

Supersymmetric bulk-brane coupling with odd gauge fields

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ABSTRACT: Supersymmetric bulk-brane coupling in Horava-Witten and Randall-Sundrum scenarios, when considered in the orbifold (“upstairs”) picture, enjoys similar features: a modified Bianchi identity and a modified supersymmetry transformation for the “orthogonal” part of the gauge field. Using a toy model with a 5D vector multiplet in the bulk (like in Mirabelli-Peskin model, but with an *odd* gauge field A_m), we explain how these features arise from the superfield formulation. We also show that the corresponding construction in the boundary (“downstairs”) picture requires introduction of a special “compensator” (super)field.

KEYWORDS: Supersymmetric gauge theory, Supergravity Models, Brane Dynamics in Gauge Theories, Field Theories in Higher Dimensions.

JHEP08(2006)032

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1. Introduction

The last decade saw a revival of interest in theories with extra dimensions and brane-world scenarios. In 1996, Horava and Witten [1] showed that 11D supergravity on a manifold with boundary (or on S^1/\mathbb{Z}_2 orbifold) arises as a low energy limit of the strongly coupled heterotic string theory. Three years later, Randall and Sundrum [2] demonstrated that a simpler 5D construction with a cosmological constant in the bulk is sufficient to naturally solve the gauge hierarchy problem and leads to interesting phenomenological consequences.

A minimal supersymmetric version of the Randall-Sundrum scenario, with just the tension terms on the branes, is by now well understood [3–6]. Some progress has been made in including additional matter fields on the branes (see ref. [7] and references therein), but the construction is not yet complete. One interesting observation of ref. [7] is that the supersymmetric bulk-brane coupling (in the orbifold picture) in both the 11D and 5D cases has two basic features in common:

- 1) the field strength of the bulk gauge field is shifted so that it satisfies a modified Bianchi identity; and
- 2) supersymmetry transformation of the “orthogonal” component of the gauge field (C_{11AB} in 11D and B_5 in 5D) is modified accordingly.

Besides these modifications, the simplest version of the coupling (to the 2-Fermi order) requires only adding the Noether coupling term to the free brane Lagrangian.

Supersymmetric bulk-brane coupling can be nicely formulated using 4D superfields. The original idea is due to Mirabelli and Peskin [8] (who worked with supermultiplets instead of superfields); in the superfield language, the method was developed and generalized to dimensions higher than five in ref. [9]. Although this method has already been widely used, the basic features of the bulk-brane coupling listed above have not yet been explained by it. In this paper, we will fill in the gap.

In our discussion, we will use the toy (globally supersymmetric) model of Mirabelli and Peskin, with an abelian 5D vector multiplet in the bulk. In the orbifold picture, the 4D vector (A_m) and the 4D scalar (A_5) components of the gauge field A_M have opposite parities. Instead of choosing A_m to be even, as in ref. [8], we will choose it to be *odd* to make contact with the supergravity constructions (where C_{ABC} in 11D and B_m in 5D are odd). This also flips the parities of the 4D superfields used to describe the 5D vector multiplet, compared to refs. [8, 9]. We will find that this model reproduces the features of the supergravity bulk-brane coupling surprisingly well.

Our key results are as follows. In the orbifold picture (OP), recovering the right component structure of the coupling from its superfield form requires a certain field redefinition that makes all bulk fields except A_5 non-singular. In the boundary picture (BP), the singularity of A_5 is replaced by the presence of a special boundary compensator K . In both cases, the boundary condition on the odd part of the gauge field is $A_m = J_m$, where J_m is a function of the brane/boundary fields. This boundary condition is required for supersymmetry of the action in the BP, but not in the OP.

The structure of the paper is best seen from the Contents. We note here only that the agreement with the supergravity constructions is achieved in section 4.5, and more explicitly in the example of section 5.4.

2. Mirabelli-Peskin model with odd A_m

In this section, we review the essentials of the 5D gauge supermultiplet, both in the component formulation and using 4D $N = 1$ superfields; OP and BP are defined here. Our conventions are the same as in ref. [11]; supersymmetry conventions follow closely those of Wess and Bagger [13].

2.1 5D vector multiplet

The abelian 5D gauge supermultiplet consists of a gauge field A_M ($M = 0, 1, 2, 3, 5$), a real scalar Φ , a symplectic-Majorana spinor (gaugino) Λ_i ($i = 1, 2$), and a triplet of real auxiliary fields X_a ($a = 1, 2, 3$). The Lagrangian for this multiplet is

$$\mathcal{L}_5 = -\frac{1}{4}F_{MN}F^{MN} - \frac{1}{2}\partial_M\Phi\partial^M\Phi - \frac{i}{2}\tilde{\Lambda}^i\Gamma^M\partial_M\Lambda_i + \frac{1}{2}X_aX_a. \quad (2.1)$$

The corresponding supersymmetry transformations are

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{\mathcal{H}}A_M &= i\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^i\Gamma_M\Lambda_i \\ \delta_{\mathcal{H}}\Phi &= i\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^i\Lambda_i \\ \delta_{\mathcal{H}}X_a &= \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^i(\sigma_a)_i{}^j\Gamma^M\partial_M\Lambda_j \\ \delta_{\mathcal{H}}\Lambda_i &= \delta'_{\mathcal{H}}\Lambda_i + \delta''_{\mathcal{H}}\Lambda_i, \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

where we made the following split,

$$\delta'_{\mathcal{H}}\Lambda_i = (\Sigma^{MN}F_{MN} + \Gamma^M\partial_M\Phi)\mathcal{H}_i, \quad \delta''_{\mathcal{H}}\Lambda_i = X_a(\sigma_a)_i{}^j\mathcal{H}_j, \quad (2.3)$$

separating out the auxiliary part of the transformation. (The supersymmetry parameter \mathcal{H}_i is a constant symplectic-Majorana spinor.) Under the supersymmetry transformations, the Lagrangian varies into a total derivative. This is to be compared with the general variation, when one also finds a total derivative plus terms that vanish only when equations of motion (EOM) are used. The total derivatives in these two cases are similar, but differ in the fermionic parts. In the case at hand, we find

$$\delta\mathcal{L}_5 = (\text{EOM}) + \partial_M K^M, \quad \delta_{\mathcal{H}}\mathcal{L}_5 = \partial_M \tilde{K}^M, \quad (2.4)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} K^M &= -F^{MN}\delta A_N - \delta\Phi\partial^M\Phi - \frac{i}{2}\tilde{\Lambda}^i\Gamma^M\delta\Lambda_i \\ \tilde{K}^M &= -F^{MN}\delta_{\mathcal{H}}A_N - \delta_{\mathcal{H}}\Phi\partial^M\Phi + \frac{i}{2}\tilde{\Lambda}^i\Gamma^M\delta'_{\mathcal{H}}\Lambda_i - \frac{i}{2}\tilde{\Lambda}^i\Gamma^M\delta''_{\mathcal{H}}\Lambda_i. \end{aligned} \quad (2.5)$$

The total derivatives are irrelevant on the orbifold, but essential in the boundary picture.

2.2 OP, BP and $N = 1$ supersymmetry

In the orbifold picture (OP), the 5D space is $\mathbb{R}^{1,4}$ with a \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry realized as a reflection $x^5 \equiv z \rightarrow -z$. The “fixed point” at $z = 0$ is a 4D plane that we call a “brane”. In the boundary picture (BP), the 5D space is $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^{1,3} \times [0, +\infty)$, with boundary at $z = 0$. In both cases, it is convenient to make the “5 \rightarrow 4” split, using $M = \{m, 5\}$ ($m = 0, 1, 2, 3$), and to convert symplectic-Majorana spinors into pairs of two-component spinors: $\Lambda_i \rightarrow (\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$, $\mathcal{H}_i \rightarrow (\eta_1, \eta_2)$. This leads to the following form of the Lagrangian,¹

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_5 = & -\frac{1}{4}F_{mn}F^{mn} - \frac{1}{2}F_{m5}F^{m5} - \frac{1}{2}\partial_m\Phi\partial^m\Phi - \frac{1}{2}\partial_5\Phi\partial_5\Phi + \frac{1}{2}X_{12}X_{12}^* + \frac{1}{2}X_3^2 \\ & - \left[\frac{i}{2}\lambda_1\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\lambda}_1 + \frac{i}{2}\lambda_2\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\lambda}_2 + \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_2\partial_5\lambda_1 - \lambda_1\partial_5\lambda_2) + h.c. \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

When a brane/boundary is present, we can preserve only a half of the $N = 2$ supersymmetry, parametrized by η_1 and η_2 . Without loss of generality, we set

$$\boxed{\eta_1 = \eta, \quad \eta_2 = 0.} \quad (2.7)$$

This gives the following $N = 1$ supersymmetry transformations,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_\eta A_m &= i\eta\sigma_m\bar{\lambda}_1 + h.c. \\ \delta_\eta A_5 &= -\eta\lambda_2 + h.c. \\ \delta_\eta \Phi &= -i\eta\lambda_2 + h.c. \\ \delta_\eta \lambda_1 &= \sigma^{mn}\eta F_{mn} + i(X_3 - \partial_5\Phi)\eta \\ \delta_\eta \lambda_2 &= -i\sigma^m\bar{\eta}F_{m5} - \sigma^m\bar{\eta}\partial_m\Phi - iX_{12}\eta \\ \delta_\eta X_{12} &= 2i\bar{\eta}\partial_5\bar{\lambda}_1 - 2\bar{\eta}\sigma^m\partial_m\lambda_2 \\ \delta_\eta X_3 &= -i\eta\partial_5\lambda_2 - \eta\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\lambda}_1 + h.c. \end{aligned} \quad (2.8)$$

In the orbifold picture, we must choose parity assignments for all fields and parameters. We are interested in the case when η_1 is even and A_m is odd, which leads to the following set of assignments,²

$$\boxed{\text{even : } A_5, \lambda_2, \Phi, X_{12}, \eta_1 \quad \text{odd : } A_m, \lambda_1, X_3, \eta_2.} \quad (2.9)$$

With these assignments, the Lagrangian is even, whereas the equations of motion and supersymmetry transformations are parity covariant.

¹In our notation, $F_{mn} = \partial_m A_n - \partial_n A_m$, $F_{m5} = \partial_m A_5 - \partial_5 A_m$, $X_{12} = X_1 + iX_2$.

²Under the \mathbb{Z}_2 reflection, each field $f(x, z)$ is mapped into $f(x, -z) = P[f]f(x, +z)$ with $P[f] = \pm 1$. We call $P[f] = +1$ fields “even” and $P[f] = -1$ fields “odd”.

2.3 $N = 1$ superfields \mathbf{V}_2 and Φ_2

$N = 1$ supersymmetry is most conveniently described in terms of $N = 1$ superfields. For the 5D vector multiplet, we need two 4D $N = 1$ superfields: a gauge superfield \mathbf{V}_2 and a chiral superfield Φ_2 .³ If we take \mathbf{V}_2 in the Wess-Zumino (WZ) gauge (see appendix B for a discussion of this choice), then the relation between the component bulk fields and components of the superfields is given by [9, 10]

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{V}_2 &= (0, \quad 0, \quad 0; \quad A_m, \quad \lambda_1, \quad X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi) \\ \Phi_2 &= (\Phi + iA_5, \quad -i\sqrt{2}\lambda_2, \quad -X_{12}).\end{aligned}\tag{2.10}$$

Here and henceforth we represent superfields by listing their components in a definite order (see appendix A). The supersymmetry transformations (2.8) are reproduced by the following superfield transformations,

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_\eta \mathbf{V}_2 &= (\eta Q + \bar{\eta} \bar{Q}) \mathbf{V}_2 + \mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta) + \mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta)^\dagger \\ \delta_\eta \Phi_2 &= (\eta Q + \bar{\eta} \bar{Q}) \Phi_2 + 2\partial_5 \mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta),\end{aligned}\tag{2.11}$$

where the compensating gauge transformation (keeping \mathbf{V}_2 in the WZ gauge) is given by

$$\mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta) = \left(0, \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sigma^m \bar{\eta} A_m, \quad -i\bar{\eta} \bar{\lambda}_1 \right).\tag{2.12}$$

Similarly, the bulk U(1) gauge transformation,

$$\delta_u A_M = \partial_M u \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \delta_u A_m = \partial_m u, \quad \delta_u A_5 = \partial_5 u,\tag{2.13}$$

is reproduced by the superfield gauge transformation

$$\delta_u \mathbf{V}_2 = \mathbf{\Lambda}_2(u) + \mathbf{\Lambda}_2(u)^\dagger, \quad \delta_u \Phi_2 = 2\partial_5 \mathbf{\Lambda}_2(u)\tag{2.14}$$

with the following parameter,

$$\mathbf{\Lambda}_2(u) = \left(\frac{i}{2} u, \quad 0, \quad 0 \right).\tag{2.15}$$

2.4 Superfield Lagrangian

The Lagrangian \mathcal{L}_5 is gauge invariant and, therefore, should be constructed out of gauge invariant superfields. Two basic gauge invariant superfields are⁴

$$\mathbf{Z}_2 = \partial_5 \mathbf{V}_2 - \frac{1}{2} (\Phi_2 + \Phi_2^\dagger), \quad \eta \mathbf{W}_2 = -\frac{1}{4} \eta^\alpha \overline{DD} D_\alpha \mathbf{V}_2.\tag{2.16}$$

³The subscript “2” on \mathbf{V}_2 and Φ_2 indicates that these are bulk superfields. We reserve \mathbf{V} and Φ for denoting brane-localized superfields.

⁴We hide the spinor index α on \mathbf{W}_2 by contracting it with another spinor. For the definition of the supersymmetry operator Q_α and the covariant superspace derivative D_α , see ref. [13].

Their components are related to the bulk fields in the following way,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Z}_2 &= \left(-\Phi, \quad \lambda_2, \quad -iX_{12}; \quad -F_{m5}, \quad \partial_5 \lambda_1, \quad \partial_5(X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi) \right) \\ \eta \mathbf{W}_2 &= \left(-i\eta \lambda_1, \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [\eta(X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi) + i\sigma^{mn} \eta F_{mn}], \quad \eta \sigma^m \partial_m \bar{\lambda}_1 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.17)$$

The superfield Lagrangian that reproduces \mathcal{L}_5 up to a total derivative is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}'_5 &= \frac{1}{4} \int d^2\theta \mathbf{W}_2^2 + h.c. + \int d^2\theta d^2\bar{\theta} \mathbf{Z}_2^2 \\ &= \int d^2\theta d^2\bar{\theta} \left[\frac{1}{8} \mathbf{V}_2 D^\alpha \bar{D} \bar{D} D_\alpha \mathbf{V}_2 + \mathbf{Z}_2^2 \right], \end{aligned} \quad (2.18)$$

where the second form is particularly suited for deriving superfield equations of motion (and boundary conditions) and allows us to omit the overall superspace integration.⁵ Writing \mathcal{L}'_5 in components and comparing with \mathcal{L}_5 , eq. (2.6), we find

$$\mathcal{L}'_5 = \mathcal{L}_5 - \partial_5 Y', \quad Y' = \Phi(X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi) + \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 \lambda_2 + h.c.). \quad (2.19)$$

In terms of the actions, on a manifold with boundary $\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^{1,3} \times [0, +\infty)$, we have

$$\boxed{S'_5 = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{L}'_5, \quad S_5 = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{L}_5 \quad \Rightarrow \quad S'_5 = S_5 + \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} Y'.} \quad (2.20)$$

3. Bulk-brane coupling in superfields

In this section, we construct supersymmetric coupling of the bulk 5D gauge multiplet to the brane/boundary. The coupling gives rise to a boundary condition $\mathbf{V}_2 \stackrel{\pm 0}{=} \mathbf{J}$, where \mathbf{J} is a function of brane localized superfields \mathbf{V} , Φ , and a special compensator superfield \mathbf{K} that, in the orbifold picture, corresponds to the singular part of Φ_2 .

3.1 Boundary picture

In the previous section, we arrived at the following superfield action on a manifold with boundary \mathcal{M} ,

$$S'_5 = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \left[\frac{1}{8} \mathbf{V}_2 D \bar{D}^2 D \mathbf{V}_2 + \mathbf{Z}_2^2 \right]. \quad (3.1)$$

Its general variation gives

$$\delta S'_5 = \int_{\mathcal{M}} \left[-\mathbf{Z}_2 \delta \Phi_2 + h.c. + \left(\frac{1}{4} D \bar{D}^2 D \mathbf{V}_2 - 2\partial_5 \mathbf{Z}_2 \right) \delta \mathbf{V}_2 \right] - \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} 2\mathbf{Z}_2 \delta \mathbf{V}_2. \quad (3.2)$$

⁵The superspace integral $\int d^2\theta d^2\bar{\theta}$ is implicit in the expressions for actions and Lagrangians in the rest of the paper. Note also that we omit total ∂_m derivatives, as they are irrelevant in both the orbifold and boundary pictures. Total ∂_5 derivatives, however, are kept.

The bulk equations of motion, therefore, are ⁶

$$\overline{DD}\mathbf{Z}_2 = 0, \quad \frac{1}{4}D\overline{D}^2D\mathbf{V}_2 - 2\partial_5\mathbf{Z}_2 = 0, \quad (3.3)$$

while the natural boundary condition, obtained by requiring the boundary piece of $\delta S'_5$ to vanish for arbitrary $\delta\mathbf{V}_2$, is ⁷

$$\mathbf{Z}_2 \stackrel{+0}{=} 0. \quad (3.4)$$

This is the reason why S'_5 is the right action for lifting on the orbifold with odd \mathbf{Z}_2 (that is, with even \mathbf{V}_2 and odd Φ_2). Coupling bulk fields to brane localized matter would make this boundary condition inhomogeneous [11].

In this paper, we are interested in the other case, when \mathbf{V}_2 is odd and Φ_2 is even (therefore, \mathbf{Z}_2 is even). The appropriate action is easy to guess. We define

$$\boxed{S''_5 = S'_5 + \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} 2\mathbf{Z}_2\mathbf{V}_2.} \quad (3.5)$$

Its general variation gives the same equations of motion in the bulk, but the boundary term and, therefore, the natural boundary condition are now different:

$$\delta S''_5 = (\text{EOM}) + \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} 2\mathbf{V}_2\delta\mathbf{Z}_2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{V}_2 \stackrel{+0}{=} 0. \quad (3.6)$$

This shows that S''_5 is the right action for lifting on the orbifold with odd \mathbf{V}_2 .

Adding boundary interaction that leads to the boundary condition $\mathbf{V}_2 \stackrel{+0}{=} \mathbf{J}$ is now straightforward. For the complete bulk-plus-boundary action we take

$$\begin{aligned} S &= S''_5 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{L}_4 - \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} 2\mathbf{Z}_2\mathbf{J} \\ &= S'_5 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} \mathcal{L}_4 + \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} 2\mathbf{Z}_2(\mathbf{V}_2 - \mathbf{J}), \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

where \mathcal{L}_4 is a part of the boundary Lagrangian that does not depend on the bulk fields and is supersymmetric on its own. The general variation of the action gives the required boundary condition:

$$\delta S = (\text{EOM}) + \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} 2(\mathbf{V}_2 - \mathbf{J})\delta\mathbf{Z}_2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \boxed{\mathbf{V}_2 \stackrel{+0}{=} \mathbf{J}.} \quad (3.8)$$

However, despite being written in terms of superfields, the action is not yet guaranteed to be supersymmetric. Supersymmetry transformations of \mathbf{V}_2 and Φ_2 , given in eq. (2.11), are a combination of the standard piece (with the linear supersymmetry operator acting on them) and a special gauge transformation. As a result, the action can be supersymmetric

⁶Equations of motion for chiral superfields are found by applying \overline{DD} to what comes out from the general variation. See ref. [13] for more details.

⁷The symbol $\stackrel{+0}{=}$ is used to denote boundary conditions in both the boundary and orbifold pictures. In the orbifold picture, it means “on the positive side of the brane”, at $z = +0$.

only when it is gauge invariant. With \mathbf{V}_2 appearing in the action explicitly, this can be achieved only if the gauge and supersymmetry transformations of \mathbf{J} match those of \mathbf{V}_2 . That is, the action is supersymmetric provided \mathbf{J} transforms as follows,

$$\delta_u \mathbf{J} = \Lambda_2^{(+)}(u) + \Lambda_2^{(+)}(u)^\dagger, \quad \delta_\eta \mathbf{J} = (\eta Q + \bar{\eta} \bar{Q}) \mathbf{J} + \Lambda_2^{(+)}(\eta) + \Lambda_2^{(+)}(\eta)^\dagger, \quad (3.9)$$

where the superscript “(+)” indicates restriction of the bulk quantity to the boundary.

One can construct $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{J}(\mathbf{V}, \Phi)$ with the above transformation laws. However, this inevitably requires relating bulk and boundary gauge invariances and leads to a rather strange form of the coupling. Another way to satisfy eq. (3.9), motivated by the orbifold picture construction (see below), is to introduce a special boundary superfield \mathbf{K} with the following transformation properties,

$$\delta_u \mathbf{K} = \Lambda_2^{(+)}(u), \quad \delta_\eta \mathbf{K} = (\eta Q + \bar{\eta} \bar{Q}) \mathbf{K} + \Lambda_2^{(+)}(\eta). \quad (3.10)$$

If we now define

$$\boxed{\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{K} + \mathbf{K}^\dagger + \mathbf{G},} \quad (3.11)$$

with $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{G}(\mathbf{V}, \Phi)$ transforming as a gauge invariant quantity,

$$\delta_u \mathbf{G} = 0, \quad \delta_\eta \mathbf{G} = (\eta Q + \bar{\eta} \bar{Q}) \mathbf{G}, \quad (3.12)$$

then \mathbf{J} transforms precisely as in eq. (3.9). This way we do not need to relate the bulk gauge transformation to a boundary one, which means that introducing the superfield \mathbf{K} increases gauge symmetry of the action. Therefore, we can call \mathbf{K} a “compensator” superfield.

With the superfield \mathbf{K} present, we do not need a boundary gauge transformation, so that, for example, $\mathbf{G} = \Phi^\dagger \Phi$ is a valid choice. Note also that \mathbf{K} does not appear in \mathcal{L}_4 , but comes only with \mathbf{J} . As a result, its equation of motion is

$$\overline{DD} \mathbf{Z}_2 \stackrel{\pm 0}{=} 0. \quad (3.13)$$

As this coincides with the restriction of the bulk equation of motion for Φ_2 , eq. (3.3), to the boundary, our construction is consistent.

3.2 OP with singular Φ_2

In the orbifold picture, the bulk-plus-brane Lagrangian, corresponding to the bulk-plus-boundary action (3.7), turns out to be given by

$$\boxed{\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{8} \mathbf{V}_2 D \bar{D}^2 D \mathbf{V}_2 + \left[\mathbf{Z}_2 - 2 \mathbf{G} \delta(z) \right]^2 + \mathcal{L}_4 \delta(z).} \quad (3.14)$$

The first part of it, explicitly showing \mathbf{V}_2 , is gauge invariant (up to a total ∂_m derivative). As \mathbf{Z}_2 is gauge invariant, the brane-localized term \mathbf{G} must also be invariant under the bulk gauge transformation for the Lagrangian to be supersymmetric.

The full square structure of the interaction is required to guarantee that equations of motion for the bulk and brane fields are consistent with each other. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\delta\mathcal{L}}{\delta\mathbf{V}_2} &\equiv \frac{1}{4}D\bar{D}^2D\mathbf{V}_2 - 2\partial_5[\mathbf{Z}_2 - 2\mathbf{G}\delta(z)] = 0 \\ \frac{\delta\mathcal{L}}{\delta\mathbf{V}} &\equiv \delta(z) \left\{ -4[\mathbf{Z}_2 - 2\mathbf{G}\delta(z)]\frac{\delta\mathbf{G}}{\delta\mathbf{V}} + \frac{\delta\mathcal{L}_4}{\delta\mathbf{V}} \right\} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

so that both equations require \mathbf{Z}_2 to have the same singular part,

$$\boxed{\mathbf{Z}_2 = 2\mathbf{G}\delta(z) + \text{n.s.},} \quad (3.16)$$

where “n.s.” stands for non-singular terms. As $\mathbf{Z}_2 = \partial_5\mathbf{V}_2 - \frac{1}{2}(\Phi_2 + \Phi_2^\dagger)$, the singular term can arise from a jump in the odd superfield \mathbf{V}_2 ,

$$\partial_5\mathbf{V}_2 = 2\delta(z)\mathbf{V}_2^{(+)} + \text{n.s.}, \quad (3.17)$$

or from the even superfield Φ_2 having a singular part. If we write

$$\boxed{\Phi_2 = \tilde{\Phi}_2 + 4\mathbf{K}\delta(z),} \quad (3.18)$$

with $\tilde{\Phi}_2$ being non-singular, we find that eq. (3.16) gives rise to a boundary condition

$$\mathbf{V}_2 \stackrel{+0}{=} \mathbf{J} = \mathbf{K} + \mathbf{K}^\dagger + \mathbf{G}, \quad (3.19)$$

which coincides exactly with the boundary condition found in the boundary picture. Moreover, the gauge transformation of Φ_2 , eq. (2.14), when split into the singular and non-singular parts, gives

$$\delta_u\mathbf{K} = \Lambda_2^{(+)}(u), \quad \delta_u\tilde{\Phi}_2 = 2\partial_5\Lambda_2(u) - 4\Lambda_2^{(+)}(u)\delta(z), \quad (3.20)$$

which implies that the gauge and supersymmetry transformations of \mathbf{K} are exactly as in eq. (3.10). We conclude, therefore, that the boundary compensator \mathbf{K} corresponds to the singular part of Φ_2 in the orbifold picture.

3.3 OP with non-singular Φ_2

There is another way to approach bulk-brane coupling in the orbifold picture. Let us require that Φ_2 be non-singular. This forces us to modify gauge and supersymmetry transformations of Φ_2 in a way that makes them non-singular, which gives

$$\begin{aligned} \delta'_u\Phi_2 &= 2\partial_5\Lambda_2(u) - 4\Lambda_2^{(+)}(u)\delta(z) \\ \delta'_\eta\Phi_2 &= (\eta Q + \bar{\eta}\bar{Q})\Phi_2 + 2\partial_5\Lambda_2(\eta) - 4\Lambda_2^{(+)}(\eta)\delta(z). \end{aligned} \quad (3.21)$$

With this modification, \mathbf{Z}_2 is no longer gauge invariant

$$\delta'_u\mathbf{Z}_2 = 2 \left[\Lambda_2^{(+)}(u) + (\Lambda_2^{(+)}(u))^\dagger \right] \delta(z). \quad (3.22)$$

Therefore, the right bulk-plus-brane Lagrangian now is

$$\boxed{\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{8} \mathbf{V}_2 D \bar{D}^2 D \mathbf{V}_2 + \left[\mathbf{Z}_2 - 2\mathbf{J}\delta(z) \right]^2 + \mathcal{L}_4 \delta(z),} \quad (3.23)$$

where \mathbf{J} is required to transform as in eq. (3.9) in order for \mathcal{L} to be supersymmetric. As in the boundary picture, we are led to \mathbf{J} of the form (3.11), explicitly containing the compensator \mathbf{K} . Note that, unlike the boundary picture case, we can make a replacement

$$\Lambda_2^{(+)}(\eta) \longrightarrow \Lambda_{\mathbf{J}}(\eta) \equiv \Lambda_2^{(+)}(\eta) \Big|_{\mathbf{V}_2=\mathbf{J}} \quad (3.24)$$

in the supersymmetry transformations of \mathbf{J} , \mathbf{K} , and Φ_2 , and the Lagrangian (3.23) would still be supersymmetric *without* using boundary conditions.

The two orbifold picture constructions are, obviously, related by the field redefinition (3.18). The advantage of the formulation with a singular Φ_2 is that it avoids explicit appearance of the compensator \mathbf{K} . We will see more explicitly how the two approaches are related when we consider the component formulation.

4. Bulk-brane coupling in components

In this section, we show how to go from the superfield bulk-brane coupling established in the previous section, to its component form. In the boundary picture, we find that the Y -term of ref. [6] arises naturally from the extra superfield boundary term in S_5'' . In the orbifold picture, we find that in order to arrive at the form of the coupling established for the Horava-Witten and Randall-Sundrum scenarios, one has to do a partial field redefinition.

4.1 Boundary conditions

In both the boundary and orbifold picture, the boundary condition is given by eq. (3.19). As \mathbf{J} is a real vector superfield, we write its components as follows (see appendix A)

$$\mathbf{J} = (C_J, \chi_J, M_J; J_m, \lambda_J, D_J). \quad (4.1)$$

With \mathbf{V}_2 being in the WZ gauge and given by eq. (2.10), the boundary condition (3.19) splits into two sets of component boundary conditions. The first set requires the three lowest components of \mathbf{J} to vanish:

$$C_J = \chi_J = M_J = 0. \quad (4.2)$$

The second set gives the actual boundary conditions in the component formulation,

$$\boxed{A_m \stackrel{\pm 0}{=} J_m, \quad \lambda_1 \stackrel{\pm 0}{=} \lambda_J, \quad X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi \stackrel{\pm 0}{=} D_J.} \quad (4.3)$$

4.2 Compensator (super)field

The set of restrictions on \mathbf{J} , given in eq. (4.2), fixes \mathbf{K} up to a single real field K . To see how this happens, we first define the components of \mathbf{G} and \mathbf{K} in a general way

$$\mathbf{G} = (C_G, \chi_G, M_G; G_m, \lambda_G, D_G), \quad \mathbf{K} = (\phi_K, \psi_K, F_K). \quad (4.4)$$

Writing $\mathbf{J} = \mathbf{K} + \mathbf{K}^\dagger + \mathbf{G}$ in components, we find

$$\begin{aligned} C_J &= \phi_K + \phi_K^* + C_G, & \chi_J &= -i\sqrt{2}\psi_K + \chi_G, & M_J &= -2iF_K + M_G \\ J_m &= -i\partial_m(\phi_K - \phi_K^*) + G_m, & \lambda_J &= \lambda_G, & D_J &= D_G. \end{aligned} \quad (4.5)$$

The restriction (4.2) now gives three equations on the components of \mathbf{K} , which leave undetermined only the imaginary part of its lowest component. Denoting the latter by K , we have

$$\mathbf{K} = \left(-\frac{1}{2}C_G + \frac{i}{2}K, \quad -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\chi_G, \quad -\frac{i}{2}M_G \right). \quad (4.6)$$

With this definition of K , the non-zero components of \mathbf{J} become

$$\boxed{J_m = G_m + \partial_m K, \quad \lambda_J = \lambda_G, \quad D_J = D_G.} \quad (4.7)$$

Gauge and supersymmetry transformations of the components of \mathbf{K} and \mathbf{G} can be found from the superfield transformations given in eqs. (3.10) and (3.12), respectively. (For supersymmetry transformations, eq. (A.4) is useful.) We find, for example,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_u \phi_K &= \frac{i}{2}u^{(+)}, & \delta_\eta \phi_K &= \sqrt{2}\eta\psi_K \\ \delta_u C_G &= 0, & \delta_\eta C_G &= i\eta\chi_G + h.c. \end{aligned} \quad (4.8)$$

Applying these transformations to the lowest component of eq. (4.6), we obtain the following gauge and supersymmetry transformations of K ,

$$\boxed{\delta_u K = u^{(+)}, \quad \delta_\eta K = -\eta\chi_G + h.c.} \quad (4.9)$$

Analogous treatment of the other two components in eq. (4.6) reproduces the boundary conditions (4.3) for A_m and λ_1 . Note that these boundary conditions would not arise here if we make the replacement (3.24) in the supersymmetry transformation of \mathbf{K} .

4.3 Boundary picture

The boundary picture action S_5'' , eq. (3.5), appropriate for the odd A_m , differs from the original bulk action S_5 by a boundary term that we call Y -term [6, 11],

$$S_5'' = S_5 + \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} Y''. \quad (4.10)$$

This Y'' -term is a sum of the Y' -term for the action S'_5 , eq. (2.20), and of the boundary superfield term in eq. (3.5),

$$Y'' = Y' + 2(\mathbf{Z}_2 \mathbf{V}_2)|_{\theta^2 \bar{\theta}^2} = F_{m5} A^m - \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 \lambda_2 + h.c.). \quad (4.11)$$

This way we reproduce the Y -term of the form suggested in ref. [6], with the $F_{m5} A^m$ term present. For the total bulk-plus-boundary action (3.7), we find

$$S = S_5 + \int_{\partial \mathcal{M}} \left[F_{m5} A^m - \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 \lambda_2 + h.c.) \right] + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial \mathcal{M}} \left[\mathcal{L}_4 + 2\Phi D_J + 2(\lambda_2 \lambda_J + h.c.) - 2F_{m5} J^m \right]. \quad (4.12)$$

As we will show in section 5.2, this action is supersymmetric under the bulk supersymmetry transformations (2.8) and appropriate transformations of the components of \mathbf{J} . We will find, however, that showing this requires using the boundary condition (4.3) for A_m (and also the one for λ_1 , unless we eliminate auxiliary fields).

We can simplify the form of the action by explicitly using some or all of the boundary conditions (4.3). Using the one for A_m , we obtain

$$S_1 = S_5 + \int_{\partial \mathcal{M}} \left[-\frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 \lambda_2 + h.c.) \right] + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial \mathcal{M}} \left[\mathcal{L}_4 + 2\Phi D_J + 2(\lambda_2 \lambda_J + h.c.) \right]. \quad (4.13)$$

Using the boundary conditions for both A_m and λ_1 , we get

$$S_2 = S_5 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial \mathcal{M}} \left[\mathcal{L}_4 + 2\Phi D_J + (\lambda_2 \lambda_J + h.c.) \right]. \quad (4.14)$$

We will find that supersymmetry of S_1 depends on using the boundary conditions for A_m and λ_1 , whereas S_2 is supersymmetric provided the third boundary condition in eq. (4.3) is also used. The reason for this is explained in appendix C.

4.4 OP with singular fields

In the orbifold picture, all $\delta(z)$ -dependent terms in the bulk-plus-brane Lagrangian (3.14) come from the following part

$$\begin{aligned} & [\mathbf{Z}_2 - 2\mathbf{G}\delta(z)]^2|_{\theta^2 \bar{\theta}^2} = \\ & -[\lambda_2 - 2\chi_G \delta(z)] \left[\partial_5 \lambda_1 - 2\lambda_G \delta(z) + \frac{i}{2} \sigma^m \partial_m [\bar{\lambda}_2 - 2\bar{\chi}_G \delta(z)] \right] + h.c. \\ & -[\Phi + 2C_G \delta(z)] \left[\partial_5 (X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi) - 2D_G \delta(z) - \frac{1}{2} \partial_m \partial^m [\Phi + 2C_G \delta(z)] \right] \\ & -\frac{1}{2} [F_{m5} + 2G_m \delta(z)]^2 + \frac{1}{2} [X_{12} - 2iM_G \delta(z)] [X_{12}^* + 2iM_G^* \delta(z)]. \end{aligned} \quad (4.15)$$

Dropping some total ∂_5 derivatives, irrelevant in the orbifold picture, the total Lagrangian can be brought to the following form

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_5 + [\mathcal{L}_4 + B_1]\delta(z) + B_2\delta(z)^2 + B_3\delta'(z), \quad (4.16)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} B_1 &= 2\lambda_2\lambda_G + 2i\chi_G\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\lambda}_2 - iX_{12}^*M_G + h.c. \\ &\quad - 2F_{m5}G^m + 2\Phi D_G + 2C_G\partial_m\partial^m\Phi \\ B_2 &= -4\chi_G\lambda_G - 2i\chi_G\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\chi}_G + h.c. \\ &\quad - 2G_mG^m + 2C_G\partial_m\partial^m C_G + 4C_G D_G + 2M_G M_G^* \\ B_3 &= -2\chi_G\lambda_1 + 2C_G(X_3 - \partial_5\Phi). \end{aligned} \quad (4.17)$$

This Lagrangian, by construction, is supersymmetric under the original supersymmetry transformations (2.8) of the bulk fields. However, its $\delta(z)$ -dependent terms happen to be more complicated than those in the (more complicated) supergravity theories. We will see next that this apparent paradox can be resolved by a simple field redefinition.

4.5 OP with singular A_5

From eq. (3.16), we know that $\mathbf{Z}_2 - 2\mathbf{G}\delta(z)$ is non-singular. Using the component forms of \mathbf{Z}_2 and \mathbf{G} , eqs. (2.17) and (4.4), respectively, we find that the following fields,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\Phi} &\equiv \Phi + 2C_G\delta(z) \\ \tilde{\lambda}_2 &\equiv \lambda_2 - 2\chi_G\delta(z) \\ \tilde{X}_{12} &\equiv X_{12} - 2iM_G\delta(z) \\ \tilde{X}_3 &\equiv X_3 + 2C_G\delta'(z), \end{aligned} \quad (4.18)$$

are non-singular.⁸ A glance at eq. (4.15) shows that transforming to the new fields absorbs most of the $\delta(z)$ terms. Performing the field redefinition, and omitting the tildes, we find

$$\boxed{\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_5^{(\mathcal{F})} + [\mathcal{L}_4 + 2\Phi D_G + 2(\lambda_2\lambda_G + h.c.)]\delta(z),} \quad (4.19)$$

where $\mathcal{L}_5^{(\mathcal{F})}$ is obtained from the original Lagrangian \mathcal{L}_5 , eq. (2.6), by replacing F_{m5} with

$$\mathcal{F}_{m5} = F_{m5} + 2G_m\delta(z). \quad (4.20)$$

Performing the redefinition (4.18) in the supersymmetry transformations (2.8) requires using the transformations of the components of \mathbf{G} . Since \mathbf{G} transforms as in eq. (3.12),

⁸When we say that a field is non-singular, we mean that it is non-singular when equations of motion are used. Note that we reserve the word ‘‘on-shell’’ to mean ‘‘when auxiliary fields are eliminated.’’

its components transform according to eq. (A.4). After a short calculation, we find the following modified supersymmetry transformations of the bulk fields,

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta_\eta A_m &= i\eta\sigma_m\bar{\lambda}_1 + h.c. \\
\delta_\eta A_5 &= -\eta\lambda_2 - 2\eta\chi_G\delta(z) + h.c. \\
\delta_\eta\Phi &= -i\eta\lambda_2 + h.c. \\
\delta_\eta\lambda_1 &= \sigma^{mn}\eta F_{mn} + i(X_3 - \partial_5\Phi)\eta \\
\delta_\eta\lambda_2 &= -i\sigma^m\bar{\eta}[F_{m5} + 2G_m\delta(z)] - \sigma^m\bar{\eta}\partial_m\Phi - iX_{12}\eta \\
\delta_\eta X_{12} &= 2i\bar{\eta}[\partial_5\bar{\lambda}_1 - 2\lambda_G\delta(z)] - 2\bar{\eta}\sigma^m\partial_m\lambda_2 \\
\delta_\eta X_3 &= -i\eta\partial_5\lambda_2 - \eta\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\lambda}_1 + h.c.
\end{aligned} \tag{4.21}$$

The modifications can be summarized as follows: 1) replace F_{m5} with \mathcal{F}_{m5} , 2) modify the transformation of A_5 by adding the following singular piece

$$\delta_\eta^{(s)} A_5 = -2(\eta\chi_G + h.c.)\delta(z), \tag{4.22}$$

and 3) modify the transformation of X_{12} (the even auxiliary field) by terms that make it non-singular when the boundary conditions (4.3) are used. When auxiliary fields are eliminated, we need only the first two prescriptions. Therefore, in the on-shell formulation, we match the supergravity bulk-brane coupling construction of ref. [7].

Note that after the redefinition (4.18), we still have one singular field left: A_5 . From eq. (3.16) and the boundary conditions (4.3), we have

$$F_{m5} + 2G_m\delta(z) = n.s., \quad A_m \stackrel{+0}{=} G_m + \partial_m K \quad \Rightarrow \quad \boxed{A_5 = 2K\delta(z) + n.s.} \tag{4.23}$$

We see that the singular part of A_5 is directly related to the compensator field K . If we redefine A_5 to make it non-singular, we find that its supersymmetry transformation also becomes non-singular:

$$\tilde{A}_5 = A_5 - 2K\delta(z) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \delta_\eta\tilde{A}_5 = -\eta\lambda_2 + h.c. \tag{4.24}$$

If we now replace A_5 with \tilde{A}_5 in the expression for \mathcal{F}_{m5} , eq. (4.20), we find that G_m gets replaced by $J_m = G_m + \partial_m K$:

$$\boxed{\mathcal{F}_{m5} = F_{m5} + 2G_m\delta(z) = \tilde{F}_{m5} + 2J_m\delta(z).} \tag{4.25}$$

As we will see next, after this final field redefinition we come exactly to the construction in which the superfield Φ_2 is non-singular from the start.

4.6 OP with non-singular fields

In the case with non-singular Φ_2 , the bulk-plus-brane Lagrangian is given by eq. (3.23). As the lowest components of \mathbf{J} (unlike \mathbf{G}) vanish, $C_J = \chi_J = M_J = 0$, the component form of the Lagrangian is simple without any field redefinitions:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_5^{(\mathcal{F})} + \left[\mathcal{L}_4 + 2\Phi D_J + 2(\lambda_2\lambda_J + h.c.) \right] \delta(z). \tag{4.26}$$

As before, we must replace F_{m5} by \mathcal{F}_{m5} that is now given by

$$\mathcal{F}_{m5} = F_{m5} + 2J_m\delta(z). \tag{4.27}$$

Superfield supersymmetry transformations are now different from those in eq. (2.11). They are modified as in eq. (3.21) so that the transformation of Φ_2 is non-singular. We should, however, make the choice: whether or not to make the replacement (3.24). Because of the last statement in section 4.2, the component Lagrangian will be supersymmetric *without* using boundary conditions provided we do make the replacement (3.24). The component supersymmetry transformations then become

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_\eta A_m &= i\eta\sigma_m\bar{\lambda}_1 + h.c. \\ \delta_\eta A_5 &= -\eta\lambda_2 + h.c. \\ \delta_\eta\Phi &= -i\eta\lambda_2 + h.c. \\ \delta_\eta\lambda_1 &= \sigma^{mn}\eta F_{mn} + i(X_3 - \partial_5\Phi)\eta \\ \delta_\eta\lambda_2 &= -i\sigma^m\bar{\eta}[F_{m5} + 2J_m\delta(z)] - \sigma^m\bar{\eta}\partial_m\Phi - iX_{12}\eta \\ \delta_\eta X_{12} &= 2i\bar{\eta}[\partial_5\bar{\lambda}_1 - 2\lambda_J\delta(z)] - 2\bar{\eta}\sigma^m\partial_m\lambda_2 \\ \delta_\eta X_3 &= -i\eta\partial_5\lambda_2 - \eta\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\lambda}_1 + h.c. \end{aligned} \tag{4.28}$$

This differs from the original transformations (2.8) by $\delta(z)$ -dependent modifications that are now all covered by one simple rule [5, 6, 11]: the modifications must make the transformations non-singular when the boundary conditions are used.

We conclude that there are two alternative simple forms of the bulk-brane coupling in the orbifold picture: one with the compensator K appearing explicitly via J_m , and the other where the role of the compensator is played by the singular part of A_5 . The two formulations are related to each other by the redefinition (4.24) of A_5 .

5. On-shell coupling

In this section, we go on-shell (eliminate auxiliary fields) and check explicitly that the bulk-plus-brane/boundary actions we constructed are indeed supersymmetric. We find that some boundary conditions have to be used for supersymmetry in the boundary picture. At the end of the section, we give an explicit example of a coupled bulk-brane system which makes contact with the supergravity construction of ref. [7].

5.1 Modified Bianchi identity

As we established, in the orbifold picture, a part of the bulk-brane coupling prescription consists in replacing F_{m5} with \mathcal{F}_{m5} both in the Lagrangian and in the supersymmetry transformations. Let us now generalize this to the following shift

$$F_{MN} \equiv \partial_M A_N - \partial_N A_M \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathcal{F}_{MN} = F_{MN} + B_{MN}. \tag{5.1}$$

On-shell ($X_a = 0$) and after the shift, the bulk Lagrangian (2.1) turns into

$$\mathcal{L}_5^{(\mathcal{F})} = -\frac{1}{4}\mathcal{F}_{MN}\mathcal{F}^{MN} - \frac{1}{2}\partial_M\Phi\partial^M\Phi - \frac{i}{2}\tilde{\Lambda}^i\Gamma^M\partial_M\Lambda_i, \quad (5.2)$$

and the corresponding supersymmetry transformations become

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{\mathcal{H}}A_M &= i\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^i\Gamma_M\Lambda_i \\ \delta_{\mathcal{H}}\Phi &= i\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^i\Lambda_i \\ \delta_{\mathcal{H}}\Lambda_i &= (\Sigma^{MN}\mathcal{F}_{MN} + \Gamma^M\partial_M\Phi)\mathcal{H}_i. \end{aligned} \quad (5.3)$$

Supersymmetry transformation of the bulk Lagrangian now produces not only the total derivative, but also extra terms involving B_{MN} :

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{\mathcal{H}}\mathcal{L}_5 &= \partial_M\tilde{K}^M - \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{F}^{MN}\delta_{\mathcal{H}}B_{MN} - \frac{i}{2}\tilde{\eta}^i\Gamma^{MKN}\Lambda_i\partial_K\mathcal{F}_{MN} \\ \tilde{K}^M &= -\mathcal{F}^{MN}\delta_{\mathcal{H}}A_N - \delta_{\mathcal{H}}\Phi\partial^M\Phi + \frac{i}{2}\tilde{\Lambda}^i\Gamma^M\delta_{\mathcal{H}}\Lambda_i. \end{aligned} \quad (5.4)$$

The last term in $\delta_{\mathcal{H}}\mathcal{L}_5$ is the famous contribution due to the ‘‘modified Bianchi identity.’’ Note that in the boundary picture, we have $B_{MN} = 0$ and the total derivative term is important; in the orbifold picture, $B_{MN} \neq 0$ and the total derivative is irrelevant.

5.2 Boundary picture

The bulk-plus-boundary action in the boundary picture is given by eq. (3.7),

$$\begin{aligned} S &= S_5 + \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} \left[F_{m5}A^m - \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1\lambda_2 + h.c.) \right] \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} \left[\mathcal{L}_4 + 2\Phi D_J + 2(\lambda_2\lambda_J + h.c.) - 2F_{m5}J^m \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (5.5)$$

Supersymmetry variation of S_5 produces the following boundary term,

$$\delta_{\eta}S_5 = \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} (-\tilde{K}^5) = \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} \left[-F^{m5}\delta_{\eta}A_m + \delta_{\eta}\Phi\partial_5\Phi - \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_2\delta_{\eta}\lambda_1 - \lambda_1\delta_{\eta}\lambda_2 + h.c.) \right]. \quad (5.6)$$

To find the variation of the total action, we need to know supersymmetry transformations of J_m , λ_J , and D_J . We know that components of \mathbf{G} transform as in eq. (A.4), so that, in particular,⁹

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{\eta}G_m &= i\eta\sigma_m\bar{\lambda}_G + \partial_m(\eta\chi_G) + h.c. \\ \delta_{\eta}\lambda_G &= \sigma^{mn}\eta G_{mn} + i\eta D_G \\ \delta_{\eta}D_G &= \bar{\eta}\bar{\sigma}^m\partial_m\lambda_G + h.c. \end{aligned} \quad (5.7)$$

From eq. (4.7) and the supersymmetry transformation (4.9) of K , it then follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_{\eta}J_m &= i\eta\sigma_m\bar{\lambda}_J + h.c. \\ \delta_{\eta}\lambda_J &= \sigma^{mn}\eta J_{mn} + i\eta D_J \\ \delta_{\eta}D_J &= \bar{\eta}\bar{\sigma}^m\partial_m\lambda_J + h.c. \end{aligned} \quad (5.8)$$

⁹In our notation, $v_{mn} = \partial_m v_n - \partial_n v_m$, $G_{mn} = \partial_m G_n - \partial_n G_m$, $J_{mn} = \partial_m J_n - \partial_n J_m$.

Using these transformations together with the ones for the bulk fields, eq. (2.8), we find

$$\delta_\eta S = \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} \left[\eta\sigma^{mn}\lambda_2(F_{mn} - J_{mn}) + h.c. + (A^m - J^m)\delta_\eta F_{m5} \right]. \quad (5.9)$$

For the action (4.13), obtained from S by using the A_m boundary condition, we have

$$\delta_\eta S_1 = \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} \left[\eta\sigma^{mn}\lambda_2(F_{mn} - J_{mn}) - i\eta\sigma^m(\bar{\lambda}_1 - \bar{\lambda}_J)F_{m5} + h.c. \right]. \quad (5.10)$$

For the action (4.14), obtained from S_1 by using the λ_1 boundary condition, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_\eta S_2 = \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} \left[\frac{1}{2}\eta\sigma^{mn}\lambda_2(F_{mn} - J_{mn}) - \frac{i}{2}\eta\sigma^m(\bar{\lambda}_1 - \bar{\lambda}_J)F_{m5} \right. \\ \left. - \frac{i}{2}\eta\lambda_2(\partial_5\Phi + D_J) - \frac{1}{2}\eta\sigma^m(\bar{\lambda}_1 - \bar{\lambda}_J)\partial_m\Phi + h.c. \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (5.11)$$

We conclude that each action is supersymmetric, and in each case supersymmetry of the action depends on using some boundary conditions. The basic pattern we observe is: the more boundary conditions are used to simplify the action, the more of them are needed to prove its supersymmetry. The way to predict which boundary conditions are needed in each case is given in appendix C.

5.3 Orbifold picture

In the orbifold picture, with singular A_5 , we have

$$\begin{aligned} B_{mn} = 0, \quad B_{m5} = -B_{5m} = 2G_m\delta(z) \\ \mathcal{F}_{mn} = F_{mn}, \quad \mathcal{F}_{m5} = F_{m5} + 2G_m\delta(z). \end{aligned} \quad (5.12)$$

The bulk-plus-brane Lagrangian is given by eq. (4.19),

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_5^{(\mathcal{F})} + \mathcal{L}'_4\delta(z), \quad \mathcal{L}'_4 = \mathcal{L}_4 + 2\Phi D_G + 2(\lambda_2\lambda_G + h.c.). \quad (5.13)$$

Supersymmetry variation of $\mathcal{L}_5^{(\mathcal{F})}$ gives

$$\delta_\eta \mathcal{L}_5^{(\mathcal{F})} = \left\{ 2(\eta\sigma^{mn}\lambda_2 + h.c.)G_{mn} - \mathcal{F}^{m5} \left[2\delta_\eta G_m + \partial_m(\tilde{\delta}_\eta^{(s)} A_5) \right] \right\} \delta(z), \quad (5.14)$$

where the terms with G_m follow from the B_{MN} terms in eq. (5.4), and the last term follows from the modification (4.22) in the supersymmetry transformation of A_5 with

$$\tilde{\delta}_\eta^{(s)} A_5 \equiv -2\eta\chi_G + h.c. = 2\delta_\eta K. \quad (5.15)$$

Note that the sum of the terms in the square bracket gives $2\delta_\eta J_m$. For \mathcal{L}'_4 , we find

$$\delta_\eta(\lambda_2\lambda_G + h.c. + \Phi D_G) = -\eta\sigma^{mn}\lambda_2 G_{mn} + i\eta\sigma^m\bar{\lambda}_G \mathcal{F}_{m5} + h.c., \quad (5.16)$$

from which we conclude that the total Lagrangian \mathcal{L} is supersymmetric, $\delta_\eta \mathcal{L} = 0$, without using any boundary conditions.

5.4 Example

To make contact with the supergravity construction of ref. [7], we consider an example with one brane-localized chiral superfield Φ and

$$\mathbf{G} = \Phi^\dagger \Phi. \quad (5.17)$$

With $\Phi = (\phi, \psi, F)$, the components of \mathbf{G} are given by

$$\begin{aligned} C_G &= \phi\phi^* \\ \chi_G &= -i\sqrt{2}\phi^*\psi \\ M_G &= -2iF\phi^* \\ G_m &= i(\phi\partial_m\phi^* - \phi^*\partial_m\phi) + \psi\sigma_m\bar{\psi} \\ \lambda_G &= \sqrt{2}\sigma^m\bar{\psi}\partial_m\phi + i\sqrt{2}\psi F^* \\ D_G &= 2FF^* - 2\partial_m\phi\partial^m\phi^* - (i\psi\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\psi} + h.c.). \end{aligned} \quad (5.18)$$

The supersymmetry transformation of the compensator K , eq. (4.9), can now be written as follows,¹⁰

$$\delta_\eta K = i\sqrt{2}\phi^*\eta\psi + h.c. = i(\phi^*\delta_\eta\phi - \phi\delta_\eta\phi^*), \quad (5.19)$$

which clearly shows that we cannot “gauge fix” the compensator by making it a function of the matter fields. To complete the setup, we choose

$$\mathcal{L}_4 = \int d^2\theta d^2\bar{\theta} \Phi^\dagger \Phi = FF^* - \partial_m\phi\partial^m\phi^* - \left(\frac{i}{2}\psi\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\psi} + h.c.\right). \quad (5.20)$$

Plugging all the pieces into the bulk-plus-brane Lagrangian (5.13), and eliminating the auxiliary field F by its equation of motion,

$$F = -2i\sqrt{2}(1 + 4\Phi)^{-1}\lambda_2\psi, \quad (5.21)$$

we find that the on-shell Lagrangian is given by $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_5^{(\mathcal{F})} + \mathcal{L}'_4\delta(z)$ with

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}'_4 &= (1 + 4\Phi) \left[-\partial_m\phi\partial^m\phi^* - \left(\frac{i}{2}\psi\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\psi} + h.c.\right) \right] \\ &\quad + 2\sqrt{2}(\lambda_2\sigma^m\bar{\psi}\partial_m\phi + h.c.) - 8(1 + 4\Phi)^{-1}(\lambda_2\psi)(\bar{\lambda}_2\bar{\psi}). \end{aligned} \quad (5.22)$$

The bulk Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}_5^{(\mathcal{F})}$ is obtained from \mathcal{L}_5 by replacing F_{m5} with

$$\mathcal{F}_{m5} = F_{m5} + 2G_m\delta(z), \quad G_m = i(\phi\partial_m\phi^* - \phi^*\partial_m\phi) + \psi\sigma_m\bar{\psi}. \quad (5.23)$$

The same substitution must be made in the supersymmetry transformations (2.8), and, in addition, the transformation of A_5 should be modified by adding

$$\delta^{(s)}A_5 = 2(\delta_\eta K)\delta(z) = 2i\sqrt{2}\phi^*\eta\psi\delta(z) + h.c. \quad (5.24)$$

¹⁰Note that this form of $\delta_\eta K$ implies $\delta_\eta^{(s)}A_5 = 2i(\phi^*\delta_\eta\phi - \phi\delta_\eta\phi^*)\delta(z)$, which is remarkably similar to $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}_{11AB}$ in eq. (2.16) of the first paper in ref. [1].

With these modifications, the total Lagrangian \mathcal{L} is supersymmetric without using any boundary conditions.

We observe that the whole construction is identical to the one in supergravity [7]. It is also amusing to note that the brane Lagrangian (5.22) appears to be very similar to the one in supergravity: $(1 + 4\Phi)$ plays the role of the induced metric, λ_2 is the “gravitino,” $\lambda_2\sigma^m\bar{\psi}\partial_m\phi$ is the “Noether coupling” term, and $(\lambda_2\psi)(\bar{\lambda}_2\bar{\psi})$ represents 4-Fermi terms.

6. Summary and conclusions

In this paper, we showed that the basic features of the supergravity bulk-brane coupling, present both in the Horava-Witten (11D) and Randall-Sundrum (5D) scenarios, appear also in the simplified globally supersymmetric model we considered (Mirabelli-Peskin model with odd A_m). Using the 4D $N = 1$ superfield formulation of the model, we showed that the full square structure [1] of the coupling in the orbifold picture is present already on the superfield level (see eq. (3.14)). In transition to the component formulation, one has to make some field redefinitions (see eq. (4.18)) in order to arrive at the established form of the coupling. After the redefinition, the full square structure remains only for the $(F_{m5} + 2G_m\delta(z))^2$ term in the Lagrangian (4.19). As the redefined fields are non-singular, the shift $F_{m5} \rightarrow F_{m5} + 2G_m\delta(z)$ in supersymmetry transformations is required to make the transformations non-singular. All together, we recover the “modified Bianchi identity” prescription for the coupling [1].

The only modification of the supersymmetry transformations, in the formulation of refs. [1, 7], that is not covered by the prescription “make them non-singular” [5, 6, 11] concerns the “orthogonal” component of the bulk gauge field. In fact, A_5 is the only field in this formulation which is singular. We showed that there is another formulation, where all fields are non-singular, and where the singular part of A_5 is replaced by a compensator field K . All modifications of the supersymmetry transformations are then covered by one simple rule.

Although optional in the orbifold picture, the presence of the compensator K is unavoidable in the boundary picture construction. In both pictures, the boundary condition for the odd gauge field A_m is $A_m \stackrel{+0}{=} J_m = G_m + \partial_m K$. The gauge transformation of K , given in eq. (4.9) (compare also with eq. (13.7) of ref. [6]), guarantees gauge invariance of the boundary condition. On the other hand, its supersymmetry transformation (4.9) is such that K together with C_G , χ_G , and M_G (the lowest components of \mathbf{G}) combine into one chiral superfield (the compensator superfield \mathbf{K} , eq. (4.6)).

Our results shed some more light on the general structure of the supersymmetric bulk-brane coupling. They should also be useful in obtaining a more explicit (component) form of the coupling in the supersymmetric Randall-Sundrum scenario starting from the superfield formulation developed in ref. [12].

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Hyun Min Lee and Christoph Ludeling for a discussion of an earlier

version of this work.

A. Superfield components

Our supersymmetry conventions follow closely those of ref. [13]. For real vector and chiral superfields, we use the following shorthand notation,

$$\mathbf{V} = (C, \chi, M; v_m, \lambda, D), \quad \Phi = (\phi, \psi, F), \quad (\text{A.1})$$

corresponding to the standard component expansions,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{V} &= i\theta\chi + \frac{i}{2}\theta^2 M - i\bar{\theta}^2\theta\left[\lambda + \frac{i}{2}\sigma^m\partial_m\bar{\chi}\right] + h.c. \\ &\quad + C - \theta\sigma^m\bar{\theta}v_m + \frac{1}{2}\theta^2\bar{\theta}^2\left[D + \frac{1}{2}\partial_m\partial^m C\right] \\ \Phi &= \left(1 + i\theta\sigma^m\bar{\theta}\partial_m + \frac{1}{4}\theta^2\bar{\theta}^2\partial_m\partial^m\right)\phi + \sqrt{2}\left(\theta + \frac{i}{2}\theta^2\bar{\theta}\sigma^m\partial_m\right)\psi + \theta^2 F. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

When supersymmetry transformations have the standard form (without additional gauge transformations),

$$\delta_\eta \mathbf{V} = (\eta Q + \bar{\eta}\bar{Q})\mathbf{V}, \quad \delta_\eta \Phi = (\eta Q + \bar{\eta}\bar{Q})\Phi, \quad (\text{A.3})$$

the component transformations are as follows,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_\eta C &= i\eta\chi + h.c. \\ \delta_\eta \chi &= \sigma^m\bar{\eta}(\partial_m C + i v_m) + \eta M \\ \delta_\eta M &= 2\bar{\eta}(\bar{\lambda} + i\bar{\sigma}^m\partial_m\chi) \\ \delta_\eta v_m &= i\eta\sigma_m\bar{\lambda} + \partial_m(\eta\chi) + h.c. \\ \delta_\eta \lambda &= \sigma^{mn}\eta v_{mn} + i\eta D \\ \delta_\eta D &= \partial_m(\bar{\eta}\bar{\sigma}^m\lambda + h.c.) \\ \delta_\eta \phi &= \sqrt{2}\eta\psi \\ \delta_\eta \psi &= i\sqrt{2}\sigma^m\bar{\eta}\partial_m\phi + \sqrt{2}\eta F \\ \delta_\eta F &= \partial_m(i\sqrt{2}\bar{\eta}\bar{\sigma}^m\psi). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.4})$$

Components of gauge invariant superfields, \mathbf{Z}_2 , \mathbf{W}_2 , and \mathbf{G} , have exactly this form of supersymmetry transformations.

B. \mathbf{V}_2 and Φ_2 without \mathbf{WZ}

Our bulk superfields transform under supersymmetry according to eq. (2.11),

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_\eta \mathbf{V}_2 &= (\eta Q + \bar{\eta}\bar{Q})\mathbf{V}_2 + \mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta) + \mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta)^\dagger \\ \delta_\eta \Phi_2 &= (\eta Q + \bar{\eta}\bar{Q})\Phi_2 + 2\partial_5\mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

Let us proceed without imposing the WZ gauge. If we take the gauge parameter in its general form, $\mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta) = (a_2, \alpha_2, f_2)$, the component transformations become

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta_\eta C_2 &= i\eta\chi_2 + a_2 + h.c. \\
\delta_\eta \chi_2 &= \sigma^m \bar{\eta} (\partial_m C_2 + i v_m^{(2)}) + \eta M_2 - i\sqrt{2}\alpha_2 \\
\delta_\eta M_2 &= 2\bar{\eta}(\bar{\lambda}_{(2)} + i\bar{\sigma}^m \partial_m \chi_2) - 2if_2 \\
\delta_\eta v_m^{(2)} &= i\eta\sigma_m \bar{\lambda}_{(2)} + \partial_m(\eta\chi_2 - ia_2) + h.c. \\
\delta_\eta \lambda_{(2)} &= \sigma^{mn} \eta v_{mn}^{(2)} + i\eta D_2 \\
\delta_\eta D_2 &= \partial_m(\bar{\eta}\bar{\sigma}^m \lambda_{(2)} + h.c.) \\
\delta_\eta \phi_2 &= \sqrt{2}\eta\psi_2 + 2\partial_5 a_2 \\
\delta_\eta \psi_2 &= i\sqrt{2}\sigma^m \bar{\eta} \partial_m \phi_2 + \sqrt{2}\eta F_2 + 2\partial_5 \alpha_2 \\
\delta_\eta F_2 &= \partial_m(i\sqrt{2}\bar{\eta}\bar{\sigma}^m \psi_2) + 2\partial_5 f_2.
\end{aligned} \tag{B.2}$$

One can check that on fields defined in the following way,

$$\begin{aligned}
A_m &= v_m^{(2)}, \quad \Phi + iA_5 = -\partial_5 C_2 + \phi_2 \\
\lambda_1 &= \lambda_{(2)}, \quad \lambda_2 = \partial_5 \chi_2 + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\psi_2 \\
X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi &= D_2, \quad X_{12} = i\partial_5 M_2 - F_2,
\end{aligned} \tag{B.3}$$

the supersymmetry transformations take the form

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta_\eta A_m &= i\eta\sigma_m \bar{\lambda}_1 + h.c. + \partial_m u(\eta) \\
\delta_\eta A_5 &= -\eta\lambda_2 + h.c. + \partial_5 u(\eta) \\
\delta_\eta \Phi &= -i\eta\lambda_2 + h.c. \\
\delta_\eta \lambda_1 &= \sigma^{mn} \eta F_{mn} + i(X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi)\eta \\
\delta_\eta \lambda_2 &= -i\sigma^m \bar{\eta} F_{m5} - \sigma^m \bar{\eta} \partial_m \Phi - iX_{12}\eta \\
\delta_\eta X_{12} &= 2i\bar{\eta}\partial_5 \bar{\lambda}_1 - 2\bar{\eta}\bar{\sigma}^m \partial_m \lambda_2 \\
\delta_\eta X_3 &= -i\eta\partial_5 \lambda_2 - \eta\sigma^m \partial_m \bar{\lambda}_1 + h.c.,
\end{aligned} \tag{B.4}$$

which differs from eq. (2.8) only by the U(1) gauge transformation (2.13) with

$$u(\eta) = \eta\chi_2 + \bar{\eta}\bar{\chi}_2 + 2\text{Im}(a_2). \tag{B.5}$$

(Note that $\text{Re}(a_2)$, α_2 , and f_2 affect only the transformations of C_2 , χ_2 , and M_2 .) If it is required that we stay with the original field content, then the explicit appearance of χ_2 is a problem. To deal with it, we can choose the extra superfield gauge transformation in a way that removes $u(\eta)$. The simplest choice that does this is given by

$$\mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta) = \left(-\frac{i}{2}(\eta\chi_2 + \bar{\eta}\bar{\chi}_2), \quad 0, \quad 0 \right). \tag{B.6}$$

It affects supersymmetry transformations of only A_m and A_5 , while leaving those of C_2 , χ_2 and M_2 unchanged. A more involved choice,

$$\mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta) = \left(-i\eta\chi_2, \quad -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\sigma^m \bar{\eta} (\partial_m C_2 + iA_m) + \eta M \right], \quad -i\bar{\eta}\lambda_1 + \bar{\eta}\sigma^m \partial_m \chi_2 \right), \quad (\text{B.7})$$

makes C_2 , χ_2 and M_2 supersymmetry invariant. Therefore, it allows setting these fields to zero, which would put us into the Wess-Zumino gauge, $C_2 = \chi_2 = M_2 = 0$, while turning $\mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta)$ into the compensating gauge transformation (2.12).

To summarize, the superfield description of the bulk 5D vector multiplet uses two 4D $N = 1$ superfields with the following components, ¹¹

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{V}_2 &= (C_2, \quad \chi_2, \quad M_2; \quad A_m, \quad \lambda_1, \quad X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi) \\ \mathbf{\Phi}_2 &= (\Phi + iA_5 + \partial_5 C_2, \quad -i\sqrt{2}(\lambda_2 - \partial_5 \chi_2), \quad -X_{12} + i\partial_5 M_2). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.8})$$

If the superfield supersymmetry transformations do not involve a $\mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta)$ gauge transformation, the component supersymmetry transformations differ from the ones in eq. (2.8) by a χ_2 -dependent U(1) gauge transformation. The latter can be eliminated by a proper choice of $\mathbf{\Lambda}_2(\eta)$. Imposing the WZ gauge corresponds to just one of many possible choices.

C. Boundary conditions for supersymmetry

Deriving the component form of the bulk-plus-boundary action (3.7), with \mathbf{V}_2 and $\mathbf{\Phi}_2$ as in eq. (B.8), we encounter the following terms,

$$\begin{aligned} 2\mathbf{Z}_2(\mathbf{V}_2 - \mathbf{J})|_{\theta^2\bar{\theta}^2} &= -\Phi(X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi - D_J) + F_{m5}(A^m - J^m) - [\lambda_2(\lambda_1 - \lambda_J) + h.c.] \\ &\quad + (C_2 - C_J)[\partial_5(X_3 - \partial_5 \Phi) - \partial_m \partial^m \Phi] \\ &\quad + \left[\frac{i}{2} X_{12}^*(M_2 - M_J) - (\partial_5 \lambda_1 + i\sigma^m \partial_m \bar{\lambda}_2)(\chi_2 - \chi_J) + h.c. \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.1})$$

Without the WZ gauge imposed, the boundary action then depends explicitly on the gauge degrees of freedom, C_2 , χ_2 , and M_2 . The way to eliminate them without imposing a gauge is to use a part of the boundary conditions contained in $\mathbf{V}_2 \stackrel{+0}{=} \mathbf{J}$,

$$C_2 \stackrel{+0}{=} C_J, \quad \chi_2 \stackrel{+0}{=} \chi_J, \quad M_2 \stackrel{+0}{=} M_J. \quad (\text{C.2})$$

This way we arrive at the action (4.12). Having used some of the boundary conditions in the action, we expect that we would need to use boundary conditions in checking supersymmetry of the simplified action. As $(\mathbf{V}_2 - \mathbf{J})$ is a gauge invariant vector superfield, we have

$$\delta_\eta(\mathbf{V}_2 - \mathbf{J}) = (\eta Q + \bar{\eta} \bar{Q})(\mathbf{V}_2 - \mathbf{J}), \quad (\text{C.3})$$

¹¹This form of \mathbf{V}_2 and $\mathbf{\Phi}_2$ can be obtained from eq. (2.10) by a gauge transformation with the following parameter: $\mathbf{\Lambda}_2 = \left(\frac{1}{2}C_2, \quad \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}\chi_2, \quad \frac{i}{2}M_2 \right)$.

so that its components vary according to eq. (A.4). For example,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta_\eta(C_2 - C_J) &= i\eta(\chi_2 - \chi_J) + h.c. \\
 \delta_\eta(\chi_2 - \chi_J) &= \sigma^m \bar{\eta} [\partial_m(C_2 - C_J) + i(A_m - J_m)] + \eta(M_2 - M_J) \\
 \delta_\eta(M_2 - M_J) &= 2\bar{\eta} [(\bar{\lambda}_1 - \bar{\lambda}_J) + i\bar{\sigma}^m \partial_m(\chi_2 - \chi_J)].
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{C.4}$$

This implies that if we use the boundary conditions for C_2 and χ_2 in the action, then supersymmetry of the action requires using the A_m boundary condition. Using the M_2 boundary condition leads to the λ_1 boundary condition. And so on. This is indeed the pattern we observed in explicit calculations. A final remark is that on-shell $X_{12} = 0$, which lets us avoid using the M_2 boundary condition. This is the reason why supersymmetry of the bulk-plus-boundary action (4.12) requires the use of only the A_m boundary condition on-shell (see eq. (5.9)).

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