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Source / Izvornik: **Symmetry, 2021, 13**

**Journal article, Published version**

**Rad u časopisu, Objavljena verzija rada (izdavačev PDF)**

<https://doi.org/10.3390/sym13091581>

Permanent link / Trajna poveznica: <https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:217:773480>

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Download date / Datum preuzimanja: **2024-12-25**



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Article

# Gauging the Higher-Spin-Like Symmetries by the Moyal Product. II

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**Abstract:** Continuing the study of the Moyal Higher Spin Yang–Mills theory started in our previous paper we provide a detailed discussion of matter coupling and the corresponding tree-level amplitudes. We also start the investigation of the spectrum by expanding the master fields in terms of ordinary spacetime fields. We note that the spectrum can be consistent with unitarity while still preserving Lorentz covariance, albeit not in the usual way, but by employing an infinite-dimensional unitary representation of the Lorentz group.

**Keywords:** higher spin; noncommutative geometry; Quantum Gravity; scattering amplitudes



**Citation:** Cvitan, M.; Prester, P.D.; Giaccari, S.G.; Paulišić, M.; Vuković, I. Gauging the Higher-Spin-Like Symmetries by the Moyal Product. II. *Symmetry* **2021**, *13*, 1581. <https://doi.org/10.3390/sym13091581>

Academic Editor: Ignatios Antoniadis

Received: 9 July 2021

Accepted: 3 August 2021

Published: 27 August 2021

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## 1. Introduction

Higher Spin (HS) particles are a natural prediction of string theory, and therefore they can be expected to play quite a crucial role whenever we attempt to include the Standard Model in a consistent theory of Quantum Gravity. In recent years, stopping a historical neglect mainly due to the difficulty of describing them by a straightforward generalization of lower spin cases and their observational elusiveness, they started playing an increasingly relevant role in phenomenological studies of both collider physics and cosmology (see e.g., [1–4] and references therein). On the theoretical side, the onset of HS degrees of freedom has been put in a close connection to the avoidance of causality problems in graviton scattering amplitudes [5,6] and to the good UV behavior of string theory. The tensionless limit of string theory in which a massless HS gauge theory is expected to emerge has been in particular at the center of the recent developments in understanding the AdS/CFT duality [7–17] and in possibly describing the physical string theory as a broken phase of a fundamental gauge theory [18–21]. In light of this impressive progress, the long-standing program of formulating a HS gravity that generalizes Einstein gravity and that could offer a basis for consistently quantizing gravity within the context of quantum field theory has assumed a renewed importance and urgency. Unfortunately, the problem is notoriously a very hard one. In fact, whereas it is fair to say that the free massless HS spectrum is by now well understood [22–31], the construction of consistent interactions has turned out to be a much more challenging problem. A fundamental breakthrough has come with the discovery of Vasiliev's equations for massless HS fields on AdS background [32–34], but the lack of a derivation from an action principle has so far hindered the understanding of off-shell properties, and in particular of quantization. On the other hand, until recently, considering HS on flat Minkowski background has been considered a hopeless option, given the vast amount of no-go results that have appeared over the time (see [35] and references), and in particular the presence of non-localities in quartic interactions has been shown to represent an obstacle [36–41]. However, similar obstructions have lately been discussed for the case of AdS background [42,43],

pointing out in particular that bulk non-locality emerges at the level of quartic interactions. The essential issue does not seem therefore to be the choice of a curved rather than flat background, but rather understanding what kind of non-locality can be allowed in HS gravity. An important step towards constructing a HS interacting theory on flat Minkowski background has come in [44,45], which, albeit characterized by a complex Hamiltonian and trivial S-matrix, can be smoothly deformed to an AdS background, where it was shown to correctly reproduce three-point correlation functions of single-trace operators of Chern-Simons Matter theories by holographic correspondence [15]. It is therefore reasonable to assume the chiral and antichiral theories could correctly describe quantum complete and local subsectors of the conjectured nonlocal full interacting theory. These results are mostly obtained in the light-front formalism, which simplifies the algebra at the expense of explicit Lorentz covariance, and assumes the HS spectrum from the start, trying to derive a consistent deformation of the linearized HS gauge symmetry. While this is surely the safest path to keep the physical content of the theory under control, it is not inconceivable that such an approach (which is also at the basis of the aforementioned no-go theorems) may fail to capture the underlying geometrical structure and the background independence that a HS gravity could be expected to possess in direct analogy to spin 2 gravity.

On the other hand, starting from previous work [46,47], itself inspired by Segal's construction of Conformal HS theory [48], an induced action approach has been developed [49–52], based on the Noether coupling of matter HS currents to HS external sources. This approach, although leading to an effective action with an infinite number of vertices whose explicit form can hardly be determined beyond the cases with lowest number of interacting fields, has the crucial advantages of assuming a very simple gauge symmetry in a form analogous to the one of Yang–Mills (YM) gauge models and inducing a natural Moyal-product structure in terms of which the HS couplings can be compactly written in terms of master fields in a non-commutative space including the ordinary spacetime and an auxiliary space of the same dimension. The simplest model in the class of theories possessing this symmetry is the Moyal-higher-spin YM (MHSYM) one studied in [52–54], which naturally allows for different backgrounds, and is an ideal setup for the study of classical solutions and the description of a HS geometry. Furthermore MHSYM can be considered as the most natural starting point to study the quantization of this class of theories, which is in principle made possible by the exact knowledge of the gauge symmetry. Of course the price one has to pay is that the physical content of the theory, the spectrum in the first place, is far from obvious, making it a legitimate question to what extent MHSYM is directly related to the other previously mentioned approaches. In this paper, we continue the study we started in [54], addressing the above issue in a straightforward way, namely by starting the study of the scattering amplitudes in the context of MHSYM.

In particular, in Section 2.1, after reviewing MHSYM, we discuss in detail the coupling of a matter sector to the gauge one and show that beside standard spacetime matter fields one can introduce matter in the form of master fields. In Section 3, as a preparatory step before the computation of amplitudes, we analyze the expansion of master fields in terms of ordinary spacetime ones. A crucial aspect is that, contrary to the standard lore about non-compact groups, we highlight the possibility of avoiding the onset of negative norm ghosts while salvaging the Lorentz covariance of the spacetime action and related scattering amplitudes. In Section 4 we calculate a few basic tree-level four-point amplitudes for different types of matter in the Euclidean formulation where one can use a representation in terms of an infinite tower of finite spin spacetime fields. We show that for the “minimal” matter (described by spacetime fields) amplitudes vanish when the set of outgoing momenta is different from the set of ingoing momenta while for matter described by master fields amplitudes have an exponential fall-off. Both results are promising in the sense that the amplitudes in the MHS theory possess much softer UV behavior when compared to the Maxwell theory. Finally, in Section 5, we recap our results and put forward possible future developments.

## 2. MHS Theory

### 2.1. MHS Local Symmetry and MHSYM Model

The structure of local Moyal-higher-spin (MHS) transformations is given by the Moyal bracket

$$[\delta_{\varepsilon_2}, \delta_{\varepsilon_1}] = \delta_{i[\varepsilon_1 \star \varepsilon_2]} . \quad (1)$$

where  $\varepsilon(x, u)$  is a general infinitesimal function on the master space parameterizing infinitesimal MHS transformations (i.e., MHS variations). Master space is (locally) defined as  $\mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{U}$ , where  $\mathcal{M}$  is spacetime and  $\mathcal{U}$  is an auxiliary space, both having the same dimension  $d$ . Star product is defined to be the Moyal product in the master space (see Appendix A for more details)

$$a(x, u) \star b(x, u) = a(x, u) \exp \left[ \frac{i}{2} \left( \overleftarrow{\partial}_x \cdot \overrightarrow{\partial}_u - \overrightarrow{\partial}_x \cdot \overleftarrow{\partial}_u \right) \right] b(x, u) . \quad (2)$$

The Jacobi identity now implies that the MHS transformations form an infinite dimensional non-abelian Lie algebra. As we review in Section 2.3.1, one way to arrive at the MHS structure is to gauge the generalized (or super-)translations, an infinite dimensional rigid symmetry present in all free field theories, by linearly coupling to an infinite tower of HS fields [46,47,51,52].

There are two basic types of MHS covariant objects. Those that transform in the fundamental representation

$$\delta_\varepsilon \chi(x, u) = -i \varepsilon(x, u) \star \chi(x, u) \quad (3)$$

and those that transform in the adjoint representation

$$\delta_\varepsilon A(x, u) = i[A(x, u) \star, \varepsilon(x, u)] \quad (4)$$

under MHS variations. The latter we call MHS tensors. Finite (large) MHS transformations in the fundamental representation are

$$\chi'(x, u) = e_\star^{-i \mathcal{E}(x, u)} \star \chi(x, u) \quad (5)$$

and in the adjoint representation are

$$A'(x, u) = e_\star^{-i \mathcal{E}(x, u)} \star A(x, u) \star e_\star^{i \mathcal{E}(x, u)} , \quad (6)$$

where  $e_\star$  is the exponential function defined by using the Moyal product in the Taylor expansion.

### 2.2. Gauge Sector: MHSYM Model

The basic object in the gauge sector is a MHS tensor  $e_a(x, u)$  called the MHS vielbein. The latin index on the MHS vielbein is a frame-like index which means that it is raised and lowered with the Minkowski metric (or Euclid metric if one is interested in the Euclidean theory). The simplest dynamical action is the MHSYM action given by

$$S_{\text{ym}}[e] = \frac{1}{4g_{\text{ym}}^2} \int d^d x d^d u \left( T_{ab}(x, u) T^{ba}(x, u) + 2\lambda e_a(x, u) e^a(x, u) \right) \quad (7)$$

where

$$T_{ab}(x, u) \equiv i[e_a(x, u) \star, e_b(x, u)] \quad (8)$$

is the MHS torsion (for the origins of the “geometric” naming of the objects see Section 6 of [54]). The formalism can be put in the matrix model form, in which case MHSYM action (7) becomes

$$S_{\text{ym}} = -\frac{(2\pi)^d}{4g_{\text{ym}}} \text{tr} \left( [\hat{e}_a, \hat{e}_b] [\hat{e}^a, \hat{e}^b] - 2\lambda \hat{e}_a \hat{e}^a \right). \quad (9)$$

The MHS vielbein is represented by a linear operator  $\hat{e}_a(\hat{x}, \hat{u})$  acting on a particular Hilbert space on which “position operators”  $\hat{x}^\mu$  and their conjugate momenta  $\hat{u}_\mu$  are represented (note that unlike the standard YM field theory, in which one can separate trace in the internal space from spacetime integration, here this is not the case). The operator ordering is Weyl (symmetric).

The EoM of the MHSYM theory are

$$\mathcal{D}_b^* T^{ba}(x, u) + \lambda e^b(x, u) = 0, \quad (10)$$

where the MHS covariant derivative of the general MHS tensor  $A_{b_1 \dots b_k}(x, u)$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{D}_a^* A_{b_1 \dots b_k}(x, u) \equiv i [e_a(x, u) \star A_{b_1 \dots b_k}(x, u)]. \quad (11)$$

In the case  $\lambda = 0$  (pure MHSYM theory) vacua of the theory satisfy  $T_{ab} = 0$ . In particular, there is a perturbatively stable vacuum given by

$$e_a = u_a \equiv \delta_a^\mu u_\mu \quad (12)$$

which describes empty Minkowski background. Expanding around this background

$$e_a(x, u) = u_a + h_a(x, u) \quad (13)$$

one obtains that  $h_a(x, u)$  transforms as a gauge potential under MHS variations,

$$\delta_\varepsilon h_a(x, u) = \partial_a^x \varepsilon(x, u) + i [h_a(x, u) \star \varepsilon(x, u)] \quad (14)$$

and the MHS covariant derivative (11)

$$\mathcal{D}_a^* A_{b_1 \dots b_k}(x, u) = \partial_a^x A_{b_1 \dots b_k}(x, u) + i [h_a(x, u) \star A_{b_1 \dots b_k}(x, u)] \quad (15)$$

as well as the MHS torsion

$$T_{ab}(x, u) = \partial_a^x h_b(x, u) - \partial_b^x h_a(x, u) + i [h_a(x, u) \star h_b(x, u)], \quad (16)$$

take the form as in a standard YM gauge field theory.

In some cases it is more convenient to use canonical normalized fields and parameters. This is achieved by introducing a dimensionless auxiliary coordinate  $\bar{u}_\mu$  with

$$\bar{u} = \ell_h u \quad , \quad \bar{g}_{\text{ym}} = \ell_h^{d/2} g_{\text{ym}} \quad , \quad \bar{h}_a = h_a / \bar{g}_{\text{ym}}. \quad (17)$$

The dimension of  $\bar{g}_{\text{ym}}$  is  $(\text{length})^{\frac{d}{2}-2}$ , the same as in the standard Maxwell or Yang–Mills theories, and in  $d = 4$  it is zero. In the canonical normalization cubic terms and quartic terms in the action have the coupling given by  $\bar{g}_{\text{ym}} \ell_h^{D-1}$  and  $\bar{g}_{\text{ym}}^2 \ell_h^D$ , respectively, where  $D$  is the total number of spacetime derivatives in a given monomial (in this normalization the Moyal product now has an additional factor of  $\ell$  in the exponential).

### 2.3. Matter Sector

We present here four types of matter that can be coupled in a way that respects MHS symmetry. The first three, described in Sections 2.3.1–2.3.3, were already studied in [54].

### 2.3.1. Minimal Matter: Spacetime Fields

It is possible to couple an ordinary relativistic spacetime field  $\psi_r(x)$  to the MHS vielbein (the subscript  $r$  denotes both Lorentz and internal indices). This approach was originally introduced in [46,47] for the case of the Klein–Gordon field and in [51,53] for the case of the Dirac field, and generalized to all spins in [54]. The procedure goes as follows. One starts from the action for a free field in flat spacetime, which in general has the form

$$S_0[\psi] = \int d^d x \phi_r^*(x) K_{rs}(\partial) \phi_s(x) \tag{18}$$

where  $K_{rs}$  is a kinetic operator, e.g., for the complex scalar field it is given by  $K(\partial) = -(\square + m^2)$ . The (minimal) coupling is achieved by substituting  $\partial_a$  with the MHS vielbein  $i e_a(x, u)$  in the kinetic operator and taking the action to be

$$S_m[\phi, e] = \sum_{r,s} \int d^d x d^d u \phi_r(x) \star \delta^d(u) \star \phi_s(x)^* \star K_{sr}(i e(x, u)). \tag{19}$$

This naturally accommodates the operator (matrix model) formulation, where the matter configuration  $\phi$  is represented by a state vector  $|\alpha_\phi\rangle$  in the Hilbert space on which  $\hat{x}$  and  $\hat{u}$  act as linear operators. Matter fields are then simply wave functions in the  $x$ -representation

$$\phi_r(x) = \langle x, r | \alpha_\phi \rangle. \tag{20}$$

Matter fields transform under MHS symmetry as

$$\delta_\epsilon \phi_r(x) = i \langle x, r | \hat{\epsilon}(\hat{x}, \hat{u}) | \alpha_\phi \rangle \tag{21}$$

while  $K_{sr}(i e(x, u))$  is a MHS tensor. It can be shown that the master Lagrangian in (19) is a MHS tensor, which means that the corresponding action is a MHS invariant. In the matrix model language the matter action (19) has the form

$$S_m[\phi, e] = \langle \alpha_\phi | \hat{K} | \alpha_\phi \rangle. \tag{22}$$

In particular, for the complex Klein–Gordon field one has,

$$K_s(x, u) = \eta^{ab} e_a(x, u) \star e_b(x, u) - m^2 \tag{23}$$

while for the Dirac field,

$$K_D(x, u) = -\gamma^0 (\gamma^a e_a(x, u) + m) \tag{24}$$

where  $\gamma^a$  are Dirac matrices.

If one uses (13) then the matter actions can be written as

$$S_m[\phi, h] = S_m^{(0)}[\phi] + S_m^{(\text{int})}[\phi, h] \tag{25}$$

where  $S_m^{(0)}[\phi]$  is the action of the free matter field in flat spacetime, while  $S_m^{(\text{int})}[\phi, h]$  describe the interaction between matter and the MHS potential  $h_a$ . This reconfirms that the configuration (12) together with  $\phi = 0$  describes empty flat vacuum with the flat Minkowski (or Euclid) metric. Assuming analyticity we may Taylor expand master fields around  $u = 0$ ,

$$A(x, u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} A_{(n)}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(x) u_{\mu_1} \dots u_{\mu_n}. \tag{26}$$

Using this it can be shown that the interaction part of the action for Klein–Gordon field minimally coupled to the MHS potential is

$$S_m^{(int)}[\varphi, h] = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int d^d x J_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s}^{(n)}(x) h_{(s)}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s}(x), \tag{27}$$

where

$$J_{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s}^{(s)}(x) = \frac{i^s}{2^s} \varphi(x)^* \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{\mu_1} \dots \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{\mu_s} \varphi(x) \tag{28}$$

and  $h_{(s)}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_s}(x)$  are obtained by a Taylor expansion of master field  $h(x, u)$  defined by

$$g(x, u) \equiv e_a(x, u) \star e^a(x, u) = u^2 + h(x, u). \tag{29}$$

Using (13) we see that

$$h(x, u) = 2 u^a h_a(x, u) + h_a(x, u) \star h^a(x, u). \tag{30}$$

In case of the Dirac field  $\psi(x)$  one gets

$$S_m^{(int)}[\psi, h] = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int d^d x J_{(n)\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}^a(x) h_a^{(n)\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(x) \tag{31}$$

where the HS currents [51,53] are

$$J_{(n)\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}^a(x) = \frac{i^n}{2^n} \bar{\psi}(x) \gamma^a \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{\mu_1} \dots \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{\mu_n} \psi(x). \tag{32}$$

The currents present in interaction terms are conserved currents of free matter actions, in their “simple” forms, related to the rigid higher spin symmetries, which transform matter fields as

$$\delta_\varepsilon \phi(x) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-i)^{n+1} \varepsilon^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} \partial_{\mu_1} \dots \partial_{\mu_n} \phi(x). \tag{33}$$

Note that this variation is exactly the same as the rigid MHS variation obtained from (21) by putting  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(u)$  and Taylor expanding (26) in the parameter  $\varepsilon(u)$ . This establishes a connection between MHS symmetry and HS symmetries.

### 2.3.2. Master Field Matter in Adjoint Representation

One can also take the matter fields in the adjoint representation (i.e. to be a MHS tensor), for which the covariant derivative is defined by

$$\mathcal{D}_a^* \phi(x, u) = i[e_a(x, u) \star \phi(x, u)]. \tag{34}$$

Assuming minimal coupling we get MHS symmetric actions by substituting  $\partial_a^x \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_a^*$ . Here also, as in the MHS gauge sector, the master fields are real, the actions are defined in the non-geometric phases, and can be written in the form of matrix models.

Let us apply this to the free Majorana spin-1/2 field  $\psi(x, u)$ . The MHS action for minimal coupling is (when discussing Majorana spinors,  $d$  is assumed to be such that it allows for their existence)

$$S_M[\psi, e] = \frac{1}{2} \int d^d x d^d u \bar{\psi}(x, u) (i \gamma^a \mathcal{D}_a^* - M) \psi(x, u). \tag{35}$$

In the operator formulation this is

$$S_M[\psi, e] = -\frac{(2\pi)^d}{2} \text{tr} \left( \bar{\psi} (\gamma^a [\hat{e}_a, \hat{\psi}] + M \hat{\psi}) \right). \tag{36}$$

The simplest supersymmetric MHS theory can be obtained by taking the action above together with the MHSYM action.

Minimal coupling applied to a real scalar field produces the following action

$$S_s[\varphi, h] = \int d^d x d^d u [\eta^{ab} (D_a^* \varphi)(D_b^* \varphi) - m^2 \varphi^2 - V_*(\varphi^* \star \varphi)]. \tag{37}$$

### 2.3.3. Master Field Matter in the Fundamental Representation. I

Matter in the fundamental representation of MHS symmetry transforms as

$$\delta_\varepsilon \phi(x, u) = -i \varepsilon(x, u) \star \phi(x, u). \tag{38}$$

The oddity here is that one can construct two candidates for the MHS covariant derivative. The first one is

$$D_a^* \phi = \partial_a^x \phi + i h_a \star \phi, \tag{39}$$

which is natural from the standard YM perspective, but cannot be defined outside the realm of expansion around the flat Minkowski background (13). It is also not natural from the perspective of a matrix model formulation. These shortfalls can be avoided using the prescription

$$D_a \phi(x, u) = i e_a(x, u) \star \phi(x, u). \tag{40}$$

From the relation

$$i e_a(x, u) \star \phi(x, u) = i u_a \phi(x, u) + \frac{1}{2} \partial_a^x \phi(x, u) + i h_a(x, u) \star \phi(x, u) \tag{41}$$

it is obvious that it differs from (39). The shortfall of the latter definition is that when  $h_a = 0$  the covariant derivative does not assume the standard form of an ordinary spacetime gradient.

Candidates for Lagrangian terms can be built using MHS invariants where minimal coupling is assumed, as before. MHS invariants can be built by Moyal-sandwiching MHS tensors between  $\phi^*$  or  $(D_a^* \phi)^*$  from the left and  $\phi$  or  $D_a^* \phi$  from the right.

To understand the origin of the degeneracy of minimal prescriptions, let us consider the example of master Dirac field  $\psi(x, u)$ . In this case it is easy to show that

$$-\bar{\psi} \gamma^a \star e_a \star \psi = \frac{i}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^a \star D_a^* \psi - \frac{i}{2} \overline{D_a^* \psi} \star \gamma^a \psi + u_a (\bar{\psi} \gamma^a \star \psi). \tag{42}$$

where the version of the MHS covariant derivative is the one given by (39). The first two terms on the right hand side produce the same kinetic term that would be obtained by the minimal coupling prescription based on (39)

$$S_{D1}[\psi, e] = \int d^d x d^d u \bar{\psi}(x, u) \star (i \gamma^a D_a^* - M) \psi(x, u). \tag{43}$$

On the left hand side of (42) is an expression which takes a natural matrix model form when used in the action

$$S_{D2}[\hat{\psi}, \hat{e}] = -\text{Tr} \left( \hat{\psi} (\gamma^a \hat{e}_a + M) \hat{\psi} \right) \tag{44}$$



The two actions differ by the second term on the right hand side of (42), which is a MHS scalar, and nonzero even for  $h_a(x, u) = 0$ . Note that Lagrangian terms for matter in the fundamental representation are MHS scalars and therefore can be multiplied by functions of auxiliary coordinates without breaking any of the important symmetries. The symmetry under translations in the auxiliary space is broken by such factors. It is not obvious why we should try to protect this symmetry — of course, we should be careful not to break symmetries which we would like to preserve, such as Lorentz symmetry and translations in spacetime. Also note that the action (42) is formally defined for all phases of the MHS theory and takes care of hermicity automatically.

### 2.3.4. Master Field Matter in the Fundamental Representation. II

The fact that the Lagrangian for matter fields in the fundamental representation is MHS invariant opens up a new possibility for constructing theories in the matter sector. One constructs candidates for Lagrangian terms by constructing MHS scalars which are also Lorentz tensors and then multiplying them by Dirac delta function  $\delta^d(u)$  or its gradients  $\partial_\mu^{(u)} \dots \delta^d(u)$ . This way all important symmetries, namely Poincaré and MHS, are preserved (such action is Poincaré and MHS invariant, while the symmetry under translations in the auxiliary space is not preserved).

Let us demonstrate this on the example of the Dirac master field, by taking the action to be

$$S_D[\psi, e] = - \int d^d x d^d u (\bar{\psi} \star (\gamma^a e_a + M) \star \psi) \delta^d(u). \quad (45)$$

Note that it preserves Poincaré symmetry of spacetime and explicitly breaks the auxiliary space translations. Observe that now there is no difference between the two forms of the minimal prescription defined above. What is outstanding is that if one Taylor-expands both  $\psi$  and  $e_a$  around  $u = 0$ , as in (26), then one can integrate over  $u$  in (45) to obtain a purely spacetime action, i.e., an off-shell description in terms of an infinite tower of spacetime fields in Minkowski spacetime (we remind the reader that in the case of the MHS gauge sector such description exists in the Euclidean theory, but not in Minkowski spacetime). The quadratic part of the action is non-diagonal in spacetime fields. An additional bonus is that one can construct new types of Lagrangian terms, e.g., in the case of the Dirac master field one can add the MHS Lorentz term

$$L_L(x, u) = \lambda_L \left( \bar{\psi}(x, u) \star \gamma_a \Sigma^{bc} T_{bc}(x, u) \star \psi(x, u) \right) \partial_u^a \delta^d(u), \quad \Sigma^{bc} = \frac{i}{2} [\gamma^b, \gamma^c]. \quad (46)$$

In the spacetime description obtained by using Taylor expansion (26) for master fields, this term supplies the standard Lorentz term for the lowest (spin-1/2) spacetime component  $\psi_0(x)$ . We leave a more detailed analysis for future work.

## 3. Spacetime Description

### 3.1. Spacetime Fields and the Free Action

As we demonstrated in [54], by integrating MHS symmetric actions over the auxiliary space  $u$  one can obtain regular spacetime actions written in terms of the spacetime fields. The question is can we understand the content of the theory in terms of Wigner's classification of irreducible representations of the Poincaré group (and in particular using finite spin representations only). In our previous paper [54] this question was left open, so let us expand on it here. For simplicity, we analyze the theory around the empty flat configuration, so that it is natural to work with the MHS potential  $h_a(x, u)$  defined by (13). The EoM of the pure MHSYM theory are then

$$\square_x h_a - \partial_a^x \partial_b^x h^b + i \left( 2[h^b \star \partial_b^x h_a] - [h_b \star \partial_a^x h^b] + [\partial_b^x h^b \star h_a] \right) + [h^b \star [h_a \star h_b]] = 0. \quad (47)$$

From the structure of the coupling of minimal (spacetime) matter to the MHS potential it seems natural to pass to the purely spacetime formulation by using Taylor expansion (26) of the MHS potential,

$$h_a(x, u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} h_a^{(n)\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(x) u_{\mu_1} \dots u_{\mu_n}. \quad (48)$$

This leads us to a description in terms of an infinite tower of spacetime fields  $h_a^{(n)\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(x)$ . By plugging this into (47) and focusing on the linear part, one obtains that the spacetime fields satisfy Maxwell-like EoM whose form naively suggests that the theory should have problems with ghosts. However, as explained in [54], that line of reasoning is flawed since such expansion does not allow for the regular off-shell spacetime description.

Instead, a more promising idea is to use a complete orthonormal set of functions in the auxiliary space (here, we use the canonical normalization (17)),  $\{f_r(\bar{u})\}$

$$\int d^d \bar{u} f_r(\bar{u}) f_s(\bar{u}) = \delta_{rs} \quad (49)$$

to expand the MHS potential as

$$\bar{h}_a(x, \bar{u}) = \sum_r \bar{h}_a^{(r)}(x) f_r(\bar{u}). \quad (50)$$

Now we can perform integrations over  $\bar{u}$  in the action, which are finite term by term. One gets that the quadratic part of spacetime action in MHSYM theory is diagonal, every term being of the Maxwell type

$$S_0[\bar{h}] = -\frac{1}{4} \sum_r \int d^d x (\partial_a \bar{h}_b^{(r)} - \partial_b \bar{h}_a^{(r)})^2. \quad (51)$$

There are no ghost which cannot be eliminated using the gauge symmetry, which on the linear level acts on spacetime fields  $\bar{h}_a^{(r)}(x)$  as

$$\delta_\varepsilon \bar{h}_a^{(r)}(x) \approx \partial_a \varepsilon^{(r)}(x) \quad (52)$$

where  $\varepsilon^{(r)}(x)$  are obtained from MHS gauge parameter  $\varepsilon(x, \bar{u})$  in the same fashion as in (50). If one integrates the remaining, interacting, part of the MHSYM action over  $u$ , the result is purely spacetime action which is a weakly non-local functional of spacetime fields  $\{\bar{h}_a^{(r)}(x)\}$ . The problem with this sort of expansion is that there is no manifestly covariant expansion of the type (50) with discrete index  $r$  which yields a direct sum of finite dimensional irreducible representations of the Lorentz group. Interestingly, this problem does not appear in the Euclidean MHSYM theory where instead of the Lorentz group one has the  $SO(d)$  group of isometries.

For example, one can use the  $d$ -dimensional Hermite functions defined by (see Appendix B for more details on the Hermite basis)

$$\begin{aligned} f_{r_0 \dots r_{d-1}}(\bar{u}) &= \prod_{\mu=0}^{d-1} (2^{r_\mu} r_\mu! \sqrt{\pi})^{-\frac{1}{2}} (\bar{u}_\mu - \partial_{(u)}^\mu)^{r_\mu} e^{-(\bar{u}_\mu)^2/2}, \quad r_\mu = 0, 1, \dots \\ &= \prod_{\mu=0}^{d-1} (2^{r_\mu} (r_\mu)! \sqrt{\pi})^{-\frac{1}{2}} H_{r_\mu}(\bar{u}_\mu) e^{-(\bar{u}_\mu)^2/2} \end{aligned} \quad (53)$$

where  $H_k(w)$  are Hermite polynomials defined by

$$H_k(w) = (-1)^k e^{w^2} \frac{d^k}{dw^k} e^{-w^2}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots \quad (54)$$

Due to the presence of a Euclidean product in the exponential term, the subspaces spanned by basis elements with fixed  $n = \sum_{\mu} r_{\mu}$  define a finite dimensional unitary representations of the  $SO(d)$  group, which is relevant if one is working with the Euclidean version of the theory. However, if we are interested in the physically more relevant case of Lorentzian theory, then the Lorentz transformations of Hermite functions

$$f'_{\{r\}}(\bar{u}') = \sum_{\{s\}} D_{\{r\}\{s\}}(\Lambda) f_{\{s\}}(\bar{u}) \quad , \quad u'_{\mu} = \Lambda_{\mu}^{\nu} u_{\nu} \quad , \quad \{r\} = (r_0, r_1, \dots, r_{d-1}) \quad (55)$$

provide an intrinsically infinite dimensional unitary representation of the Lorentz group, satisfying

$$\sum_{\{s\}} D_{\{r\}\{s\}}(\Lambda) D_{\{s\}\{t\}}(\Lambda) = \delta_{\{r\}\{t\}} \quad . \quad (56)$$

From the general theorem we know that this representation cannot be written as a direct sum of finite dimensional representations. This representation was discussed long time ago by Dirac in [55]. The conclusion is that the vector space of square integrable functions on the auxiliary space provides an infinite dimensional unitary representation of the Lorentz group. It is a reducible representation, which follows from the fact that each sector defined by  $N$ , where

$$N = r_0 - \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} r_j \quad , \quad (57)$$

is closed under the action of the Lorentz group  $SO(1, d - 1)$  and thus provides a representation by itself. Note that each sector provides an irreducible representation of the larger group  $SU(1, d - 1)$  [56].

The expansion (50) now takes the form

$$\bar{h}_a(x, \bar{u}) = \sum_{\{r\}} \bar{h}_{ar_0 \dots r_{d-1}}(x) f_{r_0 \dots r_{d-1}}(\bar{u}) \quad . \quad (58)$$

From (55) it follows that  $\bar{h}_{a\{r\}}(x)$  provide an intrinsically infinite dimensional representation of the Lorentz group defined by

$$\bar{h}'_{a\{r\}}(x') = \Lambda_a^b \sum_{\{s\}} D_{\{s\}\{r\}}(\Lambda) \bar{h}_{b\{s\}}(x) \quad , \quad x'^{\mu} = \Lambda^{\mu}_{\nu} x^{\nu} + \zeta^{\mu} \quad . \quad (59)$$

The spacetime fields carry an infinite dimensional representation of the Lorentz group, which cannot be written as a direct sum of finite dimensional IRREPs. This shows that the MHS theory differs from standard HS approaches.

It is interesting to write solutions of linearized MHSYM EoM in the helicity basis. This is most efficiently done by using a complete orthonormal basis in the auxiliary space built over spherical harmonics  $\{g_{r_0nlm}(u)\}$ , e.g.,

$$g_{r_0nlm}(\bar{u}, \hat{\mathbf{z}}) = f_{r_0}(\bar{u}_0) F_n(|\bar{\mathbf{u}}|) Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) \quad (60)$$

where  $F_n$  are Laguerre functions,  $Y_l^m$  are spherical harmonics, and  $r_0 = 0, 1, 2, \dots, n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, l = n, n - 2, \dots, 1(0), m = -l, -l + 1, \dots, l$ . Then the plane wave solutions for MHS potential can be expanded in the helicity basis

$$\epsilon_{\sigma r_0nlm}(\mathbf{k}) e^{ik \cdot x} g_{r_0nlm}(\bar{u}, \hat{\mathbf{k}}) \quad , \quad \mathbf{k} \cdot \epsilon_{\sigma r_0nlm}(\mathbf{k}) = 0 \quad , \quad k^2 = 0 \quad (61)$$

with  $\sigma = \pm 1$ . Helicity is given by  $\sigma + m$ , which shows that there is an infinite number of fluctuations for every value of the helicity.

### 3.2. MHSYM 3-Vertex in Spacetime Description

The 3-vertex is proportional to:

$$i \int du \partial^c h^d [h_c(x, u) * h_d(x, u)] \quad (62)$$

which we expand as

$$\sum_{e,f} \partial^c \tilde{h}^{d e \lambda(e)} \tilde{c}_{cd}^{f \kappa(f)} \int du \omega^{3/2} \mathcal{H}_{\lambda(e)}^e \mathcal{H}_{\kappa(f)}^f. \quad (63)$$

The notation is explained in the Appendix C. In particular, in this subsection and in Appendices B and C we work in Euclidean and do not write the bar on  $u$ , i.e., we choose  $\ell_h = 1/\sqrt{2}$ . (The restriction to Euclidean is due to simplicity. In principle it would be possible to carry out the calculations in Lorentzian signature. As explained in the text around (55), even in Lorentzian case one would need to use Euclidean version of  $u^2$  in the exponent of the weight function  $\omega$  of the Hermite polynomials. In addition one would need to use  $\delta_{\mu\nu}$  (distinguishing  $\delta_{\mu\nu}$  and  $\eta_{\mu\nu}$ ) even though it breaks manifest Lorentz symmetry. As explained in the previous subsection, the Lorentz symmetry would remain in the form of infinite dimensional unitary representations.) Using (A41), we get

$$i \int du \partial^c h^d [h_c(x, u) * h_d(x, u)] = \sum_{\substack{f-e \text{ even} \\ e,f}} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{-(d+e+f)/2} \left(-\frac{1}{4}\right)^\Delta \\ \times \sum_{g=\max(0,-\Delta)}^{\lfloor e/2 \rfloor} \frac{e! f! 2^{-4g}}{g!(g+\Delta)!(e-2g)!} \partial^c \tilde{h}^{d e [g]}_{\zeta(e-2g)} \tilde{c}_{cd}^{f [g+\Delta] \zeta(e-2g)} \quad (64)$$

where  $\Delta = \frac{f-e}{2}$ . The coefficient  $\tilde{c}_{cd}^{f \zeta(f)}(x)$  can be read out from (A50). Taking  $g + \Delta$  traces of  $\tilde{c}_{cd}^{f \zeta(f)}(x)$  and plugging it in into (64), we get

$$i \int du \partial^c h^d [h_c(x, u) * h_d(x, u)] \quad (65) \\ = \sum_{\substack{f-e \text{ even} \\ e,f}} \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{-(d+e+f)/2} \left(-\frac{1}{4}\right)^\Delta \sum_{g=\max(0,-\Delta)}^{\lfloor e/2 \rfloor} \frac{e!}{g!} 2^{-4g} \partial^c \tilde{h}^{d e [g]}_{\zeta(e-2g)} \\ \times \sum_{\substack{m,n=0 \\ a,b=0}}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{a+b \text{ odd} \\ s=0}}^{\infty} \sum_{t=0}^a \sum_{i,j,p,q_1,q_2}^b \sum \frac{(-)^{(-a+b+1)/2}}{2^{2(a+b)-1}} (-)^{s+t} \\ \times Z(f, |n+a-2s-m-b+2t|, n+a-2s+m+b-2t) \\ \times \frac{1}{(2i)!!} \frac{1}{(s-i)!} \frac{1}{(2j)!!} \frac{1}{(t-j)!} \frac{m!n!}{q_1!q_2!(p_1-q_2)!C!} \sum_{v_{ij}} \frac{1}{V_1!V_2!V_3!V_4!} \frac{2^{\sum_{i>j} v_{ij}}}{\prod_{i \geq j} v_{ij}!} \\ \times \square^{i+v_{11}} (\partial^\xi)^{V_1} (\partial_\theta)^{s-i+v_{14}} (\partial^\xi)^{q_2+v_{13}} ((\partial \cdot)^{q_1+v_{12}} \tilde{h}_c^m) [v_{22}] \zeta(V_2) \phi(t-j+v_{23}) \eta(C+v_{24}) \\ \times \square^{j+v_{33}} (\partial^\xi)^{V_3} (\partial_\phi)^{t-j+v_{23}} (\partial_\xi)^{q_2+v_{13}} ((\partial \cdot)^{p_1-q_2+v_{34}} \tilde{h}_d^n) [v_{44}] \zeta(V_4) \theta(s-i+v_{14}) \eta(C+v_{24})$$

where

$$V_1 = q - 2v_{11} - \sum_{j \neq 1} v_{1j} \\ V_2 = A - 2v_{22} - \sum_{j \neq 2} v_{2j} \\ V_3 = p - 2v_{33} - \sum_{j \neq 3} v_{3j} \\ V_4 = B - 2v_{44} - \sum_{j \neq 4} v_{4j} \quad (66)$$

and  $\sum_{v_{ij}}$  is a sum over all integer symmetric matrices (i.e., it represents 10 sums for  $v_{ij}, i \geq j$ , and where for convenience we have  $v_{ji} = v_{ij}$ ) for which  $v_{ij} \geq 0$  and  $\sum_{i \geq j} v_{ij} = g + \Delta$ . The  $\zeta$  indices in the last two lines of (65) contract with the term  $\partial^e \tilde{h}^d \frac{e[g]}{\zeta(e-2g)}$  in the second line. Note that the number of  $\zeta$  indices in the last two lines is  $V_1 + V_2 + V_3 + V_4 = f - 2(g + \Delta) = e - 2g$ , i.e., they all contract. The sums  $\sum_{i,j,p,p_1,q,q_1,q_2}$  are the same as in (A50).

By similar techniques an explicit expression for the four vertex can also be derived.

#### 4. Calculation of Amplitudes

The idea here is to perform a few sample perturbative calculations in the realm of the MHSYM theory coupled to matter, to see if the MHSYM theory produces mathematically sensible results when quantized. First, we must first calculate the Feynman rules. For this we shall use canonical normalization (17) and expand all master fields in an orthonormal basis in auxiliary space, as described in (49) and (50). A benefit of this representation is that the MHS propagator is simple and obtained immediately from (51),

$$\begin{aligned} D_{\mu\nu}^{(r,s)}(k) &= i \frac{\delta_{\mu\nu}}{k^2} \delta_{rs} \\ &= D_{\mu\nu}^{(\text{QED})}(k) \delta_{rs} \end{aligned} \quad (67)$$

where we use the Feynman gauge.

As for the propagators and vertices which include matter, they depend on the type of matter, and are discussed below independently for all cases.

##### 4.1. Minimal Spacetime Matter

###### 4.1.1. Feynman Rules

Here matter is described by standard spacetime fields, as described in Section 2.3.1, so the propagators are of the usual form. To make the demonstration as simple as possible, we take matter to be a single Dirac field  $\psi(x)$  minimally coupled to the MHS vielbein.

To calculate vertices we use (19) with (24), which after using (50) and normalization (17), leads to the following form for the interacting part of the action

$$S_{D,\text{int}}[\psi, \bar{h}] = -\bar{g}_{\text{ym}} \sum_r \int d^d x \bar{h}_a^{(r)}(x) \int d^d \bar{u} \bar{\psi}(x) \star \gamma^a f_r(\bar{u}) \star \psi(x) \delta^d(\bar{u}). \quad (68)$$

From this follows the expression for the interacting part of the Lagrangian density

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}(x) = -\bar{g}_{\text{ym}} \sum_r \bar{h}_a^{(r)}(x) J_r^a(x) \quad (69)$$

where the currents are given by

$$J_r^a = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{i^n (-i)^m \ell_h^{n+m}}{2^{n+m} n! m!} \partial_{\mu_1} \dots \partial_{\mu_n} \bar{\psi} \gamma^a \partial_{\nu_1} \dots \partial_{\nu_m} \psi \partial^{\mu_1} \dots \partial^{\mu_n} \partial^{\nu_1} \dots \partial^{\nu_m} f_r(\bar{u}) \Big|_{\bar{u}=0}.$$

There is only one type of vertex, depicted in Figure 1. If we denote by  $q'$  the outgoing fermion momentum and with  $q$  the ingoing fermion momentum, then the vertex contribution is

$$V_{\beta\alpha(r\mu)}(q', q) = i\bar{g}_{\text{ym}} (\gamma_\mu)_{\beta\alpha} V_r(q', q) = V_{\beta\alpha\mu}^{(\text{QED})} V_r(q', q) \quad (70)$$

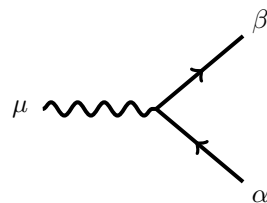
where the vertex factor  $V_r(q', q)$  is the MHS contribution to the standard QED result, and is given by

$$\begin{aligned} V_r(q', q) &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{\ell_h^{n+m}}{2^{n+m} n! m!} q'_{\mu_1} \dots q'_{\mu_n} q_{\nu_1} \dots q_{\nu_m} \partial^{\mu_1} \dots \partial^{\mu_n} \partial^{\nu_1} \dots \partial^{\nu_m} f_r(\bar{u}) \Big|_{\bar{u}=0} \\ &= \exp\left(\frac{\ell_h}{2} (q + q') \cdot \partial_{\bar{u}}\right) f_r(\bar{u}) \Big|_{\bar{u}=0} \\ &= f_r\left(\frac{\ell_h}{2} (q + q')\right). \end{aligned} \quad (71)$$

Comparing it to QED, we see that the difference is in the vertex functions given by the basis functions in the auxiliary space  $f_r(\bar{u})$  evaluated at

$$\bar{u} \rightarrow \frac{\ell_h}{2}(q + q'). \quad (72)$$

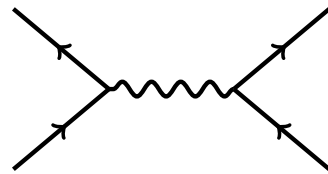
The basis functions vanish in the limit  $|\bar{u}| \rightarrow \infty$  faster than any power, making the UV limit soft. The formula for the MHS vertex factor (71) suggests that the UV behavior of the MHSYM should be better than in QED.



**Figure 1.** Interaction vertex for the minimal coupling.

#### 4.1.2. Example: Four-Point Amplitude

As an example, we take the tree-level four-point amplitude for the Dirac field. There is effectively one Feynman diagram, shown in Figure 2, which has two channels:  $t$  and  $u$ .



**Figure 2.** Tree-level four-point amplitude Feynman diagram.

Let us start with the  $t$ -channel. Using the vertex (71) and the propagator (67) whose momentum is  $k = p_1 - p'_1 = p'_2 - p_2$ , the  $t$ -channel contribution reads

$$\mathcal{M}_t = \mathcal{M}_t^{(\text{QED})} A_t \quad (73)$$

where  $\mathcal{M}_t^{(\text{QED})}$  is the QED result and  $A_t$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} A_t &= -\sum_r V_r(p_1, p'_1) V_r(p_2, p'_2) \\ &= \sum_r f_r\left(\frac{\ell_h}{2}(p_1 + p'_1)\right) f_r\left(\frac{\ell_h}{2}(p_2 + p'_2)\right) \\ &= \delta^d\left(\frac{\ell_h}{2}(p_1 + p'_1 - p_2 - p'_2)\right). \end{aligned} \quad (74)$$

In the last line we used the completeness relation

$$\sum_r f_r(\bar{u}) f_r(\bar{v}) = \delta^d(\bar{u} - \bar{v}). \quad (75)$$

Finally, using the energy-momentum conservation condition

$$p_1 + p_2 = p'_1 + p'_2 \implies p'_1 - p_2 = p_1 - p'_2 \quad (76)$$

we obtain

$$A_t = \delta^d(\ell_h(p_1 - p'_2)). \quad (77)$$

The  $u$ -channel Feynman diagram is obtained simply by exchanging  $1' \leftrightarrow 2'$  in the results for the  $t$ -channel, which means that the momentum of the propagator is  $k = p_1 - p'_2 = p_2 - p'_1$ , and

$$\mathcal{M}_u = \mathcal{M}_u^{(\text{QED})} A_u \quad (78)$$

where

$$A_u = \delta^d(\ell_h(p_1 - p'_1)). \quad (79)$$

The full tree-level amplitude is then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M} &= \frac{1}{2}(\mathcal{M}_t - \mathcal{M}_u) \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{M}_t^{(\text{QED})} \delta^d(\ell_h(p_1 - p'_2)) - \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{M}_u^{(\text{QED})} \delta^d(\ell_h(p_1 - p'_1)). \end{aligned} \quad (80)$$

It is vanishing unless the set of momenta in the final state is the same as the set of momenta in the initial state. This result is expected from the viewpoint of the Coleman-Mandula theorem, despite the fact that MHS theory does not fulfill all assumptions of the theorem. The result is also interesting from the perspective of the search for dark matter candidates in cosmology (for recent speculations that higher-spin particles may describe dark matter see [3]).

The MHSYM theory can be consistently truncated if we require  $e_a(x, -u) = -e_a(x, u)$  ("truncation to spin-even sector"). In this case the basis functions  $f_r(\bar{u})$  are also odd,  $f_r(-\bar{u}) = -f_r(\bar{u})$ , and the completeness relation becomes

$$\sum_r f_r(\bar{u}) f_r(\bar{v}) = \frac{1}{2}(\delta^d(\bar{u} - \bar{v}) - \delta^d(\bar{u} + \bar{v})). \quad (81)$$

The  $t$ -channel amplitude is now

$$\mathcal{M}_t = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{M}_t^{(\text{QED})} (\delta^d(\ell_h(p_1 - p'_1)) - \delta^d(\ell_h(p_1 + p_2))). \quad (82)$$

The main conclusion, that the amplitude is ultralocal in the momentum space, remains the same.

## 4.2. Master Space Matter in the Fundamental Representation

### 4.2.1. Feynman Rules

Now we assume that matter is represented by a single master Dirac field  $\psi(x, \bar{u})$  in the fundamental representation of the MHS symmetry (see Section 2.3.3). The free action is

$$S_{D0}[\psi] = \int d^d x d^d \bar{u} \bar{\psi}(x, \bar{u}) \gamma^a \partial_a^x \psi(x, \bar{u}) \quad (83)$$

while the interaction term is

$$\begin{aligned} S_{D,\text{int}}[\psi, \bar{h}] &= -\bar{g}_{\text{ym}} \int d^d x d^d \bar{u} \bar{\psi}(x, \bar{u}) \star (\gamma^a \bar{h}_a(x, \bar{u})) \star \psi(x, \bar{u}) \\ &= -\bar{g}_{\text{ym}} \int d^d x d^d \bar{u} \text{Tr}(\psi(x, \bar{u}) \star \bar{\psi}(x, \bar{u}) \gamma^a) \bar{h}_a(x, \bar{u}) \end{aligned} \quad (84)$$

where Tr denotes the trace over spinor indices. Then we also expand the master Dirac field in the orthonormal basis in the auxiliary space

$$\psi_\beta(x, \bar{u}) = \sum_j \psi_\beta^{(j)}(x) f_j(\bar{u}) \quad (85)$$

where  $\beta$  is a spinor index. The basis used for the matter field does not have to be the same as the one used for the MHS potential. Using (85) in (83) gives us the propagator for the Dirac spacetime fields

$$D_{\alpha\beta}^{(ij)}(p) = D_{\alpha\beta}(p) \delta_{ij} \quad (86)$$

where the first term on the RHS is the usual propagator for the Dirac field. Using (85) and (50) in (84) we obtain that the vertex is

$$V_{(i\alpha)(j\beta)(ra)}(p', p) = V_{\alpha\beta a}^{(\text{QED})} V_{ijr}^{(\text{hs})}(p', p) \quad (87)$$

where the QED vertex is

$$V_{\alpha\beta a}^{(\text{QED})} = -i \bar{g}_{\text{ym}} (\gamma_a)_{\alpha\beta} \quad (88)$$

and the MHS vertex factor is given by

$$V_{ijr}^{(\text{hs})}(p', p) = \int d^d \bar{u} f_i^* \left( \bar{u} + \frac{\ell_h}{2} p \right) f_j \left( \bar{u} + \frac{\ell_h}{2} p' \right) f_r(\bar{u}). \quad (89)$$

This completes the knowledge of Feynman rules in this theory. Again, compared to QED the difference is the presence of a vertex factor that softens the UV behavior.

#### 4.2.2. Example: Four-Point Amplitude

We want to calculate the tree-level four-point amplitude with matter fields on all legs. Again, there is essentially one diagram, depicted in Figure 2, which has two channels. Let us first calculate the  $t$ -channel diagram. From Feynman rules calculated above we obtain the amplitude

$$\mathcal{M}_t = \mathcal{M}_t^{(\text{QED})} A_t^{(ij)} \quad (90)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} A_t^{(ij)} &= \sum_r V_{i_1 j_1 r}^{(\text{hs})}(p'_1, p_1) V_{i_2 j_2 r}^{(\text{hs})}(p'_2, p_2) \\ &= \int d^d \bar{u} f_{i_1}^* \left( \bar{u} + \frac{\ell_h}{2} p_1 \right) f_{j_1} \left( \bar{u} + \frac{\ell_h}{2} p'_1 \right) \int d^d \bar{v} f_{i_2}^* \left( \bar{v} + \frac{\ell_h}{2} p_2 \right) f_{j_2} \left( \bar{v} + \frac{\ell_h}{2} p'_2 \right) \sum_r f_r(\bar{u}) f_r(\bar{v}) \\ &= \int d^d \bar{u} f_{i_1}^* \left( \bar{u} + \frac{\ell_h}{2} p_1 \right) f_{j_1} \left( \bar{u} + \frac{\ell_h}{2} p'_1 \right) f_{i_2}^* \left( \bar{u} + \frac{\ell_h}{2} p_2 \right) f_{j_2} \left( \bar{u} + \frac{\ell_h}{2} p'_2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (91)$$

In passing from second to third line the completeness relation was used. The  $u$ -channel contribution to the amplitude is obtained from (90) and (91) by exchanging  $p'_1 \leftrightarrow p'_2$  and  $i_1 \leftrightarrow i_2$ . The total tree-level amplitude is

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}} = \mathcal{M}_t - \mathcal{M}_u. \quad (92)$$

There are no Dirac-delta functions which are present in the case of simple spacetime matter. The integral in (91) is convergent and, due to the asymptotic fall-off of functions  $f_j(\bar{u})$  when  $|\bar{u}| \rightarrow \infty$ , the MHS contribution certainly makes the UV behavior softer when compared to the standard spinor QED. The basis functions are of the form

$$f_r(\bar{u}) = P_r(\bar{u}) e^{-(\ell_h \bar{u})^2}. \quad (93)$$

where  $P_r$  are polynomials. Using this in (91) we obtain

$$A_t^{(ij)} = P^{(ij)}(\ell_h p) \exp \left( -\frac{\ell_h^2}{16} \sum_{i,j=1}^4 (p_i - p_j)^2 \right) \quad (94)$$

where  $p_3 \equiv p'_1$ ,  $p_4 \equiv p'_2$  and  $P^{(ij)}$  are polynomial functions. The exponential factor makes the UV behaviour much softer when compared to QED.

## 5. Conclusions

MHSYM is a novel approach to the construction of HS gravity, where, contrary to the standard Noether procedure, a specific form of the gauge symmetry, constrained by the coupling to matter HS currents, is assumed rather than the ordinary massless HS free spectrum. This makes the model the ideal setup to answer a wide range of questions that are hard to approach in the absence of an explicit action, as it happens in most of HS literature, such as the ones about background dependence, the HS-induced geometry, classical solutions, and the UV behavior of the theory after quantization. In this paper, we have set up the stage for such studies discussing the coupling to matter and the corresponding tree-level amplitudes. Our results suggest that the presence of master fields including gauge fields with unbounded spin can lead to non-standard couplings and produce scattering amplitudes with remarkable simplification properties that are



unattainable when a finite number of HS particles is included. In particular we saw that in the case of ordinary spacetime matter one gets a four-particles scattering amplitudes ultralocal in momentum space, a result which is interesting from a perspective of the dark matter searches. In the case of master space matter in the fundamental representation, the ultralocal behavior is absent and the amplitudes are exponentially softened. We have singled out a physically relevant class of bases in the auxiliary space (orthonormal bases) for the Lorentzian MHSYM theory, which not only leads to a regular spacetime action but also furnishes an infinite dimensional unitary representation of the Lorentz group and is therefore free of the negative norm ghosts that affect finite dimensional representations in the absence of an explicit gauge symmetry.

In the future, it would be interesting to consider scattering amplitudes between HS-like particles. In this perspective we started analyzing the spectrum and pointing how unitarity may be preserved while keeping Lorentz covariance, at least at the perturbative level. We emphasize that when the theory is written in terms of spacetime fields, the Lorentz representations acting on fields are inherently infinite dimensional, which makes the MHS construction more akin to infinite spin theories than to more standard HS constructions which are based on (an infinite tower of) finite dimensional HS fields. This property of the MHS construction may be why the MHSYM theory apparently avoids the standard no-go theorems. Of course, the full study of S-matrix could provide the definitive confirmation of this expectation. It will be also interesting to pursue the Fadeev–Popov quantization of the theory along the lines already described in [53], the next step being the computation of one-loop quantum effective action, where the UV properties of MHSYM could be studied. In particular these results could be compared with the one-loop finiteness observed in [57,58]. One can also figure out that, by considering this model on an AdS background, one can provide an explicit bulk action to compare with the correlation functions of vector models on the AdS boundary, analogously to what was done in [15]. Of course, it would be crucial to be able to identify a consistent truncation to the chiral theory studied in [44].

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, M.C., P.D.P., S.G.G., M.P. and I.V.; methodology, M.C., P.D.P., S.G.G., M.P. and I.V.; software, M.C., P.D.P., S.G.G., M.P. and I.V.; validation, M.C., P.D.P., S.G.G., M.P. and I.V.; formal analysis, M.C., P.D.P., S.G.G., M.P. and I.V.; investigation, M.C., P.D.P., S.G.G., M.P. and I.V.; writing—original draft preparation, M.C., P.D.P., S.G.G., M.P. and I.V.; writing—review and editing, M.C., P.D.P., S.G.G., M.P. and I.V. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

**Funding:** This research has been supported by the University of Rijeka under the project uniri-prirod-18-256. The research of S.G. has been supported by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF), grant No. 244/17.

**Institutional Review Board Statement:** Not applicable.

**Informed Consent Statement:** Not applicable.

**Data Availability Statement:** Not applicable.

**Acknowledgments:** P.D.P. would like to thank Erwin Schroedinger Institute for Mathematics and Physics (University of Vienna) for support during the visit under the framework of ESI Programme and Workshop “Higher Spins and Holography”, and Evgeny Skvortsov and Per Sundell for stimulating discussions. S.G. is also grateful to Dario Francia, Per Sundell, Massimo Taronna, Konstantin Alkalaev, Alexey Sharapov, Evgeny Skvortsov, Xavier Bekaert, Euihun Joung and to the organizers and participants of the workshop “Higher Spin Gravity: Chaotic, Conformal and Algebraic Aspects” at the Asia Pacific Center for Theoretical Physics for discussions and comments on topics relevant to the paper. We especially thank Lorian Bonora as this work evolved from our mutual collaboration.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## Appendix A. Properties of the Moyal Product

We use the following definition for the Moyal product of functions on the master space  $\mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{U}$  with coordinates  $(x, u)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} a(x, u) \star b(x, u) &= a(x, u) \exp\left[\frac{i}{2}\left(\overleftarrow{\partial}_x \cdot \overrightarrow{\partial}_u - \overrightarrow{\partial}_x \cdot \overleftarrow{\partial}_u\right)\right] b(x, u) \\ &= \exp\left[\frac{i}{2}(\partial_x \cdot \partial_w - \partial_y \cdot \partial_u)\right] a(x, u) b(y, w) \Big|_{y=x, w=u}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A1})$$

The partial derivatives are defined in the usual way, i.e.,

$$\partial_\mu^x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\mu}, \quad \partial_\mu^u = \frac{\partial}{\partial u_\mu}. \quad (\text{A2})$$

The Moyal product is associative

$$(a(x, u) \star b(x, u)) \star c(x, u) = a(x, u) \star (b(x, u) \star c(x, u)) \quad (\text{A3})$$

and Hermitian under the complex conjugation

$$(a(x, u) \star b(x, u))^* = b(x, u)^* \star a(x, u)^*. \quad (\text{A4})$$

The Moyal product can, for a class of functions with well behaved fall of conditions, be calculated in the integral form

$$a(x, u) \star b(x, u) = \int d^d y d^d z \frac{d^d v}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{d^d w}{(2\pi)^d} e^{i(yw-zu)} a\left(x + \frac{y}{2}, u + v\right) b\left(x + \frac{z}{2}, u + w\right). \quad (\text{A5})$$

Note that the Moyal commutator of real functions is purely imaginary, while the Moyal anticommutator of real functions is real. It is important to note that the Moyal commutator obeys the Jacobi identity

$$[a \star [b \star c]] + [c \star [a \star b]] + [b \star [c \star a]] = 0 \quad (\text{A6})$$

and the derivation (or Leibniz) property

$$[a \star b \star c] = [a \star b] \star c + b \star [a \star c]. \quad (\text{A7})$$

The same properties are obeyed by the ordinary (matrix) commutator. From (A7) it follows

$$\{[a \star b] \star a\} = [a \star a \star b]. \quad (\text{A8})$$

The Moyal product satisfies the adjoint property under integration

$$\begin{aligned} \int d^d x d^d u (a(x, u) \star b(x, u)) c(x, u) &= \int d^d x d^d u a(x, u) (b(x, u) \star c(x, u)) \\ &= \int d^d x d^d u b(x, u) (c(x, u) \star a(x, u)) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A9})$$

where  $a, b$  and  $c$  are square-integrable functions on the master space. If we put  $c(x, u) = 1$  we obtain

$$\int d^d x d^d u a(x, u) \star b(x, u) = \int d^d x d^d u a(x, u) b(x, u) + (\text{boundary terms}). \quad (\text{A10})$$

It is convenient to define deformations on standard functions on the master space by using Moyal instead of ordinary product in the Taylor expansion. We denote such functions with the  $\star$  subscript, e.g.,

$$e_{\star}^{a(x,u)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} a(x,u)^{\star n} \tag{A11}$$

where  $a(x,u)^{\star n}$  is the Moyal product with  $n$  factors of  $a(x,u)$

$$a(x,u)^{\star n} = a(x,u) \star a(x,p) \star \dots \star a(x,u) . \tag{A12}$$

### Appendix B. Hermite Basis

Let us consider the kinetic term

$$S_{\text{sym}}^{(0)}[h] = \frac{1}{4g_{YM}^2} \int d^d x \int d^d u \left( \partial_x^a h^b - \partial_x^b h^a \right) \left( \partial_a^x h_b - \partial_b^x h_a \right) \tag{A13}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2g_{YM}^2} \int d^d x \int d^d u h^b \left( \square_x h_b - \partial_b^x (\partial_x \cdot h) \right), \tag{A14}$$

where

$$h_a(x,u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} h_a^{(n)\mu_1 \dots \mu_n}(x) u_{\mu_1} \dots u_{\mu_n} e^{-(\ell_h u)^2/2}.$$

We can use condensed notation as in [59] (cf. also [60])

$$h_a(x,u) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} h_a^{(n)\mu}(x) \mathbf{u}_{\mu}^n e^{-(\ell_h u)^2/2},$$

where  $\mathbf{u}_{\mu}^n = u_{\mu_1} \dots u_{\mu_n}$ . For the time being, just for the sake of simplicity, we choose  $\ell_h = 1/\sqrt{2}$ . We define the weight function

$$\omega(\mathbf{u}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} e^{-\frac{u^2}{2}}, \tag{A15}$$

such that

$$\int d^d u \omega(\mathbf{u}) = 1. \tag{A16}$$

We now define the Hermite polynomial of order  $n$  as

$$\mathcal{H}^{(n)} = \frac{(-)^n}{\omega} \nabla^n \omega, \tag{A17}$$

where  $\nabla^n = \frac{\partial^n}{\partial u_{\mu_1} \dots \partial u_{\mu_n}}$ . We can prove that

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{H}^{(0)} &= 1, \\ \mathcal{H}_{\mu_1}^{(1)} &= u_{\mu_1}, \\ \mathcal{H}_{\mu_1 \mu_2}^{(2)} &= u_{\mu_1} u_{\mu_2} - \delta_{\mu_1 \mu_2}, \\ \mathcal{H}_{\mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3}^{(3)} &= u_{\mu_1} u_{\mu_2} u_{\mu_3} - (u_{\mu_1} \delta_{\mu_2 \mu_3} + u_{\mu_2} \delta_{\mu_3 \mu_1} + u_{\mu_3} \delta_{\mu_1 \mu_2}), \end{cases}$$

and, for generic order  $n$ ,

$$\mathcal{H}^{(n)} = \mathbf{u}^n - \delta \mathbf{u}^{n-2} + \delta^2 \mathbf{u}^{n-4} - \delta^3 \mathbf{u}^{n-6} + \dots, \tag{A18}$$

where we are using the condensed notation

$$\mathbf{u}^r \delta^s = \frac{(r + 2s)!}{2^s r! (2s)!} u_{\mu_1} \dots u_{\mu_r} \delta_{\mu_{r+1} \mu_{r+2} \dots \mu_{r+2s-1} \mu_{r+2s}}. \tag{A19}$$

One can prove the orthogonality relation

$$\int d^d u \omega \mathcal{H}_\mu^{(m)} \mathcal{H}_\nu^{(n)} = \delta_{m,n} \delta_{\mu\nu}^n, \tag{A20}$$

where the subscripts  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  stand for  $m$ -tuples and  $n$ -tuples of indices taken respectively from the two sets  $(\mu_1, \dots, \mu_m)$  and  $(\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n)$ , and

$$\delta_{\mu\nu}^n = n! \delta_{\mu_1(\nu_1 \dots \mu_n \nu_n)}.$$

Now one can readily write down the expansion

$$h_a(x, u) = \omega^{\frac{1}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{h}_a^{(n)\mu}(x) \mathcal{H}_\mu^{(n)}, \tag{A21}$$

where

$$\tilde{h}_a^{(n)\mu}(x) = \frac{1}{n!} \int d^d u \omega^{\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{H}_\mu^{(n)} h_a(x, u). \tag{A22}$$

We see that

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{h}_a^{(n)\mu}(x) &= \frac{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{4}}}{n!} \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} h_a^{(s)\nu}(x) \int d^d u \omega \mathcal{H}_\mu^{(n)} \mathbf{u}_\nu^s \\ &= \frac{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{4}}}{n!} \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} h_a^{(s)\nu}(x) (-)^n \int d^d u \nabla_\mu^n \omega \mathbf{u}_\nu^s \\ &= \frac{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{4}}}{n!} \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} h_a^{(s)\nu}(x) \int d^d u \omega \nabla_\mu^n \mathbf{u}_\nu^s. \end{aligned}$$

Using the facts that

$$\nabla_\mu^n \mathbf{u}^s = \delta_\mu^n \mathbf{u}^{s-n}, \tag{A23}$$

and that

$$\int d^d u \omega \mathbf{u}^{2p+1} = 0, \tag{A24}$$

and

$$\int d^d u \omega \mathbf{u}^{2p} = \delta^p, \tag{A25}$$

we see that

$$\tilde{h}_a^{(n)\mu}(x) = \frac{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{4}}}{n!} \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} h_a^{(n+2p)\nu}(x) \left( \delta_\mu^n \delta^p \right)_\nu,$$

where

$$\left( \delta_\mu^n \delta^p \right)_\nu = \frac{(n + 2p)!}{2^p n! p!} \delta_{\mu_1(\nu_1 \dots \mu_n \nu_n \nu_{2p-1} \nu_{2p})}. \tag{A26}$$

One can now see that the kinetic term can be written in the diagonal form

$$S_{\text{ym}}^{(0)}[h] = \frac{1}{4g_{YM}^2} \int d^d x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! \left( \partial_x^a \tilde{h}_\mu^{(n)b} - \partial_x^b \tilde{h}_\mu^{(n)a} \right) \left( \partial_a^x \tilde{h}_b^{(n)\mu} - \partial_b^x \tilde{h}_a^{(n)\mu} \right) \tag{A27}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2g_{YM}^2} \int d^d x \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n! \tilde{h}_\mu^{(n)b} \left( \square_x \tilde{h}_b^{(n)\mu} - \partial_b^x \left( \partial_x \cdot \tilde{h}^{(n)\mu} \right) \right), \tag{A28}$$

### Appendix C. Further Hermite Basis

Here we develop necessary formulas to write the Moyal commutator of two MHS potentials. The notation is slightly different than in Appendix B.

#### Appendix C.1. Notation

Here the notation  $\delta_{\mu\mu}^s u_\mu^{n-2s}$  includes symmetrization with weight one, i.e., repeated indices (that are all down or all up, and are not dummy indices as in the product on the right hand side in the Equation (A37) below) are symmetrized. The number of indices is written in parenthesis i.e.,  $\mu(3)$  is the same as  $\mu\mu\mu$ . Some examples are:  $\delta_{\mu\mu}^1 u_\mu^1 = \delta_{(\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3)} = \frac{1}{3!}$  (sum of permutations, 3! terms)  $= \frac{1}{3}(\delta_{\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3} + \delta_{\mu_2\mu_3\mu_1} + \delta_{\mu_3\mu_1\mu_2})$ . Note that, contrary to the Appendix B, no other factors are implied in the notation. Similarly,  $\delta_{\mu\mu}^2 u_\mu^1 = \delta_{(\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3\mu_4\mu_5)}$  and  $\partial_\mu^2 A^{\mu(5)} = \partial_{\mu_1}\partial_{\mu_2} A^{(\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3\mu_4\mu_5)}$ . If  $A^{\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3\mu_4\mu_5}$  is symmetric we write the previous expression as  $((\partial\cdot)^2 A)^{\mu(3)}$ . The trace is denoted by square brackets in the superscript  $\delta_{\mu\mu}^2 A^{\mu(5)} = \delta_{\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3\mu_4} A^{\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3\mu_4\mu_5} = A^{[2]\mu}$ . We give two more examples:

$$(A^{\mu\mu\mu}\delta_\mu^\alpha)\delta^{\mu\beta} = A^{\alpha(\mu_1\mu_2\mu_3)\beta} = A^{\alpha\mu\mu}\delta^{\mu\beta}, \quad \text{if } A \text{ is symmetric} \tag{A29}$$

$$(A^{\mu\mu\mu}\delta^{\mu\beta})\delta_\mu^\alpha = \frac{3}{4}A^{\alpha\mu\mu}\delta^{\mu\beta} + \frac{1}{4}A^{\mu\mu\mu}\delta^{\alpha\beta}, \quad \text{if } A \text{ is symmetric} \tag{A30}$$

With respect to (A21), for further convenience we add a label denoting total number of indices

$$h_a(x, u) = \omega^{\frac{1}{2}}(u) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{h}_a^{n\mu(n)}(x) \mathcal{H}_{\mu(n)}^n(u) \tag{A31}$$

where instead of (A17) and (A18) the (multidimensional) Hermite polynomials are now written as

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mu(n)}^n(u) = \omega^{-1}(-\partial_\mu)^n \omega = \sum_{s=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} (-)^s \frac{n!}{2^s(n-2s)!s!} \delta_{\mu\mu}^s u_\mu^{n-2s} \tag{A32}$$

with  $\omega$  given by (A15). These satisfy orthogonality relations now written as

$$\int d^d u \omega \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m \mathcal{H}_{\nu(n)}^n = \delta_{m,n} n! \delta_{\mu\nu}^n \tag{A33}$$

e.g., for  $m = n = 2$  Equation (A33) reads:

$$\int d^d u \omega \mathcal{H}_{\mu_1\mu_2}^2 \mathcal{H}_{\nu_1\nu_2}^2 = 2! \delta_{\mu_1(\nu_1} \delta_{|\mu_2|\nu_2)} = \delta_{\mu_1\nu_1} \delta_{\mu_2\nu_2} + \delta_{\mu_1\nu_2} \delta_{\mu_2\nu_1} \tag{A34}$$

Sometimes we need to count how many of the indices  $\mu_i, i = 1, \dots, m$  have a value  $\mu$ . The count is denoted by  $m_\mu$

$$m_\mu = \sum_{i=1}^m \delta_{\mu_i\mu} \tag{A35}$$

and, by definition, has the property

$$\sum_{\mu=0}^{d-1} m_\mu = m \tag{A36}$$

Using  $m_\mu$  we can e.g., write the product of  $m$  terms,  $u_\mu^m$ , as the product of  $d$  terms,  $u_0 \dots u_{d-1}$ , with the corresponding powers:

$$u_\mu^m = u_0^{m_0} \dots u_{d-1}^{m_{d-1}} = \prod_\mu u_\mu^{m_\mu} \tag{A37}$$

Using this notation one can express multi-dimensional Hermite polynomials (A32) as a product of the standard one-dimensional (usually denoted by  $He_n(x) = \sum_{s=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} (-1)^s \frac{n!}{2^s (n-2s)!} x^{n-2s}$  in the literature)

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m(u) = \prod_\mu He_{m_\mu}(u_\mu) \tag{A38}$$

Using this (and knowing the inversion formula for one-dimensional Hermite polynomials) one can easily find the inversion formula for the multi-dimensional Hermite polynomials

$$u_\mu^n = \sum_{s=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \frac{n!}{2^s (n-2s)!} \delta_{\mu\mu}^s \mathcal{H}_{\mu(n-2s)}^{n-2s}(u) \tag{A39}$$

Similarly, one gets the multiplication formula:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mu(n)}^n(\gamma u) = \sum_{s=0}^{\lfloor n/2 \rfloor} \gamma^{n-2s} (\gamma^2 - 1)^s \frac{n!}{2^s (n-2s)!} \delta_{\mu\mu}^s \mathcal{H}_{\mu(n-2s)}^{n-2s}(u) \tag{A40}$$

from which one obtains “orthogonality” relations with an adjusted power for the weight  $\omega$

$$\int d^d u \omega^{1+\alpha} \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m \mathcal{H}_{\nu(n)}^n = (1+\alpha)^{-(d+m+n)/2} \sum_{s=\max(0,-\Delta)}^{\lfloor m/2 \rfloor} \left(-\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)^{2s+\Delta} \times \frac{m!n!}{s!(s+\Delta)!(m-2s)!} \delta_{\mu\mu}^s \delta_{\nu\nu}^{s+\Delta} \delta_{\mu\nu}^{m-2s}, \quad (\text{if } n-m \text{ even})$$

$$\int d^d u \omega^{1+\alpha} \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m \mathcal{H}_{\nu(n)}^n = 0, \quad (\text{if } n-m \text{ odd}) \tag{A41}$$

where

$$\Delta = \frac{n-m}{2} \tag{A42}$$

The following relations are useful for the calculations of the next subsection

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mu(m+1)}^{m+1} \delta_\nu^\mu = \mathcal{H}_{\nu\mu(m)}^{m+1} = \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m u_\nu + m \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m-1)}^{m-1} \delta_{\mu\nu} \tag{A43}$$

$$\partial_\nu \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m = m \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m-1)}^{m-1} \delta_{\mu\nu} \tag{A44}$$

$$\partial_\nu \left( \omega^{1/2} \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m \right) = \omega^{1/2} \left( \partial_\nu - \frac{1}{2} u_\nu \right) \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m \tag{A45}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m \mathcal{H}_{\nu(n)}^n = \sum_{l=0}^{\min(m,n)} \frac{m!n!}{(m-l)!(n-l)!} \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m-l)\nu(n-l)}^{m+n-2l} \delta_{\mu\nu}^l \tag{A46}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\partial_\nu - \frac{1}{2}u_\nu\right)^k \mathcal{H}_{\mu(n)}^n &= \sum_{s=0}^k \sum_{i=\max(0,s-n)}^{\min(s,k-s)} \frac{(-)^{s+k}}{2^k(2i)!!} \frac{k!n!}{(k-s-i)!(s-i)!(n-s+i)!} \\ &\quad \times \mathcal{H}_{\nu(k-s-i)\mu(n-s+i)}^{n+k-2s} \delta_{\mu\nu}^{s-i} \delta_{\nu\nu}^i \end{aligned} \tag{A47}$$

For reference we write also

$$\partial_\nu \partial_\lambda \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m - u_\lambda \partial_\nu \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m + m \mathcal{H}_{\lambda\mu(m-1)}^m \delta_{\mu\nu} = 0 \tag{A48}$$

$$\square\left(\omega^{1/2} \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m\right) + \left(m + \frac{d}{2} - \frac{u^2}{4}\right)\left(\omega^{1/2} \mathcal{H}_{\mu(m)}^m\right) = 0 \tag{A49}$$

### Appendix C.2. Moyal Commutator in Hermite Basis

To calculate the 3-vertex, we need to expand the Moyal product of two MHS potentials using the Hermite basis. As a first step, we expand the potentials and the product and express the result using a single Hermite polynomial. Note that here the weight function is  $\omega$  (each of the potentials contributes with  $\omega^{1/2}$ ). We will deal with it in the integration in the next subsection. The product of the two potentials is:

$$\begin{aligned} &i[h_c(x, u) * h_d(x, u)] \\ &= \omega \sum_{f=0}^{\infty} \tilde{c}_{cd}^{f\kappa(f)}(x) \mathcal{H}_{\kappa(f)}^f(u) \\ &= \omega \sum_{f=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m,n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{a+b \text{ odd} \\ a,b=0}}^{\infty} \frac{(-)^{(-a+b+1)/2}}{2^{2(a+b)-1}} \sum_{s=0}^a \sum_{i=\max(0,s-n)}^{\min(s,a-s)} \sum_{t=0}^b \sum_{j=\max(0,t-m)}^{\min(t,b-t)} \\ &\quad \times Z(f, |n+a-2s-m-b+2t|, n+a-2s+m+b-2t) \\ &\quad \times (-)^{s+t} \frac{1}{(2i)!!} \frac{1}{(s-i)!} \frac{1}{(2j)!!} \frac{1}{(t-j)!} \\ &\quad \times \sum_{\substack{p+p_1=b-t-j \\ p,p_1 \geq 0}} \sum_{\substack{q+q_1+q_2=a-s-i \\ q,q_1,q_2 \geq 0}} \\ &\quad \times \frac{m!n!}{p!q!q_1!q_2!(p_1-q_2)!A!B!C!} \mathcal{H}_{\kappa(f)}^f \\ &\quad \times \square^i (\partial^\kappa)^q (\partial_\theta)^{s-i} (\partial_{\tilde{\zeta}})^{q_2} ((\partial \cdot)^{q_1} \tilde{h}_c^m)^{\kappa(A)} \phi^{(t-j)} \eta^{(C)}(x) \\ &\quad \times \square^j (\partial^\kappa)^p (\partial_\phi)^{t-j} (\partial_{\tilde{\zeta}})^{q_2} ((\partial \cdot)^{p_1-q_2} \tilde{h}_d^n)^{\kappa(B)} \theta^{(s-i)} \eta^{(C)}(x) \end{aligned} \tag{A50}$$

where

$$A = \frac{1}{2}(m+b-n-a+f) - t + s - p \tag{A51}$$

$$B = \frac{1}{2}(n+a-m-b+f) + t - s - q \tag{A52}$$

$$C = \frac{1}{2}(n+a+m+b-f) - t - s - p_1 - q_1 \tag{A53}$$

and  $Z(n, a, b)$  is a function that is 1 if  $a \leq n \leq b$  and  $n - a$  is even, and zero otherwise. The first few terms of this expansion are as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
& i[h_c(x, u) * h_d(x, u)] \\
& = \omega \left( \frac{1}{2}(u \cdot \partial) \tilde{h}_c^0 \tilde{h}_d^0 - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{h}_c^0 (u \cdot \partial) \tilde{h}_d^0 \right. \\
& \quad - \partial_\theta \tilde{h}_c^0 \tilde{h}_d^{1\theta} + \frac{1}{2} (u \cdot \partial) \tilde{h}_c^0 (u \cdot \tilde{h}_d^1) - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{h}_c^0 (u \cdot \partial) (u \cdot \tilde{h}_d^1) \\
& \quad \left. + \tilde{h}_c^{1\phi} \partial_\phi \tilde{h}_d^0 - \frac{1}{2} (u \cdot \tilde{h}_c^1) (u \cdot \partial) \tilde{h}_d^0 + \frac{1}{2} (u \cdot \partial) (u \cdot \tilde{h}_c^1) \tilde{h}_d^0 + \dots \right) \quad (\text{A54})
\end{aligned}$$

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