

# NS-NS gauge invariance of non-Abelian D-brane actions

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In collaboration with: J. Adam (KUL) and I.A. Illán (UGR)

References: [JHEP 10 \(2005\) 022](#), [hep-th/0507198](#) and [hep-th/0511191](#).

# Motivation

A lot has been learned about the dynamics of **multiple D-branes** in the last past years:

- $U(1)^N \rightarrow U(N)$  symmetry enhancement
- effective actions describing the non-Abelian dynamics
- many applications of non-Abelian effects in modern string theory

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**Answer:** Yes!

**Price/Reward:** New symmetry  $\delta X \sim [X, X]$

# Outlook

## 1. Introduction:

→ Non-Abelian physics of multiple D-branes

## 2. Problems with background gauge invariance

→ solution for R-R gauge transformations

## 3. Problems with NS-NS gauge invariance

→ derivation of NS-NS transformations of fields

→ invariance of action

# 1. Non-Abelian physics of multiple parallel branes

The physics of  $N$  **separated** parallel  $Dp$ -branes is very different from physics of  $N$  **coinciding**  $Dp$ -branes.

- **separated**:  $\rightarrow$  **Abelian** theory
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This non-Abelian character has numerous manifestations in modern string theory:

- Dielectric effect [Myers]
- Gravity duals of (confining) gauge theories [Polchinsky, Strassler]
- Enhançons [Johnson]
- Matrix models in non-trivial backgrounds [Berenstein, Maldacena, Nastase]
- Microscopic description of giant gravitons [B.J., Lozano, Rodríguez]
- ...

## Difference in degrees of freedom

- **separated:**  $N$   $U(1)$  vector fields  $V_a^I$ ,  $(9 - p)N$  scalars  $X^{iI}$   
→ **Abelian** worldvolume action
- **coinciding:** 1  $U(N)$  Yang-Mills vector  $V_a^I$ ,  $N$  adjoint scalars  $X^{iI}$   
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Extra degrees of freedom come from massless strings stretched between coinciding strings:

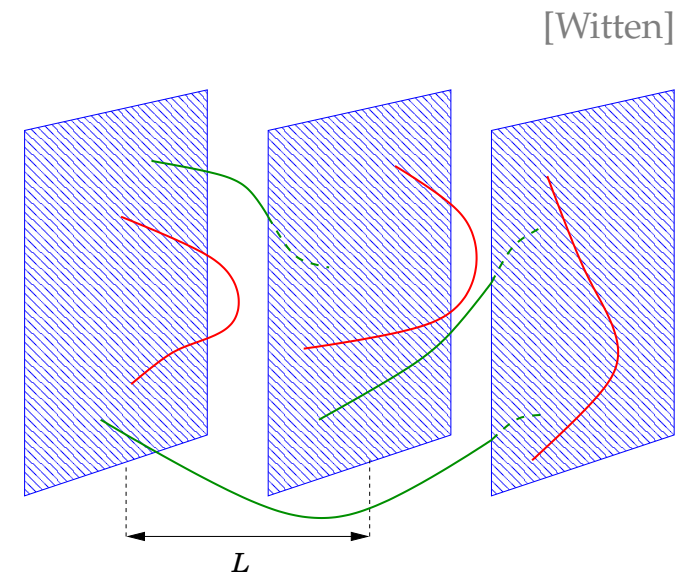
strings between same brane:  $m \sim 0$

strings between different branes:  $m \sim L$

As  $L \rightarrow 0$ :

$\implies N + N(N - 1) = N^2$  degrees of freedom

$\implies U(1)^N \rightarrow U(N)$  gauge enhancement



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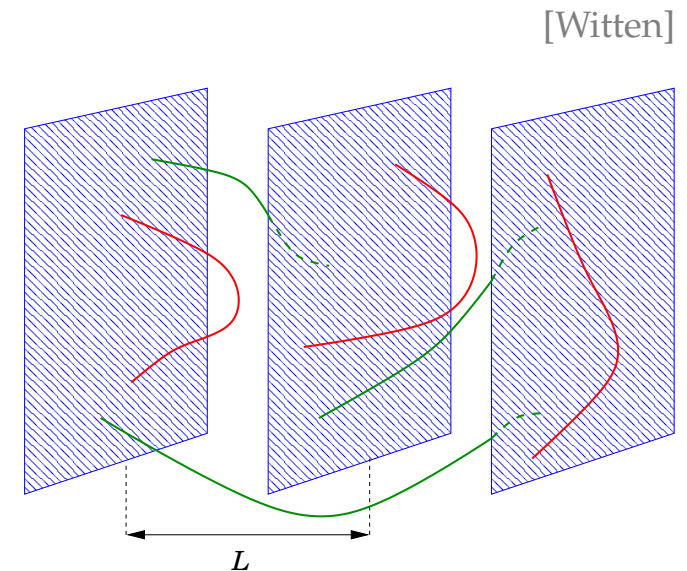
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Different degrees of freedom and different symmetries

⇒ different dynamics

⇒ different worldvolume action



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- Background fields:  $\Phi = \Phi(x) \longrightarrow \Phi = \Phi(X)$   
 $\longrightarrow \Phi(X^\lambda) = \sum_n \frac{1}{n!} \partial_{\mu_1} \dots \partial_{\mu_n} \Phi(x^\lambda)|_{x^\lambda=0} X^{\mu_1} \dots X^{\mu_n}$   
 $\longrightarrow$  Symmetrized trace prescription

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- $U(N)$  covariant pullbacks:  $\partial_a X^\mu \longrightarrow D_a X^\mu = \partial_a X^\mu + i[V_a, X^\mu]$   
 $\longrightarrow \delta V_a = D_a \chi, \quad \delta X^i = i[\chi, X^i], \quad \delta D_a X^i = i[\chi, D_a X^i]$  [Dorn][Hull]



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- Non-Abelian couplings, proportional to  $[X^\mu, X^\nu]$ :  
 $\longrightarrow \mathcal{L}_{D1} \sim \text{STr} \left\{ C_{\mu\nu} D_a X^\mu D_b X^\nu + i[X^\mu, X^\nu] C_{\mu\nu\rho\lambda} D_a X^\rho D_b X^\lambda \right\}$   
 $= \text{STr} \left\{ P[C_2] + \frac{1}{2} i P[(\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X) C_4] \right\}$  [Taylor, van Raamsdonk][Myers]

## T-duality origin of non-Abelian couplings

T-duality in worldvolume direction  $\underline{x}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{D}p\text{-brane} &\longrightarrow \text{D}(p-1)\text{-brane} \\ (\hat{V}_{\hat{a}}, Y^i) &\longrightarrow (V_a, X^{\hat{i}}) \end{aligned}$$

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Matching of degrees of freedom:

[Bergshoeff, de Roo]

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{V}_a &\longrightarrow V_a, & Y^i &\longrightarrow X^i, \\ \hat{V}_x &\longrightarrow X^{\underline{x}}, & Y^{\underline{x}} &= \sigma^{\underline{x}}. \end{aligned}$$

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Field strengths, **Abelian** case:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_a Y^i &\longrightarrow \partial_a X^i, & \partial_x Y^i &= 0, & \partial_{\hat{a}} Y^{\underline{x}} &= \delta_{\hat{a}}^{\underline{x}}, \\ \hat{F}_{ax} &\longrightarrow \partial_a X^{\underline{x}}, & \hat{F}_{ab} &\longrightarrow F_{ab}. \end{aligned}$$

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Field strengths, **non-Abelian** case:

[Myers]

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{D}_a Y^i &\longrightarrow D_a X^i, & \hat{D}_x Y^i = i[V_x, Y^i] &\longrightarrow i[X^x, X^i], & \partial_{\hat{a}} Y^x &= \delta_{\hat{a}}^x, \\ \hat{F}_{ax} &\longrightarrow D_a X^x, & \hat{F}_{ab} &\longrightarrow F_{ab}. \end{aligned}$$

Dielectric terms:

$$\begin{aligned} C_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} \hat{D}_a Y^{\hat{\mu}} \hat{D}_x Y^{\hat{\nu}} &= C_{\underline{\mu x}} \hat{D}_a Y^{\mu} \hat{D}_x Y^x + C_{\underline{\mu\nu}} \hat{D}_a Y^{\mu} \hat{D}_x Y^{\nu} \\ &\rightarrow C_{\hat{\mu}} D_a X^{\hat{\mu}} + i[X^x, X^{\nu}] C_{\underline{\mu\nu x}} D_a X^{\hat{\mu}} \end{aligned}$$

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 \end{aligned}$$

Non-Abelian action:

- **Born-Infeld part** : highly non-trivial problem
- **Chern-Simons part**: Concentrate here

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_{Dp} &= T_p \int \text{STr} \left\{ P \left[ e^{(\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X)} (C e^B) \right] e^F \right\} \\
 &= T_p \int \text{STr} \left\{ P \left[ C_p + C_{p-2}(F + B) + \dots \right] \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + P \left[ (\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X) \left( C_{p+2} + C_p B + \dots \right) \right] \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + P \left[ (\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X) \left( C_p + C_{p-2} B + \dots \right) \right] F \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + P \left[ (\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X)^2 \left( C_{p+4} + C_{p+2} B + \dots \right) \right] + \dots \right\}
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## 2. Problems with background gauge invariance

R-R gauge transformation:  $\delta C_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{[\mu}\Lambda_{\nu]}$   
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$$\delta \mathcal{F}_{ab} = \delta \left( F_{ab} + P[B]_{ab} \right) = 0, \quad \delta([X^\mu, X^\nu] B_{\mu\nu}) = [X^\mu, X^\nu] \partial_{[\mu}\Sigma_{\nu]}$$

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$\implies$  Naive substitution does not give a total derivative !

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→ Modify way to implement gauge transformations  
in non-Abelian action

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- $$\delta \left\{ P[C_p] \right\} \equiv \partial \left\{ P[\Lambda_{p-1}] \right\} = \left\{ DP[\Lambda_{p-1}] \right\}$$
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$$\delta \left\{ P[(\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X) C] \right\} = \left\{ DP[\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X \Lambda] P[e^B] + DP[\mathbf{i}_X \Lambda] P[\mathbf{i}_X e^B] \right. \\ \left. + DP[\Lambda] P[\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X e^B] \right\}$$

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→  $S = T_p \int \left\{ P \left[ e^{(\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X)} (C e^B) \right] e^F \right\}$  is invariant under  $\delta \left\{ P[(\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X)^s C] \right\}$

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Rewrite Dp-brane action:

[Adam, Gheerardyn, B.J., Lozano]

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X)(C e^B) &= (\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X C) e^B + (\mathbf{i}_X C)(\mathbf{i}_X B) e^B \\ &\quad + C(\mathbf{i}_X B)(\mathbf{i}_X B) e^B + C(\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X B) e^B \end{aligned}$$

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$$\implies \delta \mathcal{F} = \delta \left( F + P[B] \right) = 0.$$

Rewrite Dp-brane action:

[Adam, Gheerardyn, B.J., Lozano]

$$\begin{aligned} (\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X) \left( C e^B \right) &= (\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X C) e^B + (\mathbf{i}_X C) (\mathbf{i}_X B) e^B \\ &+ C (\mathbf{i}_X B) (\mathbf{i}_X B) e^B + C (\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X B) e^B \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \implies S &= T_p \int \left\{ P \left[ (\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X C) e^{\mathcal{F}} + (\mathbf{i}_X C) (\mathbf{i}_X B) e^{\mathcal{F}} \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + C (\mathbf{i}_X B) (\mathbf{i}_X B) e^{\mathcal{F}} + C (\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X B) e^{\mathcal{F}} \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

What happens to terms of the type  $(\mathbf{i}_X B)$  and  $(\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X B)$ ?

→ **Extra non-Abelian variations** which have not been taken in account?

## T-duality on gauge transformations

T-duality in worldvolume direction  $\underline{x}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{D}p\text{-brane} &\longrightarrow \text{D}(p-1)\text{-brane} \\ (\hat{V}_{\hat{a}}, Y^i) &\longrightarrow (V_a, X^{\hat{i}}) \end{aligned}$$

- Matching of degrees of freedom:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{V}_a &\longrightarrow V_a, & Y^i &\longrightarrow X^i, \\ \hat{V}_x &\longrightarrow X^{\underline{x}}, & Y^{\underline{x}} &= \sigma^x. \end{aligned}$$

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- Role played by fields in **Dp-brane action** is the same as role of fields in **D(p-1)-brane action**.

Fields in both actions transform in the same way under:

- Worldvolume general coordinate transformations  $\zeta^a$
- $U(1)$  or  $U(N)$  transformations  $\chi$
- NS-NS transformations  $\Sigma$
- Target space general coordinate transformations

## T-duality on gauge transformations: Abelian case

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T-dual variation of BI vector:

$$\delta \hat{V}_{\hat{a}} = \hat{\zeta}^{\hat{b}} \partial_{\hat{b}} \hat{V}_{\hat{a}} + \partial_{\hat{a}} \hat{\zeta}^{\hat{b}} \hat{V}_{\hat{b}} + \partial_{\hat{a}} \hat{\chi} - \Sigma_{\hat{\mu}} \partial_{\hat{a}} Y^{\hat{\mu}}$$

$$\hat{V}_{\hat{a}} \longrightarrow V_a$$



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$$\longrightarrow \zeta^{\hat{b}}\partial_{\hat{b}}V_a + \partial_a\zeta^{\hat{b}}V_{\hat{b}} + \partial_a\Sigma_{\underline{x}}X_{\underline{x}} + \partial_a\tilde{\chi} - \Sigma_{\mu}\partial_aX^{\mu}$$

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$$\longrightarrow \zeta^b \partial_b V_a + \partial_a \zeta^b V_b + \partial_a \Sigma_{\underline{x}} X_{\underline{x}} + \partial_a \tilde{\chi} - \Sigma_{\mu} \partial_a X^{\mu}$$

$$\text{Field redefinition: } \tilde{\chi} = \chi - \Sigma_{\underline{x}} X^{\underline{x}}$$

$$= \zeta^b \partial_b V_a + \partial_a \zeta^b V_b + \partial_a \chi - \Sigma_{\hat{\mu}} \partial_a X^{\hat{\mu}}$$

$$= \delta V_a$$

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$$\longrightarrow \zeta^b \partial_b X^{\underline{x}} - \xi^{\underline{x}}$$

$$= \delta X^{\underline{x}}$$

$\longrightarrow X^{\underline{x}}$  behaves as a scalar in worldvolume and coordinate in target space.

$$\longrightarrow \delta X^{\hat{\mu}} = \zeta^b \partial_b X^{\hat{\mu}} - \xi^{\hat{\mu}}?$$

## T-duality on gauge transformations: Abelian case

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T-dual variation of embedding scalars:

$$Y^{\hat{\mu}} = \hat{\zeta}^{\hat{b}} \partial_{\hat{b}} Y^{\hat{\mu}} - \xi^{\hat{\mu}}$$

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$$= \delta V_a$$

$\longrightarrow V - a$  behaves as a vector in worldvolume,  $U(N)$  Yang-Mills vector and shift under NS-NS transf .

## T-duality on gauge transformations: non-Abelian case

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$$\hat{V}_x \rightarrow X^{\underline{x}}$$

$$\implies \delta \hat{V}_x = \hat{\zeta}^{\hat{b}} \partial_{\hat{b}} \hat{V}_x + i[V_x, \chi] - \Sigma_{\mu} \hat{D}_x Y^{\mu} - \Sigma_{\underline{x}} D_x Y^{\underline{x}}$$

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$$\longrightarrow \zeta^b \partial_b \hat{V}_x + i[X^{\underline{x}}, \chi] - i \Sigma_{\mu} [X^{\underline{x}}, X^{\mu}] - \xi^{\underline{x}}$$

$$= \delta X^{\underline{x}}$$

$\longrightarrow X^{\underline{x}}$  behaves as a scalar in worldvolume, adjoint scalar under  $U(N)$ , coordinate in target space and has extra  $\Sigma$  symmetry.

$$\longrightarrow \delta X^{\hat{\mu}} = \zeta^b \partial_b X^{\hat{\mu}} + i[X^{\mu}, \chi] - \Sigma_{\rho} [X^{\mu}, X^{\rho}] - \xi^{\hat{\mu}}?$$



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$$\longrightarrow \zeta^b \partial_b X^{\mu} + i[X^{\mu}, \chi] - i\Sigma_{\hat{\rho}}[X^{\mu}, X^{\hat{\rho}}] - \xi^{\mu}$$

$$= \delta X^{\mu}$$

$\longrightarrow X^{\mu}$  has extra non-Abelian  $\Sigma$  variations

$$\delta X^{\mu} = i\Sigma_{\rho}[X^{\rho}, X^{\mu}]$$

## NS-NS transformations of the fields

NS-NS gauge invariance **much more complicated**,  
as **everything** starts transforming:

$$\begin{aligned}\delta F_{ab} &= i[X^\rho, \Sigma_\rho F_{ab}] + i\partial_{[\sigma}\Sigma_{\rho]}[X^\sigma, X^\rho]F_{ab} - 2\partial_{[\sigma}\Sigma_{\rho]}D_{[a}X^\sigma D_{b]}X^\rho, \\ \delta D_a X^\mu &= i[X^\rho, \Sigma_\rho D_a X^\mu] + i\partial_{[\sigma}\Sigma_{\rho]}[X^\sigma, X^\rho]D_a X^\mu \\ &\quad + 2i\partial_{[\sigma}\Sigma_{\rho]}D_a X^\sigma [X^\rho, X^\mu], \\ \delta[X^\mu, X^\nu] &= i[X^\rho, \Sigma_\rho [X^\mu, X^\nu]] + i\partial_{[\sigma}\Sigma_{\rho]}[X^\sigma, X^\rho][X^\mu, X^\nu] \\ &\quad - 2i\partial_{[\sigma}\Sigma_{\rho]}[X^\sigma, X^\mu][X^\rho, X^\nu], \\ \delta\Phi(X) &= i[X^\rho, \Sigma_\rho \Phi(X)] + i\partial_{[\sigma}\Sigma_{\rho]}[X^\sigma, X^\rho]\Phi(X).\end{aligned}$$

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General rule:

$$\delta Z = i[X^\rho, \Sigma_\rho Z] + i\partial_{[\sigma}\Sigma_{\rho]}[X^\sigma, X^\rho]Z + \text{possible correction terms}$$

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General rule:

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$$\begin{aligned}\delta(Z_1 Z_2) &= i[X^\rho, \Sigma_\rho (Z_1 Z_2)] + i\partial_{[\sigma}\Sigma_{\rho]}[X^\sigma, X^\rho](Z_1 Z_2) \\ &\quad + \text{possible } Z_1 \text{ correction terms} + \text{possible } Z_2 \text{ correction terms}\end{aligned}$$

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as  $\left\{ i[X^\rho, \Sigma_\rho \mathcal{L}] \right\}$  is a **trace over a single commutator**

as  $(\mathbf{i}_X \mathbf{i}_X)^{R+1} (C e^B \partial \Sigma)$  involves **more**  $X^\mu$  as **transverse directions to D-brane**

## Different prescription for R-R and NS-NS transformations?

R-R: modified gauge variations

NS-NS: substitution of different variations

$$\delta P[C_2] = 2P[\partial\Lambda_1] - i\Lambda_1[X, F] = DP[\Lambda]$$

$$\delta P[B_2] = 2P[\partial\Sigma] - 2iP[(i_X i_X \partial\Sigma)B] - 8iP[(i_X \partial\Sigma)(i_X B)]$$

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[Adam]

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- For  $F \neq 0$  ⇒  $\mathcal{L} \sim \{P[C_2] + P[(i_X i_X)C_2]F\}$   
⇒ Naive substitution yields results similar to NS-NS case  
⇒ R-R gauge invariance also possible through naive substitution

## Conclusions

- R-R background gauge invariance  $\delta C = \partial \Lambda$  can be achieved through the implementation  $\delta \left\{ P[(i_X i_X) C] \right\} = \left\{ DP[(i_X i_X) \Lambda] \right\}$
- Demanding that fields play same role before and after T-duality  $\implies$  new symmetry  $\delta X^\mu = \Sigma_\nu [X^\nu, X^\mu]$
- taking in account this new symmetry: D-brane action invariant
- $\delta X^\mu = \Sigma_\nu [X^\nu, X^\mu]$  usefull in construction of non-Abelian Born-Infeld actions or in covariant formulation of non-Abelian actions?