

# Contents

Acknowledgements	viii
Credits	ix
Abstract	x
Résumé	xi
General conventions	xii
Introduction	1
<b>I Review of fundamentals</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1 Free higher spin gauge fields</b>	<b>9</b>
1.1 Bosonic fields . . . . .	9
1.1.1 Flat background space-time . . . . .	9
1.1.2 Constantly curved background space-time . . . . .	13
1.2 Fermionic fields . . . . .	13
1.2.1 Flat background space-time . . . . .	13
1.2.2 Constantly curved background space-time . . . . .	16
<b>2 Hamiltonian formalism for constrained systems</b>	<b>18</b>
2.1 Dirac formalism . . . . .	18
2.1.1 From Lagrangian to Hamiltonian . . . . .	18
2.1.2 Gauge systems . . . . .	20
2.1.3 Second class constraints . . . . .	21
2.2 Illustrations of Dirac formalism . . . . .	22
2.2.1 Classical electromagnetism . . . . .	22
2.2.2 Linearized gravity . . . . .	24
2.3 First order action . . . . .	26
2.3.1 General formalism . . . . .	26
2.3.2 Illustration of constrained first order formalism: spin 3/2 gauge field on flat space . . . . .	29
2.4 Surface charges . . . . .	31
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>33</b>
2.A Invertibility of the second class constraints Poisson brackets matrix . . . . .	33
2.B Resolution of the momentum constraint . . . . .	34
2.C Gauge invariance of the prepotential $\phi_{kl}$ . . . . .	35
<b>3 Dualities</b>	<b>36</b>
3.1 Electric-magnetic duality . . . . .	36
3.1.1 Spin 1 . . . . .	36
3.1.2 Spin 2 . . . . .	37
3.2 Twisted self-duality conditions . . . . .	38

3.2.1	Spin 1 . . . . .	38
3.2.2	Spin 2 . . . . .	40
<b>II</b>	<b>Bosonic higher spin on flat space</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Conformal curvature in <math>D = 3</math></b>	<b>43</b>
4.1	Spin- $s$ diffeomorphism invariance . . . . .	43
4.1.1	Riemann tensor . . . . .	44
4.1.2	Einstein tensor . . . . .	45
4.2	Spin- $s$ Weyl invariance . . . . .	46
4.2.1	Schouten tensor . . . . .	47
4.2.2	Cotton tensor . . . . .	48
4.2.3	Spin-2 . . . . .	49
4.2.4	Spin-3 . . . . .	49
4.2.5	Spin-4 . . . . .	50
4.3	Cotton tensor as a complete set of Weyl invariants . . . . .	51
4.3.1	Spin 3 . . . . .	51
4.3.2	Spin 4 . . . . .	52
4.4	Cotton tensors as a complete set of transverse-traceless symmetric tensors . . . . .	52
4.4.1	The problem . . . . .	52
4.4.2	Spin 2 . . . . .	53
4.4.3	Higher spin . . . . .	53
<b>Appendices</b>		<b>55</b>
4.A	Generalized differential . . . . .	55
4.A.1	$p$ -forms . . . . .	55
4.A.2	Beyond fully antisymmetric tensors . . . . .	55
4.B	Complete set of gauge invariant functions . . . . .	57
4.B.1	Generalities . . . . .	57
4.B.2	Spin- $s$ Weyl invariance . . . . .	58
<b>5</b>	<b>Hamiltonian analysis</b>	<b>61</b>
5.1	Spin-3 . . . . .	61
5.1.1	Hamiltonian and constraints . . . . .	62
5.1.2	Gauge transformations . . . . .	62
5.1.3	Momentum constraint . . . . .	63
5.1.4	Hamiltonian constraint . . . . .	63
5.1.5	Hamiltonian action in terms of prepotentials . . . . .	64
5.2	Arbitrary spin . . . . .	65
5.2.1	Change of variables and momenta . . . . .	65
5.2.2	Gauge transformations . . . . .	66
5.2.3	Hamiltonian and constraints . . . . .	67
5.2.4	Solving the momentum constraint . . . . .	68
5.2.5	Solving the Hamiltonian constraint . . . . .	69
5.2.6	Hamiltonian Action in terms of prepotentials . . . . .	72
<b>Appendices</b>		<b>74</b>
5.A	Prepotentials for even spins . . . . .	74
5.A.1	First Step . . . . .	74
5.A.2	Second Step . . . . .	75
5.A.3	Third Step . . . . .	75
5.A.4	Summary . . . . .	75
5.B	Prepotentials for odd spins . . . . .	76
5.B.1	First Step . . . . .	76
5.B.2	Second Step . . . . .	76
5.B.3	Third Step . . . . .	76
5.C	Conformally invariant Hamiltonian . . . . .	78

5.C.1	Even spin: $s = 2n$	78
5.C.2	Odd spin: $s = 2n + 1$	79
<b>6</b>	<b>Twisted self-duality</b>	<b>80</b>
6.1	Equations of motion in terms of Riemann tensor	80
6.2	Covariant twisted self-duality	81
6.3	Electric and magnetic fields	82
6.3.1	Definitions	82
6.3.2	Twisted self-duality in terms of electric and magnetic fields	84
6.3.3	Getting rid of the Lagrange multipliers	84
6.4	Variational principle	85
6.4.1	Prepotentials	85
6.4.2	Twisted self-duality and prepotentials	85
6.4.3	Action	85
<b>Appendices</b>		<b>87</b>
6.A	Higher dimensions and twisted self-duality	87
6.B	Electric-magnetic duality	88
6.B.1	How the symmetries fix the action	88
<b>III</b>	<b>Toward supersymmetry</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Hypergravity and electric-magnetic duality</b>	<b>91</b>
7.1	Covariant form of hypergravity	92
7.1.1	Action	92
7.1.2	Gauge symmetries	92
7.1.3	Supersymmetry	93
7.1.4	Equations of motion	93
7.2	Hamiltonian form	93
7.2.1	Spin-2 part	93
7.2.2	Spin-5/2 part	94
7.3	Solving the constraints - Prepotentials	95
7.4	Supersymmetry transformations in terms of the prepotentials	97
7.5	Action	98
<b>Appendices</b>		<b>99</b>
7.A	Technical derivations	99
7.A.1	Bosonic prepotential $Z_2^{mn} = \phi^{mn}$	99
7.A.2	Bosonic prepotential $Z_1^{mn} = P^{mn}$	100
7.A.3	Supersymmetric variation of the fermionic prepotential $\Sigma_{ij}$	101
7.B	The spin- $(1, \frac{3}{2})$ multiplet	103
7.B.1	Spin 1	103
7.B.2	Spin 3/2	103
7.B.3	Supersymmetry	104
<b>8</b>	<b>Beyond fully symmetric tensors: type (2,2)</b>	<b>105</b>
8.1	Covariant description	105
8.2	Electric and magnetic fields	107
8.3	Prepotentials - Action	108
8.4	Chiral and non-chiral actions	110
8.5	Dimensional reduction	110
8.6	Generalizations	110
<b>Appendices</b>		<b>112</b>
8.A	Equations of motion	112
8.B	Hamiltonian formulation	113
8.C	Dimensional reduction	114

<b>IV</b>	<b>Surface charges on AdS</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Bose fields</b>	<b>116</b>
9.1	Introduction . . . . .	116
9.2	Spin-3 example . . . . .	116
9.2.1	Hamiltonian and constraints . . . . .	117
9.2.2	Gauge transformations . . . . .	118
9.2.3	Boundary conditions . . . . .	119
9.2.4	Asymptotic symmetries . . . . .	121
9.2.5	Charges . . . . .	123
9.3	Arbitrary spin . . . . .	125
9.3.1	Constraints and gauge transformations . . . . .	125
9.3.2	Boundary conditions and asymptotic symmetries . . . . .	128
9.3.3	Charges . . . . .	129
9.4	Summary and further developments . . . . .	130
<b>Appendices</b>		<b>132</b>
9.A	Notation and conventions . . . . .	132
9.B	Hamiltonian form of Fronsdal's action . . . . .	133
9.B.1	Spin 3 . . . . .	133
9.B.2	Arbitrary spin . . . . .	133
9.C	Covariant boundary conditions . . . . .	135
9.C.1	Falloff of the solutions of the free equations of motion . . . . .	135
9.C.2	Residual gauge symmetry . . . . .	136
9.C.3	Initial data at the boundary . . . . .	137
9.D	Conformal Killing tensors . . . . .	139
9.E	Spin- $s$ charges . . . . .	141
<b>10</b>	<b>Fermi fields</b>	<b>143</b>
10.1	Spin-5/2 example . . . . .	143
10.1.1	Hamiltonian and constraints . . . . .	144
10.1.2	Gauge transformations . . . . .	146
10.1.3	Boundary conditions . . . . .	147
10.1.4	Asymptotic symmetries . . . . .	148
10.1.5	Charges . . . . .	151
10.1.6	Three space-time dimensions . . . . .	151
10.2	Arbitrary spin . . . . .	152
10.2.1	Constraints and gauge transformations . . . . .	152
10.2.2	Boundary conditions and asymptotic symmetries . . . . .	154
10.2.3	Charges . . . . .	156
10.3	Summary and further developments . . . . .	157
<b>Appendices</b>		<b>159</b>
10.A	Notation and conventions . . . . .	159
10.B	Covariant boundary conditions . . . . .	161
10.B.1	Falloff of the solutions of the free equations of motion . . . . .	161
10.B.2	Residual gauge symmetry . . . . .	162
10.B.3	Initial data at the boundary . . . . .	163
10.C	Conformal Killing spinor-tensors . . . . .	165
10.C.1	Conformal Killing spinor-vectors . . . . .	165
10.C.2	Comments on arbitrary rank . . . . .	165
10.C.3	Independent conditions on asymptotic symmetries . . . . .	166
<b>Conclusion</b>		<b>169</b>