha\beta}^{+LR} \mu^\alpha \hat{\mu}^\beta}{|\mu|^2} \right) + (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \frac{A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^{+LR} \hat{\mu}^\alpha \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2 |\lambda|^2} \right\} \end{aligned}$$

⁴¹i.e. (A.23a) with the conditions (A.24) satisfied.

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \hat{v}^F \wedge \hat{v}^L \left\{ -\theta^i \eta_i B_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}^{+FL} \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}} \lambda^{\dot{\beta}} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{5\hat{\mu}^\alpha \lambda^{\dot{\alpha}}}{6|\mu|^2} A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^{+FL} \right\} \\
& + \hat{v}^F \wedge \hat{v}^R \left\{ \theta^i \eta_i B_{\alpha\beta}^{+FR} \mu^\alpha \mu^\beta - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{5\hat{\mu}^\alpha \hat{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{6|\lambda|^2} A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^{+FR} \right\} + \dots, \\
C^+ &= \hat{v}^F \wedge \hat{v}^L \wedge \hat{v}^R (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \frac{4}{3} c^{+FLR} + \dots, \tag{3.22}
\end{aligned}$$

where all the coefficients $A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^F, \dots$ depend only on $x^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}$ and the ellipses denote all the other terms that are possible in the (θ^i, η_i) -expansion as well as in the Kaluza–Klein expansion along $\mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1$. The projection \mathfrak{p} will then project onto linear combinations of these coefficients whose explicit forms are determined by the requirement that $\mathfrak{p} \circ \mathfrak{e} = \text{id}$. Explicitly, we may set

$$\begin{aligned}
c &:= \int \text{vol} (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 C, \\
\begin{pmatrix} A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \\ B_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \end{pmatrix} &:= \int \text{vol} \begin{pmatrix} (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \left(\frac{\Delta \mu_{\dot{\alpha}} \dot{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} - \frac{\Delta \eta_{\dot{\alpha}} \dot{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2} \right) + (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \left(\frac{\Delta \mu_{\dot{\alpha}} \dot{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2} + V_F G(A) \mu_{\alpha} \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}} \right) \\ \theta^i \eta_i G(\hat{V}_R \lrcorner \bar{\partial}_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}} A) \lambda_{\alpha} \lambda_{\dot{\beta}} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{G(\hat{V}_F \lrcorner \bar{\partial}_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}} A) \lambda_{\alpha} \lambda_{\dot{\beta}}}{|\lambda|^2} + \theta^i \eta_i (1 + \theta^j \eta_j V_F) G(\hat{V}_R \lrcorner \bar{\partial}_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}} A) \lambda_{\alpha} \lambda_{\dot{\beta}} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \frac{V_F G(\hat{V}_F \lrcorner \bar{\partial}_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}} A) \lambda_{\alpha} \lambda_{\dot{\beta}}}{|\lambda|^2} \\ \theta^i \eta_i G(\hat{V}_L \lrcorner \bar{\partial}_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}} A) \mu_{\alpha} \mu_{\dot{\beta}} + (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{G(\hat{V}_F \lrcorner \bar{\partial}_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}} A) \mu_{\alpha} \mu_{\dot{\beta}}}{|\mu|^2} + \theta^i \eta_i (-1 + \theta^j \eta_j V_F) G(\hat{V}_L \lrcorner \bar{\partial}_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}} A) \mu_{\alpha} \mu_{\dot{\beta}} + (\theta^i \eta_i)^3 \frac{V_F G(\hat{V}_F \lrcorner \bar{\partial}_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}} A) \mu_{\alpha} \mu_{\dot{\beta}}}{|\mu|^2} \end{pmatrix}, \\
\begin{pmatrix} A_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+ \\ B_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^+ \end{pmatrix} &:= \int \text{vol} \begin{pmatrix} \mu_{\alpha} \lambda_{\dot{\alpha}} A_{LR}^+ + \theta^i \eta_i \left(\frac{\Delta \hat{V}_F \mu_{\alpha} \dot{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} + \frac{\Delta \hat{V}_R \mu_{\alpha} \dot{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2} \right) + \theta^i \eta_i \mu_{\alpha} \lambda_{\dot{\beta}} V_F A_{LR}^+ + \theta^i \eta_i \left\{ \frac{(-1 + \theta^j \eta_j V_F) \Delta \hat{V}_F \mu_{\alpha} \dot{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\lambda|^2} + \frac{(1 + \theta^j \eta_j V_F) \Delta \hat{V}_R \mu_{\alpha} \dot{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}}{|\mu|^2} \right\} \\ \theta^i \eta_i G(\hat{V}_R \lrcorner A^+) \lambda_{\alpha} \lambda_{\dot{\beta}} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{G(\hat{V}_F \lrcorner A^+) \lambda_{\alpha} \lambda_{\dot{\beta}}}{|\lambda|^2} - \theta^i \eta_i \frac{A_{LR}^+ \lambda_{\alpha} \lambda_{\dot{\beta}}}{|\lambda|^2} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{\Delta \hat{V}_F \lambda_{\alpha} \dot{\lambda}_{\dot{\beta}}}{|\lambda|^4} \\ \theta^i \eta_i G(\hat{V}_L \lrcorner A^+) \mu_{\alpha} \mu_{\dot{\beta}} + (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{G(\hat{V}_F \lrcorner A^+) \mu_{\alpha} \mu_{\dot{\beta}}}{|\mu|^2} - \theta^i \eta_i \frac{A_{LR}^+ \mu_{\alpha} \mu_{\dot{\beta}}}{|\mu|^2} - (\theta^i \eta_i)^2 \frac{\Delta \hat{V}_R \mu_{\alpha} \dot{\lambda}_{\dot{\beta}}}{|\mu|^4} \end{pmatrix}, \\
c^+ &:= \int \text{vol} (1 + \theta^i \eta_i V_F) C_{FLR}^+ \tag{3.23a}
\end{aligned}$$

up to some irrelevant overall multiplicative constants and where⁴²

$$\text{vol} := v^L \wedge \hat{v}^L \wedge v^R \wedge \hat{v}^R \otimes d^3 \eta d^3 \theta \tag{3.23b}$$

as well as $A_F := \hat{V}_F \lrcorner A$, $A_L := \hat{V}_L \lrcorner A$, $A_R := \hat{V}_R \lrcorner A$, $A_{LR}^+ := \hat{V}_R \lrcorner V_L \lrcorner A^+$, etc., and with the basis vector fields and basis one-forms are as defined in (2.26b), (2.26c), and (2.28b). In addition, we may take $G : \Omega_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}}^{0,1}(F) \rightarrow \Omega_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}}^{0,0}(F)$ to be Green operator for $\bar{\partial}_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}}$ which would mean, however, fixing a metric on F .⁴³ To avoid this, here we instead take it to be [49]

$$G := \frac{\mathfrak{b}}{\blacksquare} \tag{3.23c}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathfrak{b} &:= 8\hat{V}_F \lrcorner \mathcal{L}_{V_F} = 8V_F \hat{V}_F \lrcorner, \\
\blacksquare &:= 8V_F \hat{V}_F = \square + 4(V_F \hat{V}_F - E_W E_{\hat{W}}), \quad \square := 2\partial^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}. \tag{3.23d}
\end{aligned}$$

It is not too difficult to see that $\mathfrak{p} \circ \mathfrak{e} = \text{id}$ using the explicit form (3.13) of \mathfrak{e} up to some irrelevant overall multiplicative constants. It also follows that \mathfrak{p} is a cochain map by a direct calculation similar to what is done to prove Proposition 3.3 together with the identity $G(\hat{V}_{F,L,R} \lrcorner \bar{\partial}_{CR, \text{tw}, \text{red}} A) = \hat{V}_{F,L,R} G(A) - \hat{V}_{F,L,R} \lrcorner A$ which follows from $[\hat{V}_{F,L,R}, \frac{V_F}{\blacksquare}] = 0$.

⁴²See also (3.6).

⁴³Note that the appearance of G is not surprising as this follows from the general considerations; see the proof of Proposition A.3.

Importantly, using the explicit expressions of E_2 and E_3 from (3.20) and since G does not alter the dependence on the CR holomorphic fermionic coordinates, it now immediately follows that

$$p \circ E_2 = 0 = p \circ E_3. \quad (3.24)$$

Furthermore, for $i = 2$, the relation (A.55c) states that⁴⁴

$$\begin{aligned} e(\mu_2(\ell_1, \ell_2)) \pm E_2(\mu_1(\ell_1), \ell_2) \pm E_2(\mu_1(\ell_2), \ell_1) \\ = \pm \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR, tw, red}}(E_2(\ell_1, \ell_2)) + [e(\ell_1), e(\ell_2)] \end{aligned} \quad (3.25)$$

for all $\ell_1, \ell_2 \in \mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ and with μ_2 as given in (3.12a). Upon applying p to this equation and using (3.24) as well as the facts that p is a cochain map and that $p \circ e = \text{id}$, we obtain

$$\mu_2(\ell_1, \ell_2) = p([e(\ell_1), e(\ell_2)]). \quad (3.26)$$

This, however, is precisely the binary product (A.55c) obtained from homotopy transfer via the special deformation retract (3.21).

It remains to show that all higher products in (A.55c) vanish. This can be done by a lengthy direct computation, constructing an explicit h along the lines of Proposition A.3. Alternatively, we can simply argue that our formalism preserves all space-time and gauge symmetries, and there are simply not quartic or higher interaction vertices that can be consistently constructed in $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ from the field content which respect translation and conformal symmetry. See also Remark 3.7 for an alternative (and much shorter) proof that makes use of the uniqueness of maximally supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory. \square

Remark 3.7. Note that the last argument in the above proof can actually be extended, so that after the existence of the deformation retract (3.21) is established, Theorem 3.6 follows automatically. Indeed, the theory \mathfrak{L}_T obtained on the graded vector space $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ by homotopy transfer has the same field content and kinematic terms as $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$. The quasi-isomorphism from Theorem 3.5 implies that the tree-level scattering amplitudes of the theory \mathfrak{L}_T agrees with those of $\mathcal{N} = 3$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory; hence, the theory is not free. The setup and homotopy transfer preserve gauge and space-time symmetries. Moreover, the formalism is symmetric under the CPT-like symmetry exchanging undotted and dotted spinor indices, increasing the supersymmetry from $\mathcal{N} = 3$ to $\mathcal{N} = 4$. The superconformal formulation of an interacting $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills theory with the first-order field content, however, is unique. Consequently, \mathfrak{L}_T has to agree with $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$.

Remark 3.8. The integral formulas (3.23) can be understood as the ‘Dolbeault analogue’ of Penrose’s contour integral formulas in this CR ambitwistor setting. See e.g. [82] for analogous integral formulas in the ‘Čech formulation’ for the second cohomology in the purely bosonic complex ambitwistor setting.

⁴⁴The signs given as \pm are irrelevant to our discussion.

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Declarations

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Appendices

A. Homological Considerations

A.1. Quasi-isomorphic Cochain Complexes

Split Complex Supermanifolds. Let M be a complex manifold and $\pi : E \rightarrow M$ a holomorphic vector bundle. Using the definition of the vertical tangent bundle V together with universality of the pullback, we obtain the short exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow TE \longrightarrow \pi^*TM \longrightarrow 0. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

$$0 \longrightarrow E \longrightarrow TE|_M \longrightarrow TM \longrightarrow 0. \quad (\text{A.2})$$

This sequence splits canonically by the zero section $M \rightarrow E$. Hence, we have the canonical identification

$$TE|_M \cong TM \oplus E. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

Since π is a homotopy equivalence, it follows that the unrestricted sequence also splits, though non-canonically, that is,

$$TE \cong \pi^* TM \oplus V. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

Hence,

$$\bigwedge^{0,p} T^* E \cong \bigoplus_{r+s=p} \bigwedge^{0,r} \pi^* T^* M \otimes \bigwedge^{0,s} V^*. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

Let $\bar{\partial}$ be the anti-holomorphic exterior derivative on $E[1]$, where $[1]$ denotes the (Graßmann-)degree shift by one of the fibres of E , and let $\bar{\partial}_{\text{red}}$ be the anti-holomorphic exterior derivative on M , respectively. The manifold $E[1]$ is what is known as a globally *split complex supermanifold*.⁴⁵

Quasi-isomorphic Cochain Complexes. For any split complex supermanifold $E[1]$, we now have the following result. It can be proved abstractly using spectral sequences (see e.g. [14]), but here we provide an elementary constructive proof as we shall need its extension to the differential graded Lie algebra in Appendix A.2.

Proposition A.1. *The cochain complexes $(\Omega^{0,\bullet}(E[1]), \bar{\partial})$ and $(\Omega^{0,\bullet}(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*), \bar{\partial}_{\text{red}})$ are quasi-isomorphic with the quasi-isomorphism induced by coboundary transformations.*

Proof. Firstly, (A.5) implies

$$\Omega^{0,p}(E[1]) \cong \bigoplus_{r+s=p} \Gamma(E[1], \bigwedge^{0,r} \pi^* T^* M \otimes \bigwedge^{0,s} (V[1])^*). \quad (\text{A.6})$$

Furthermore, the smooth functions on $E[1]$ which are holomorphic in the fermionic coordinates can be identified with $\Gamma(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*)$ and so, $\Gamma(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{C}^\infty(E[1]) = \Omega^{0,0}(E[1])$. Thus, we have the inclusions

$$\Omega^{0,p}(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*) \hookrightarrow \Gamma(E[1], \bigwedge^{0,p} \pi^* T^* M) \hookrightarrow \Omega^{0,p}(E[1]) \quad (\text{A.7})$$

for all p and, consequently, the commutative diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \Omega^{0,0}(E[1]) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} & \Omega^{0,1}(E[1]) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} & \Omega^{0,2}(E[1]) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} & \dots \\ \uparrow \iota & & \uparrow \iota & & \uparrow \iota & & \\ \Omega^{0,0}(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}_{\text{red}}} & \Omega^{0,1}(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}_{\text{red}}} & \Omega^{0,2}(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*) & \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}_{\text{red}}} & \dots \end{array} \quad (\text{A.8})$$

where the ι are given by the compositions of the inclusions in (A.7). In addition, the existence of the embedding also implies that

$$H^0(E[1]) \cong H^0(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*) \quad (\text{A.9})$$

establishing the claim for $p = 0$.

⁴⁵Note that in the smooth category, every supermanifold is (non-canonically) globally split due to [83]. This is no longer the case in the complex category essentially because there is no holomorphic partition of unity.

Next, let us analyse the underlying cohomology for $p > 0$. To this end, let $(z^a, \bar{z}^{\bar{a}}, \eta^\alpha, \bar{\eta}^{\bar{\alpha}})$ be local coordinates on $E[1]$ with $(z^a, \bar{z}^{\bar{a}})$ bosonic base coordinates and $(\eta^\alpha, \bar{\eta}^{\bar{\alpha}})$ fermionic fibre coordinates. Then, the anti-holomorphic multivector fields $\mathfrak{X}^{0,\bullet}(E[1])$ on $E[1]$ are generated by

$$\bar{E}_{\bar{a}} := \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}^{\bar{a}}} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}^{\bar{a}}} - \bar{\eta}^{\bar{\beta}} \Gamma_{\bar{\beta}}^{\bar{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\eta}^{\bar{\alpha}}} \text{ and } \bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}} := \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\eta}^{\bar{\alpha}}} , \quad (\text{A.10a})$$

where $\bar{E}_{\bar{a}}$ is the horizontal lift of $\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}^{\bar{a}}}$ to $E[1]$ induced by the splitting (A.4) with the associated connection one-form $\Gamma_{\bar{\beta}}^{\bar{\alpha}} := d\bar{z}^{\bar{a}} \Gamma_{\bar{a}\bar{\beta}}^{\bar{\alpha}}$. Dually, we have

$$\bar{e}^{\bar{a}} := d\bar{z}^{\bar{a}} \text{ and } \bar{e}^{\bar{\alpha}} := d\bar{\eta}^{\bar{\alpha}} - \bar{\eta}^{\bar{\beta}} \Gamma_{\bar{\beta}}^{\bar{\alpha}} , \quad (\text{A.10b})$$

and which generate the anti-holomorphic differential forms $\Omega^{0,\bullet}(E[1])$ on $E[1]$. Evidently,

$$[\bar{E}_{\bar{a}}, \bar{E}_{\bar{b}}] = \bar{\eta}^{\bar{\alpha}} R_{\bar{a}\bar{b}\bar{\alpha}}^{\bar{\beta}} \bar{E}_{\bar{\beta}} , \quad [\bar{E}_{\bar{a}}, \bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}}] = -\Gamma_{\bar{a}\bar{\alpha}}^{\bar{\beta}} \bar{E}_{\bar{\beta}} , \text{ and } [\bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}}, \bar{E}_{\bar{\beta}}] = 0 , \quad (\text{A.11a})$$

where $R_{\bar{a}\bar{b}\bar{\alpha}}^{\bar{\beta}}$ is the curvature of $\Gamma_{\bar{a}\bar{\beta}}^{\bar{\alpha}}$ and so,

$$\bar{\partial} \bar{e}^{\bar{a}} = 0 \text{ and } \bar{\partial} \bar{e}^{\bar{\alpha}} = \frac{1}{2} \bar{e}^{\bar{b}} \wedge \bar{e}^{\bar{a}} \bar{\eta}^{\bar{\beta}} R_{\bar{a}\bar{b}\bar{\beta}}^{\bar{\alpha}} + \bar{e}^{\bar{\beta}} \wedge \bar{e}^{\bar{a}} \Gamma_{\bar{a}\bar{\beta}}^{\bar{\alpha}} . \quad (\text{A.11b})$$

Using the basis (0,1)-forms (A.10b), an element $\omega \in \Omega^{0,p}(E[1])$ looks like

$$\omega = \sum_{r+s=p} \frac{1}{r!s!} \bar{e}^{\bar{a}_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \bar{e}^{\bar{a}_r} \otimes \bar{e}^{\bar{\alpha}_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \bar{e}^{\bar{\alpha}_s} \omega_{\bar{\alpha}_s \dots \bar{\alpha}_1 \bar{a}_r \dots \bar{a}_1}(z, \bar{z}, \eta, \bar{\eta}) . \quad (\text{A.12})$$

Suppose now that ω is a representative of an element $[\omega]$ of the cohomology group $H^p(E[1])$. Then, using (A.11b), it is not too difficult to see that $\bar{\partial}\omega = 0$ yields

$$\bar{E}_{(\bar{\alpha}_1} \omega_{\bar{\alpha}_2 \dots \bar{\alpha}_{p+1})} = 0 \quad (\text{A.13})$$

for the purely fermionic component. Next, consider $\tilde{c}^{(1)} \in \Omega^{0,p-1}(E[1])$ given by

$$\tilde{c}^{(1)} := \frac{1}{(p-1)!} \bar{\eta}^{\bar{\alpha}_1} \bar{e}^{\bar{\alpha}_2} \wedge \dots \wedge \bar{e}^{\bar{\alpha}_p} \omega_{\bar{\alpha}_p \dots \bar{\alpha}_1} . \quad (\text{A.14})$$

This is invariant under bundle isomorphisms and hence globally defined. A short computation then shows that the purely fermionic component of $\bar{\partial}\tilde{c}^{(1)}$ is

$$\bar{E}_{(\bar{\alpha}_1} \tilde{c}_{\bar{\alpha}_2 \dots \bar{\alpha}_p}^{(1)} = \left(1 + \frac{1}{p} \Upsilon\right) \omega_{\bar{\alpha}_1 \dots \bar{\alpha}_p} , \quad (\text{A.15})$$

where we have used (A.13) and introduced the globally defined anti-holomorphic Euler vector field $\Upsilon := \bar{\eta}^{\bar{\alpha}} \bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}}$. Since the components of ω are polynomials of the fermionic coordinates, the action of Υ will return only non-negative integers and so, the inverse of $1 + \frac{1}{p} \Upsilon$ is well defined for all $p = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ with

$$\frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{p} \Upsilon} = \int_0^\infty dt e^{-t(1 + \frac{1}{p} \Upsilon)} . \quad (\text{A.16})$$

Furthermore, since $[\bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}}, \Upsilon] = \bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}}$, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{p}\Upsilon} \bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}} &= \int_0^\infty dt e^{-t(1+\frac{1}{p})\Upsilon} \bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}} \\
 &= \int_0^\infty dt e^{-t(1+\frac{1}{p})\Upsilon} \bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}} e^{t(1+\frac{1}{p})\Upsilon} e^{-t(1+\frac{1}{p})\Upsilon} \\
 &= \int_0^\infty dt \underbrace{e^{-\frac{t}{p}\Upsilon} \bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}} e^{\frac{t}{p}\Upsilon}}_{= e^{\frac{t}{p}} \bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}}} e^{-t(1+\frac{1}{p})\Upsilon} \\
 &= \bar{E}_{\bar{\alpha}} \underbrace{\int_0^\infty dt e^{-t(1-\frac{1}{p}+\frac{1}{p})\Upsilon}}_{=: D(\Upsilon)}
 \end{aligned} \tag{A.17}$$

when understood as acting on expressions that are at least of linear order in the anti-holomorphic fermionic coordinates; in this case, the action of Υ in $D(\Upsilon)$ will return only positive integers so that the derivation of $D(\Upsilon)$ and $D(\Upsilon)$ itself are also well defined for $p = 1$. Consequently, (A.15) becomes

$$\bar{E}_{(\bar{\alpha}_1}(D(\Upsilon)\tilde{c}_{\bar{\alpha}_2\ldots\bar{\alpha}_p}^{(1)}) = \omega_{\bar{\alpha}_1\ldots\bar{\alpha}_p}. \tag{A.18}$$

This shows that the component $\omega_{\bar{\alpha}_1\ldots\bar{\alpha}_p}$ is a coboundary parametrised by $c^{(1)} \in \Omega^{0,p-1}(E[1])$ with

$$c^{(1)} := \frac{1}{(p-1)!} \bar{e}^{\bar{\alpha}_1} \wedge \ldots \wedge \bar{e}^{\bar{\alpha}_{p-1}} D(\Upsilon) \tilde{c}_{\bar{\alpha}_{p-1}\ldots\bar{\alpha}_1}^{(1)}. \tag{A.19}$$

Note that this is globally defined. Evidently, we have not used the full freedom of coboundary transformations yet. Let $\omega^{(1)} := \omega - \bar{\partial}c^{(1)}$. Since $\omega_{\bar{\alpha}_p\ldots\bar{\alpha}_1}^{(1)}$ is absent, $\bar{\partial}\omega^{(1)} = 0$ implies that $\omega_{\bar{\alpha}_{p-1}\ldots\bar{\alpha}_1\bar{a}}$ is a coboundary by similar arguments we have just given, and so we can transform it away by using a coboundary parametrised by $c^{(2)} \in \Omega^{0,p-1}(E[1])$ of the form

$$c^{(2)} := \frac{1}{(p-2)!} \bar{e}^{\bar{a}} \otimes \bar{e}^{\bar{\alpha}_1} \wedge \ldots \wedge \bar{e}^{\bar{\alpha}_{p-2}} c_{\bar{\alpha}_{p-2}\ldots\bar{\alpha}_1\bar{a}}^{(2)}. \tag{A.20}$$

We can now iterate this procedure to eventually arrive at a $(0, p)$ -form

$$\omega^{(p)} := \frac{1}{p!} \bar{e}^{\bar{a}_1} \wedge \ldots \wedge \bar{e}^{\bar{a}_p} \omega_{\bar{a}_p\ldots\bar{a}_1}^{(p)}(z, \bar{z}, \eta) = \frac{1}{p!} d\bar{z}^{\bar{a}_1} \wedge \ldots \wedge d\bar{z}^{\bar{a}_p} \omega_{\bar{a}_p\ldots\bar{a}_1}^{(p)}(z, \bar{z}, \eta) \tag{A.21}$$

whose components depend holomorphically⁴⁶ on η^α and which also belongs to the equivalence class $[\omega]$. Since, $0 = \bar{\partial}\omega^{(p)} = \bar{\partial}_{\text{red}}\omega^{(p)}$ and since, as mentioned before, the smooth functions on $E[1]$ which are holomorphic in η^α can be identified with $\Gamma(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*)$, the $(0, p)$ -form $\omega^{(p)}$ is also a representative of an equivalence class in $H^p(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*)$.

Altogether, we have established the desired isomorphisms

$$H^\bullet(E[1]) \cong H^\bullet(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*). \tag{A.22}$$

□

⁴⁶Once all fermionic directions have been transformed away, the condition $\bar{\partial}\omega^{(p)} = 0$ implies that the remaining components must be holomorphic in the fermionic coordinates.

A.2. Homological Perturbations

Deformation Retracts. One method of obtaining a semi-classically equivalent field theory from a perturbative action is to integrate out parts of the field content. From the homotopical algebra perspective on field theory, in which perturbative field theories with action principle are regarded as cyclic L_∞ -algebras, this is done by homotopy transfer, which is based on the homological perturbation lemma [84, 85]. More generally, the well-known tree-level perturbative expansion in terms of Feynman diagrams is mathematically captured by homological perturbation theory.

The starting point for homological perturbation theory is a deformation retract, that is, a diagram

$$h \begin{array}{c} \hookrightarrow \\ \hookleftarrow \end{array} C^{(1)} \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{p} \\ \xleftarrow{e} \end{array} C^{(2)} , \quad (\text{A.23a})$$

of cochain complexes $C^{(1)}$ and $C^{(2)}$ with differentials $d^{(1)}$ and $d^{(2)}$, respectively, p and e are morphisms of cochain complexes, and h is a *contracting homotopy*, that is, a morphism of graded vector spaces which has degree -1 , and these maps obey⁴⁷

$$\text{id} - e \circ p = d^{(1)} \circ h + h \circ d^{(1)} \text{ and } p \circ e = \text{id} . \quad (\text{A.23b})$$

A deformation retract can always be turned into a special deformation retract [85, 86] by a redefinition of h such that the maps also satisfy

$$p \circ h = 0 , \quad h \circ e = 0 , \text{ and } h \circ h = 0 . \quad (\text{A.24})$$

Explicitly, a redefinition that does this job is given by [85, 86]

$$h \rightarrow (\text{id} - e \circ p) \circ h \circ (\text{id} - e \circ p) \circ d^{(1)} \circ (\text{id} - e \circ p) \circ h \circ (\text{id} - e \circ p) . \quad (\text{A.25})$$

The following describes the change of the map e in a deformation retract to the cohomology, which physically captures in particular changes of gauge.

Proposition A.2. *Consider a deformation retract*

$$h \begin{array}{c} \hookrightarrow \\ \hookleftarrow \end{array} C \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{p} \\ \xleftarrow{e} \end{array} H^\bullet(C) , \quad (\text{A.26})$$

and a quasi-isomorphism $\tilde{e} : H^\bullet(C) \rightarrow C$. Then, we have

$$\tilde{e} = e \circ \phi + \psi \quad (\text{A.27})$$

for ϕ some automorphism on $H^\bullet(C)$, a morphism $\psi : H^\bullet(C) \rightarrow C^\bullet(C)$, and

$$\tilde{h} \begin{array}{c} \hookrightarrow \\ \hookleftarrow \end{array} C \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\tilde{p}} \\ \xleftarrow{\tilde{e}} \end{array} H^\bullet(C) , \quad (\text{A.28})$$

with

$$\tilde{p} := \phi^{-1} \circ p \text{ and } \tilde{h} := h - h \circ \psi \circ \phi^{-1} \circ p \quad (\text{A.29})$$

is also a deformation retract.

⁴⁷Note that these two conditions promote p and e to quasi-isomorphisms of cochain complexes.

Proof. The data in the deformation retract (A.26) induce the Hodge–Kodaira decomposition

$$C^p \cong H^p(C) \oplus \underbrace{\text{im}(\mathbf{h}_{p+1} \circ \mathbf{d}_p)}_{=: B^p(C)} \oplus \underbrace{\text{im}(\mathbf{d}_{p-1} \circ \mathbf{h}_p)}_{=: C^p(C)}, \quad (\text{A.30})$$

where we note that $\mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{d} \circ \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{h}$ and $\mathbf{d} \circ \mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{d} = \mathbf{d}$ so that

$$\Pi_{B^\bullet(C)} := \mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{d} \text{ and } \Pi_{C^\bullet(C)} := \mathbf{d} \circ \mathbf{h} \quad (\text{A.31})$$

are indeed projectors onto $B^\bullet(C)$ and $C^\bullet(C)$. Because $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}$ is a cochain map, its image is contained in $H^\bullet(C) \oplus C^\bullet(C)$. Because it is a quasi-isomorphism and hence descends to an isomorphism on cohomology, the restriction⁴⁸ of the image of $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}$ to $H^\bullet(C)$, $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}|^{H^\bullet(C)}$, is an isomorphism. Together, these facts imply that $\tilde{\mathbf{e}} = \mathbf{e} \circ \phi + \psi$.

It remains to check the properties of a deformation retract. Since $\mathbf{p}|_{C^\bullet(C)} = 0$, we have $\tilde{\mathbf{p}} \circ \tilde{\mathbf{e}} = \text{id}$. Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{id} - \tilde{\mathbf{e}} \circ \tilde{\mathbf{p}} &= \text{id} - \mathbf{e} \circ \mathbf{p} - \psi \circ \phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{p} \\ &= \mathbf{d} \circ \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{d} - \Pi_{C^\bullet(C)} \circ \psi \circ \phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{p} \\ &= \mathbf{d} \circ \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{d} - \mathbf{d} \circ \mathbf{h} \circ \psi \circ \phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{h} \circ \psi \circ \phi^{-1} \circ \mathbf{p} \circ \mathbf{d} \\ &= \mathbf{d} \circ \tilde{\mathbf{h}} + \tilde{\mathbf{h}} \circ \mathbf{d}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.32})$$

where we have used that $\mathbf{p} \circ \mathbf{d} = 0$. \square

Proposition A.3. *Given an injective quasi-isomorphism $\mathbf{e} : C^{(2)} \rightarrow C^{(1)}$ of split cochain complexes with $C^{(i)p}$ trivial for $i = 1, 2$ and for all $p < p_0$ and $p > p_1$ for some fixed $p_{0,1} \in \mathbb{Z}$ with $p_0 < p_1$, then there always exists a special deformation retract*

$$\mathbf{h} \circlearrowleft C^{(1)} \xrightleftharpoons[\mathbf{e}]{\mathbf{p}} C^{(2)}. \quad (\text{A.33})$$

Proof. We only need to demonstrate that there is a deformation retract by virtue of our discussion after (A.23a). We first construct a projection \mathbf{p} iteratively. Since the cochain complexes are split, we have for $i = 1, 2$ the deformation retracts⁴⁹

$$\mathbf{h}^{(i)} \circlearrowleft C^{(i)} \xrightleftharpoons[\mathbf{e}^{(i)}]{\mathbf{p}^{(i)}} H^\bullet(C^{(i)}) \quad (\text{A.34})$$

onto the cohomologies and the Hodge–Kodaira decompositions

$$C^{(i)p} \cong H^p(C^{(i)}) \oplus \underbrace{\text{im}(\mathbf{h}_{p+1}^{(i)} \circ \mathbf{d}_p^{(i)})}_{=: B^p(C^{(i)})} \oplus \underbrace{\text{im}(\mathbf{d}_{p-1}^{(i)} \circ \mathbf{h}_p^{(i)})}_{=: C^p(C^{(i)})} \quad (\text{A.35})$$

for all $p \in \mathbb{Z}$, as in the proof of Proposition A.2. We also note that

$$\mathbf{d}^{(i)}|_{B^p(C^{(i)})} : B^p(C^{(i)}) \xrightarrow{\cong} C^{p+1}(C^{(i)}) \text{ and } \mathbf{h}^{(i)}|_{C^{p+1}(C^{(i)})} : C^{p+1}(C^{(i)}) \xrightarrow{\cong} B^p(C^{(i)}). \quad (\text{A.36})$$

⁴⁸For a linear map $f : A \oplus B \rightarrow C \oplus D$, we denote its restriction to $A \rightarrow C$ by $f|_A^C$.

⁴⁹See e.g. [87, Chapter 1.4] or [26, Appendix B] for details.

We now use Proposition A.2 to replace the deformation retract $(h^{(1)}, p^{(1)}, e^{(1)})$ by $(\tilde{h}^{(1)}, \tilde{p}^{(1)}, \tilde{e}^{(1)})$ by

$$\tilde{e}^{(1)} := e \circ e^{(2)} \circ (e_*)^{-1}, \quad (\text{A.37})$$

arriving at the commuting diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{array}{c} \tilde{h}^{(1)} \\ \curvearrowright \\ C^{(1)} \end{array} & \xleftarrow{e} & \begin{array}{c} h^{(2)} \\ \curvearrowright \\ C^{(2)} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \tilde{e}^{(1)} \uparrow \downarrow \tilde{p}^{(1)} \end{array} & & \begin{array}{c} e^{(2)} \uparrow \downarrow p^{(2)} \end{array} \\ H^\bullet(C^{(1)}) & \xleftarrow{e_*} & H^\bullet(C^{(2)}) \end{array} \quad (\text{A.38})$$

where e_* is the map induced by e between the cohomologies. Note that

$$\tilde{e}^{(1)} \circ e_* \circ p^{(2)} = e \circ e^{(2)} \circ p^{(2)}, \quad (\text{A.39})$$

and therefore

$$e|_{H^\bullet(C^{(2)})} = \tilde{e}^{(1)} \circ e_* \circ p^{(2)}. \quad (\text{A.40})$$

Using further that e is a cochain map, we conclude that its non-trivial components are

$$\begin{aligned} e|_{H^\bullet(C^{(1)})}, \\ e|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})}, \quad e|_{B^\bullet(C^{(2)})}, \quad e|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})}, \quad e|_{C^\bullet(C^{(1)})}, \\ e|_{C^\bullet(C^{(2)})}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.41})$$

Similarly, the projection p we construct will have non-trivial components

$$\begin{aligned} p|_{H^\bullet(C^{(2)})}, \\ p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})}, \quad p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(2)})}, \quad p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})}, \quad p|_{C^\bullet(C^{(1)})}, \\ p|_{C^\bullet(C^{(2)})}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.42})$$

Concretely, we define

$$\begin{aligned} p|_{H^\bullet(C^{(1)})} &:= \left(e|_{H^\bullet(C^{(2)})} \right)^{-1}, \\ p|_{C^\bullet(C^{(1)})} &:= d^{(2)} \circ p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})} \circ \tilde{h}^{(1)}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.43})$$

where $p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})}$ remains to be fixed. Because e is a cochain map, $e|_{B^\bullet(C^{(2)})}$ is an injection, and, hence, we can choose a projection $p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})}$ such that

$$p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})} \circ e|_{B^\bullet(C^{(2)})} = \text{id}_{B^\bullet(C^{(2)})}. \quad (\text{A.44})$$

We then define further

$$\begin{aligned} p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})} &:= p|_{H^\bullet(C^{(1)})} \circ e|_{H^\bullet(C^{(2)})} \circ p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})}, \\ p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})} &:= p|_{C^\bullet(C^{(1)})} \circ e|_{C^\bullet(C^{(2)})} \circ p|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.45})$$

It is then straightforward to check that

$$\mathbf{p} \circ \mathbf{e} = \text{id}_{C^{(2)}}. \quad (\text{A.46})$$

Note that \mathbf{p} is indeed a chain map, because

$$\mathbf{d}^{(2)} \circ \mathbf{p}|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})} = \mathbf{d}^{(2)} \circ \mathbf{p}|_{B^\bullet(C^{(1)})} \circ \tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(1)} \circ \mathbf{d}^{(1)} = \mathbf{p}|_{C^\bullet(C^{(1)})} \circ \mathbf{d}^{(1)}. \quad (\text{A.47})$$

It remains to construct a contracting homotopy \mathbf{h} . Using (A.37), we have

$$\text{im}(\tilde{\mathbf{e}}^{(1)}) \cong H^\bullet(C^{(1)}). \quad (\text{A.48})$$

Hence, in switching from $\mathbf{e}^{(1)}$ to $\tilde{\mathbf{e}}^{(1)}$ using Proposition A.2, we note that $\psi = 0$. It then follows that

$$\tilde{\mathbf{p}}^{(1)} := \mathbf{e}_* \circ \mathbf{p}^{(2)} \circ \mathbf{p}. \quad (\text{A.49})$$

The desired contracting homotopy is now given by

$$\mathbf{h} := \tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(1)} - \mathbf{e} \circ \mathbf{h}^{(2)} \circ \mathbf{p} \quad (\text{A.50})$$

with $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}^{(1)}$ given by Proposition A.2. Indeed, we have

$$\text{id} - \mathbf{e} \circ \mathbf{p} = \mathbf{h} \circ \mathbf{d}^{(1)} + \mathbf{d}^{(1)} \circ \mathbf{h}, \quad (\text{A.51})$$

as required. \square

Example A.4. We note that the cochain complexes in Proposition A.1 are split (with respect to the fermionic parts) and so, it is now always possible to construct a special deformation retract,

$$\mathbf{h} \begin{pmatrix} \bigcirc \\ \curvearrowright \end{pmatrix} (\Omega^{0,\bullet}(E[1]), \bar{\partial}) \xrightleftharpoons[\mathbf{e}]{\mathbf{p}} (\Omega^{0,\bullet}(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*), \bar{\partial}_{\text{red}}) \quad (\text{A.52})$$

where the contracting homotopy can be glanced from the map that takes a $(0, p)$ -form ω to the coboundary $(0, p-1)$ -form c removing the fermionic directions at the cohomological level. In particular,

$$\mathbf{e}(\Omega^{0,\bullet}(M, \bigwedge^\bullet E^*)) \subseteq \ker(\mathbf{h}) \quad (\text{A.53})$$

since for differential forms that do not contain anti-holomorphic fermionic directions, the action of the contracting homotopy vanishes identically.

Homological Perturbation Theory. An L_∞ -algebra structure $\mathfrak{L}^{(1)}$ on a cochain complex $C^{(1)}$ consists of additional products $\mu_i^{(1)}$ of degree $2-i$ with $i = 2, 3, 4, \dots$ and subject to the homotopy Jacobi identities

$$\sum_{j+k=i} \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Sh}(j,i)} \chi(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) (-1)^k \mu_{k+1}^{(1)}(\mu_j^{(1)}(\ell_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, \ell_{\sigma(j)}), \ell_{\sigma(j+1)}, \dots, \ell_{\sigma(i)}) = 0 \quad (\text{A.54})$$

for all $\ell_1, \ell_2, \ell_3, \dots \in \mathfrak{L}^{(1)}$. Here, the sum is taken over all $(j; i)$ unshuffles σ which consist of permutations σ of $\{1, \dots, i\}$ such that the first j and the last $i-j$ images of σ are ordered: $\sigma(1) < \dots < \sigma(j)$ and $\sigma(j+1) < \dots < \sigma(i)$. Moreover, $\chi(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i)$ is the Koszul sign.

Now, given a deformation retract (A.23a), the homological perturbation lemma states that an L_∞ -structure $\mathfrak{L}^{(1)}$ on the cochain complex $C^{(1)}$ can be transferred to an equivalent or quasi-isomorphic

L_∞ -algebra structure $\mathfrak{L}^{(2)}$ on the cochain complex $\mathbb{C}^{(2)}$, and the formulas are recursive. More explicitly, the map \mathbf{e} in (A.23a) extends as

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{T}_1(\ell_1) &:= \mathbf{e}(\ell_1) , \\
 \mathbf{T}_2(\ell_1, \ell_2) &:= -(\mathbf{h} \circ \mu_2^{(1)})(\mathbf{e}(\ell_1), \mathbf{e}(\ell_2)) , \\
 &\vdots \\
 \mathbf{T}_i(\ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) &:= - \sum_{j=2}^i \frac{1}{j!} \sum_{k_1 + \dots + k_j = i} \sum_{\sigma \in \overline{\text{Sh}}(k_1, \dots, k_{j-1}; i)} \chi(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) \zeta(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) \\
 &\quad \times (\mathbf{h} \circ \mu_j^{(1)})(\mathbf{T}_{k_1}(\ell_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, \ell_{\sigma(k_1)}), \dots, \mathbf{T}_{k_j} \\
 &\quad (\ell_{\sigma(k_1 + \dots + k_{j-1} + 1)}, \dots, \ell_{\sigma(i)}))
 \end{aligned} \tag{A.55a}$$

for all $\ell_1, \ell_2, \ell_3, \dots \in \mathfrak{L}^{(2)}$ and where

$$\zeta(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) := (-1)^{\sum_{1 \leq m < n \leq j} k_m k_n + \sum_{m=1}^{j-1} k_m (j-m) + \sum_{m=2}^j (1-k_m) \sum_{k=1}^{k_1 + \dots + k_{m-1}} |\ell_{\sigma(k)}|} , \tag{A.55b}$$

and the higher products $\mu_i^{(2)}$ on $\mathfrak{L}^{(2)}$ are of the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu_2^{(2)}(\ell_1, \ell_2) &:= \mathbf{p}(\mu_2^{(1)}(\mathbf{e}(\ell_1), \mathbf{e}(\ell_2))) , \\
 &\vdots \\
 \mu_i^{(2)}(\ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) &:= \sum_{j=2}^i \frac{1}{j!} \sum_{k_1 + \dots + k_j = i} \sum_{\sigma \in \overline{\text{Sh}}(k_1, \dots, k_{j-1}; i)} \chi(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) \\
 &\quad \zeta(\sigma; \ell_1, \dots, \ell_i) \\
 &\quad \times (\mathbf{p} \circ \mu_j^{(1)})(\mathbf{T}_{k_1}(\ell_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, \ell_{\sigma(k_1)}), \dots, \mathbf{T}_{k_j} \\
 &\quad (\ell_{\sigma(k_1 + \dots + k_{j-1} + 1)}, \dots, \ell_{\sigma(i)}))
 \end{aligned} \tag{A.55c}$$

for all $\ell_1, \ell_2, \ell_3, \dots \in \mathfrak{L}^{(2)}$. This makes \mathbf{T} into an L_∞ -quasi-isomorphism; see (3.19). The two important points to notice are that the arguments of the higher products $\mu_i^{(2)}$ are always first mapped to $\mathfrak{L}^{(1)}$ by the embedding \mathbf{e} , and the $\mu_i^{(2)}$ themselves are then produced by inserting the images of \mathbf{h} of lower products into each other. See e.g. [26, 77] for details.

Proof of Proposition 2.5. We have now all the ingredients to prove Proposition 2.5. Firstly, we note that because of the explicit form of the vector fields (2.26b) and the commutation relation (2.29) and because the CR holomorphic and CR anti-holomorphic fermionic combinations (2.23a) essentially play the role of ordinary holomorphic and anti-holomorphic fermionic coordinates⁵⁰ (that is, F is essentially a globally split CR supermanifold), the proof of Proposition A.1 goes through also for our twisted CR differentials (2.27) and (2.35).

⁵⁰See also Remark 3.1 for an alternative reason for why the fermionic combinations (2.23a) should be regarded as holomorphic coordinates.

Next, by virtue of this discussion and as explained in Example A.4, we now also have a special deformation retract

$$h \left(\underbrace{(\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}}^{0, \bullet}(F), \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}})}_{= \mathbb{C}^{(1)}} \xrightleftharpoons[e]{p} \underbrace{(\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}^{0, \bullet}(F), \bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}})}_{= \mathbb{C}^{(2)}} \right) \quad (\text{A.56})$$

with $e(\Omega_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}^{0, \bullet}(F)) \subseteq \ker(h)$. We can therefore apply the homological perturbation lemma for the natural product $\mu_2^{(1)}(-, -) = [-, -]$. In particular, the formulas (A.55c) now show that the binary product is the expected one, $\mu_2^{(2)}(-, -) = [-, -]$. Finally, we have $(h \circ \mu_2^{(2)})(e(-), e(-)) = 0$, since the wedge product of forms without fermionic directions is a form without fermionic directions. This renders all higher products $\mu_i^{(2)}$ with $i > 2$ in (A.55c) trivial, and we arrive at the desired result.

Remark A.5. We heavily use the Hodge–Kodaira decomposition, splitting maps, and aspects of cyclic structures, some of which tend to become problematic for infinite-dimensional vector spaces. Since our L_∞ -algebras consist of spaces of differential forms which are infinite-dimensional, so let us briefly comment on this point and explain that these infinite-dimensionalities are harmless for the purpose of most perturbative field theories.

As common in the literature, we demand that we have a factorisation

$$\mathfrak{L}_p \cong \mathfrak{V}_p \otimes C_p^\infty \quad (\text{A.57})$$

of the homogeneously graded subspaces \mathfrak{L}_p of any L_∞ -algebra \mathfrak{L} we employ, where $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ and \mathfrak{V}_p is a finite-dimensional vector space. The pure function spaces C_p^∞ are then constructed, also as common in the literature on perturbative field theory, as a finite linear combination of some preferred basis, e.g. plane waves on Minkowski space, or spherical harmonics on \mathbb{CP}^1 and so, the differential cochain complex of the corresponding L_∞ -algebras can be consistently truncated to finite-dimensional C_p^∞ .

As an example, consider the differential cochain complex underlying $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ as defined in (3.12a). It is clear that C_p^∞ here can be consistently truncated to individual plane waves of a specific momentum, and the cochain complex $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{YM}_1}$ splits into a direct sum of finite-dimensional cochain complexes.

For the differential cochain complex underlying $\mathfrak{L}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}$, we can use plane waves on \mathbb{R}^4 together with spherical harmonics on $\mathbb{CP}^1 \times \mathbb{CP}^1$. We note that $\bar{\partial}_{\text{CR}, \text{tw}, \text{red}}$ can maximally increase the angular momentum ℓ of the spherical harmonics $Y_{\ell m}$ on the two \mathbb{CP}^1 by one. We can thus consistently restrict C_p^∞ to angular momenta $\ell \leq \ell_0 + p$ for some $\ell_0 \in \mathbb{N}$ on both \mathbb{CP}^1 , ending up with a finite-dimensional vector space.

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