

Non-Renormalization Theorems in

Super Yang-Mills and Supergravity Theories

UCLA Workshop on Ultraviolet properties
of $N=8$ Supergravity

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Some literature:

Grisaru & Siegel, Nucl. Phys. B201 (1982) 292.

Howe, Stelle & Townsend

"Miraculous Ultraviolet Cancellations in Supersymmetry
made Manifest" Nucl. Phys. B236 (1984) 125

Howe + Stelle

"Ultraviolet Divergences in Higher Dimensional
Supersymmetric Yang-Mills Theories" Phys. Lett. 137B (1984) 175

Howe + Stelle

"The Ultraviolet Properties of Supersymmetric
Field Theories" (review) Int. J. Mod. Phys. A4 (1989) 1871

Various scenarios for ultraviolet finiteness

At a given order in a perturbation expansion, one could find

A) No supersymmetric extension of a given non-supersymmetric potential counterterm exists.

(Eg. completion of $\int_{D=4} d^4x \sqrt{g} R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\rho\lambda\sigma\tau} R^{\mu}_{\lambda}{}^{\nu}{}_{\tau}$ at $L=2$ loops in $D=4$)

B) The supersymmetric completion of a given non-supersymmetric counterterm exists, but has vanishing value when subjected to the theory's coupled classical field equations.

(Eg. $L=1, D=4$ $\int_{D=4} d^4x \sqrt{g} (R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R - T_{\mu\nu})^2$)

i) in this case, one can remove such a divergence by field redefinition renormalizations without adding new invariants to the action.

c) "Ordinary SUSY miraculous cancellations": a valid non-vanishing-on-shell counterterm exists, but its coefficient is zero as a result of a non-renormalization theorem.

(Eg. F term invariants like $\int_{D=4} d^4x d^2\theta \phi^n$, $\bar{D}_i \phi = 0$)

D) Truly miraculous cancellations

↳ $N=8$ SG in $D=4$?

The UV Finiteness of N=4, D=4 SYM

The 16 - supercharge N=4 SYM theory has the component action

Giozzi, Scherk & Olive
Brink, Schwarz & Scherk

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{I} = \frac{1}{g^2} \int d^4x \text{Tr} \left\{ & -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} D^\mu \bar{\phi}^{ij} D_\mu \phi_{ij} - \frac{i}{2} \bar{\lambda}^i \gamma^\mu D_\mu \lambda_i \right. \\
& + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\lambda}^i [\lambda^c{}_i, \phi_{ij}] - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\lambda}^c{}_i [\lambda_j, \bar{\phi}^{ij}] \\
& \left. + \frac{1}{8} [\phi_{ij}, \phi_{kl}] [\bar{\phi}^{ij}, \bar{\phi}^{kl}] \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

containing fields $A_\mu, \lambda_i = \delta_5 \lambda_i, \phi_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijke} \bar{\phi}^{ke}$

This theory has, at the classical level,

- manifest $SU(4)$, of which 9 generators are chiral
- 16 nonlinear Poincaré supersymmetries with an algebra closing on the standard N=4 algebra only on-shell.
- N=4 conformal supersymmetry

There are 2 basic types of argument for the UV finiteness of the D=4 quantum theory based on the above classical N=4 action:

1) Based on anomalies and symmetry preservation
Ferrara & Zumino
Sohnius & West

2) Based on non-renormalization theorems
- for 8 supercharge Lorentz covariant Feynman rules
Howe, Stelle & Townsend

- for 8 supercharge light-cone Feynman rules
Mandelstam
Brink, Lindgren & Nilsson

1) Anomaly/Symmetry arguments

• original form, based on $SU(4)$ preservation:

- The $N=4$ theory has $SU(4)$ but not $U(4)$

susy automorphism symmetry, owing to the self-conjugacy constraint of the 6 scalars,

$$\phi_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ijkl} \bar{\phi}^{kl}$$

- Under $N=1, D=4$ supersymmetry, UV divergences giving rise to a non-vanishing beta function would cause the appearance of a whole $N=1$ supermultiplet of anomalies:

T_{μ}^{μ}	γ_{μ}^{μ}	$J_{\mu}^{\mu(5)}$
stress tensor trace anomaly	γ -trace anomaly of susy current	some axial current anomaly

- So a non-vanishing trace anomaly would be accompanied by an anomaly in one of the 4 $SU(4)$ chiral currents.

- However, $SU(4)$ is expected to be anomaly free
 $\Rightarrow T_{\mu}^{\mu} = 0$

• Another version of this argument uses a manifestly $N=1, D=4$ supersymmetric formalism Grisaru, Roček & Siegel Stelle

$$\mathcal{I} = \int d^4x d^2\theta \left[\frac{1}{64g^2} W^{\alpha} W_{\alpha} \right] + \int d^4x d^4\theta \left[e^{-gV} \bar{\phi}^i e^{gV} \phi_i \right] + \frac{ig}{3!} \int d^4x d^2\theta \text{Tr} \left\{ \epsilon^{ijk} \phi_i [\phi_j, \phi_k] \right\} + c.c.$$

$$W_{\alpha} = \bar{D}^2 (e^{-gV} D_{\alpha} e^{gV})$$

F term, cannot be renormalized

- Assuming the 16 supersymmetries are unbroken allows only one overall wavefunction renormalization and a coupling constant ren. $g_0 = Z_g g$ $V_0 = Z^{1/2} V$ $\phi_{0i} = Z^{1/2} \phi_i$ (can also justify this by assuming $SU(4)$ unbroken)

But in the background field method, $Z_g Z^{1/2} = 1$, while from F-term non-ren $Z_g Z^{1/2} = 1 \Rightarrow Z_g = Z = 1$

The anomaly/symmetry arguments all depend on the assumption that certain symmetries are preserved in the quantum theory.

Clearly better is an argument that relies only on linearly realized symmetries that can be maintained manifestly in the quantization procedure.

Non-renormalization Theorems

The basic non-renormalization theorem in supersymmetry is that for F-term invariants built from chiral superfields,

- Use the background field method, splitting ϕ into background and quantum parts:

$$\phi^i = \underbrace{\varphi^i}_{\text{total}} + \underbrace{Q^i}_{\text{background}} + \underbrace{Q^i}_{\text{quantum}}$$

- Solve the chirality constraint on Q by introducing a quantum prepotential

$$Q^i = \bar{D}^2 X^i \quad \bar{D}^2 = \bar{D}^{\dot{\alpha}} \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}}$$

where X^i has a gauge symmetry $\delta X^i = \bar{D}^{\dot{\alpha}} \bar{\Lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}}^i$ (since $\bar{D}^{\dot{\alpha}} \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}} = 0$)

- Expanding the Wess-Zumino action

$$\mathcal{I} = \int d^4x d^4\theta \bar{\phi}_i \phi^i + \lambda_{ijk} \int d^4x d^2\theta \underbrace{\phi^i \phi^j \phi^k}_{\text{F-term}}$$

into background and quantum parts, find that all terms except the pure background terms can be written as full superspace integrals $\int d^4x d^4\theta f(\varphi, X)$

- BFM renormalizations are read from infinities involving background φ^i only $\Rightarrow \int d^4x d^4\theta f(\varphi, \bar{\varphi})$. So F-term is not renormalized.

Eg. $\int d^4x d^2\theta \varphi \bar{D}^2 X^i \bar{D}^2 X^i$
 $= \int d^4x d^4\theta \varphi X \bar{D}^2 X$

SYM Non-renormalization theorems

Wess, Zumino,
Iltopoulos, Ferrara, Piguat
Grisaru, Roček & Siegel

Suppose we are given a theory with N -extended Supersymmetry (i.e. $4N$ supercharges) which can be quantized using M -extended Superfields (i.e. $4M$ linearly realized Supersymmetries). We do not assume $M=N$.

Use of the background field method in M -extended superspace leads to the following:

1) Quantum corrections to the effective action Γ may always be expressed as a full superspace integral
 $\int d^4x d^{4M}\theta \Delta\mathcal{L}$

2) There are complications at the one-loop level arising from "ghost for ghost" problems from prepotential gauge fixing. But for $L \geq 2$ loops, things settle down.

3) For $L \geq 2$ loops, the integrand $\Delta\mathcal{L}$ must be expressed in terms of background field superspace connections
 $A_\alpha(x, \theta), A_\mu(x, \theta)$.

- Inside loops, one encounters prepotentials for the quantum fields $a_\alpha = e^{-gV} D_\alpha e^{gV}$. But external lines are always background, and for them prepotentials are not introduced.

- This is the SYM analogue of having ψ background chiral fields appear in $\int d^4x d^4\theta f(\psi, \bar{\psi})$ in the W-Z model.

4) Counterterms for UV divergences must be local in x -space. So it is illegal to try to write $\int d^2\theta f(\psi)$ as $\int d^4\theta \frac{D^2}{\square} f(\psi)$.

Upshot: $L \geq 2$ counterterms that can only be written as integrations $f(A_\alpha)$ over submanifolds of M -superspace are excluded.

N=4 SYM in M=2 superfields

Howe, Stelle,
Townsend

When decomposed into M=2 multiplets, the N=4 SYM theory splits into M=2 SYM ($A_\mu, \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \phi_{12}$ (complex)) and an M=2 hypermultiplet ($\phi_{ii=3,4}$ (complex), λ_3, λ_4)

• For M=2 SYM, one has superspace connections

$$A_A = (\mathcal{A}_{\alpha i}, \bar{\mathcal{A}}_{\dot{\alpha} i}, A_\mu)$$

$\alpha, \dot{\alpha} = 1, 2$ $\mu = 0, 1, 2, 3$

From the superspace covariant derivative $\mathcal{D}_A = D_A + i g A_A$ one derives the M=2 SYM field strength

$$F_{AB} = D_A A_B - (-1)^{AB} D_B A_A + i [A_A, A_B] + t_{AB}^C A_C$$

flat s.space
torsion

$$t_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu} = -i \sigma_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu} \delta_j^i, \quad 0 \text{ otherwise}$$

• Constraints: to obtain the correct component field content, the M=2 field strength is subject to

$$F_{\alpha\beta}^{ij} = \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} \epsilon^{ij} \bar{W} \quad \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha} i} F_{\alpha\beta}^{ij} = 0$$

— the remaining field strength superfield W is covariantly chiral, $\bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha} i} W = 0$

The M=2 SYM action is naturally written as a chiral M=2 superspace integral

$$I = \int d^4x d^4\theta \text{Tr} (W^2) + \text{c.c.}$$

• Note that since $W \sim \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha} i} \bar{A}_{\dot{\beta} j}$, there is no way this action can be rewritten as a full $\int d^4x d^8\theta$ M=2 superspace action involving just the connections A_A

Quantum part of $M=2$ SYM connection: prepotential

linearized level: $a_\alpha^i = \bar{D}_\alpha^3{}^i \bar{D}^{2ke} V_{ke} + \dots$

for which the prepotential has the gauge transformation

$$\delta V_{ij} = D_\alpha^k \Lambda_{ijk}^\alpha + \dots$$

- Nonlinear extensions of these, plus gauge-fixing procedures, attention to infrared divergence issues, ghosts, etc, all were dealt with. **H.S.T.**

Hypermultiplet sector

A key point in formulating the $N=4$ SYM theory in $M=2$ superfields was finding an $M=2$ off-shell formulation of the hypermultiplet.

- The **Fayet-Sohnius** formulation in terms of an $SU(2)$ doublet superfield ϕ^i satisfying $D_\alpha^{(i} \phi^{j)} = \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}}^{(i} \phi^{j)} = 0$ is on-shell, i.e. the constraints imply the field equations. This formulation does not allow an off-shell extension with a finite set of auxiliary fields.

- However, the relaxed hypermultiplet **H.S.T.** does the trick:

$$D_\alpha^{(i} L_{jk)} = D_\alpha^k L_{ijke} \quad D_\alpha^{(i} L_{jkem)} = 0$$

$$D_\alpha^i D_{\dot{\alpha}}^j L = [D_\alpha^i, \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}}^j] L = 0$$

— these constraints can be solved by introducing prepotentials for the quantum fields

$$L^{ij} = \frac{3}{4} \bar{D}^{ij} D_\alpha^3{}^k \rho_\alpha^k + \frac{1}{2} \bar{D}_k^{(i} D^{j)k} D_\alpha^2 \rho_\alpha^2 + \text{c.c.}$$

$$L^{ijkl} = \frac{2}{5} D^{(ij} \bar{D}^{kl)} [D_\alpha^m \rho_\alpha^m + \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}}^m \bar{\rho}_{\dot{\alpha}}^m]$$

$$L = D^{ij} \bar{D}^{kl} X_{ijkl} \quad X_{ijkl} = X_{(ijkl)}$$

The free hypermultiplet action for the quantum fields is then written as a full $M=2$ superspace integral

$$\mathbb{I}_{HM} = \int d^4x d^8\theta \left[(L_{ij} D_\alpha^i \rho^{\alpha j} + c.c.) + L^{ijke} X_{ijke} \right]$$

leading to the equations of motion

$$L^{ijke} = 0 \quad D_{\alpha j} L^{ij} = D_\alpha^i L$$

which contain the usual equations of motion for the hypermultiplet component fields.

- Note: the scalars appear here as a triplet $L^{ij|_{0.0}}$ and a singlet $L_{|_{0.0}}$ instead of a complex doublet as in the **F.S.** hypermultiplet.
- As for the $N=1$ Wess-Zumino multiplet, solving the off-shell constraints in terms of prepotentials introduces gauge invariances for the hypermultiplet prepotentials.
- These h.m. pre-gauge invariances lead to a non-renormalization theorem for the hypermultiplet itself:

\mathbb{I}_{HM} cannot be written as a full $\int d^4x d^8\theta$ $M=2$ superspace integral involving the constrained quantities L^i_j, L^{ijke}, L in terms of which the background fields must appear. ("No background prepotentials" rule)

$\Rightarrow \mathbb{I}_{HM}$ is also ruled out as an UV counterterm.

Hence: $N=4, D=4$ SYM is UV finite.

A basic question: what M-extension can one quantize with?

Rivello & Taylor
Roček & Siegel

Consider again $N=4$ SYM at the linearized level \leftrightarrow quadratic action. Suppose there were a full $M=4$ off-shell formulation with a finite set of auxiliary fields.

Write the action schematically as $I = \int d^4x \Phi \partial \Phi$ where ∂ is some differential operator.

• If I is invariant under $M=4$ linearly realized supersymmetry closing off-shell, then so is

$$I' = \frac{1}{m^2} \int d^4x \Phi \partial \square \Phi$$

- Decompose then the propagating states (good + ghost) of $I + I'$ into the known on-shell supermultiplets.
 - Note that for fermions $\int \bar{\lambda} \not{\partial} \lambda + \frac{1}{m^2} \int \bar{\lambda} \not{\partial} \square \lambda$ yields 2 massless ^{"physical"} good states + 4 massive ghost states.
 - For auxiliary fermion pairs, one gets four massive good and four massive ghost states.
 - auxiliary bosons _{massive} produce massive states, but we don't need this.
 - Now count fermionic states in total, making the assumption that auxiliary fermions always occur in pairs.
 - Each massive $M=4$ multiplet contains an integral multiple of 128 fermionic states.
- Hence, for n auxiliary fermion pairs, one would have
- $$4n + 4 \cdot 4 = 128p \text{ ghost massive states}$$
- $$4n = 128q \text{ good massive states}$$
- where $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- Subtract: $p - q = \frac{1}{8}$. Not possible for finite $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}$

For finite numbers of auxiliary fields, the maximum M-extension of D=4 supersymmetry allowed by the previous argument for N=4 SYM is $M=2 \leftrightarrow 8$ Supercharges

- This has been achieved in two ways:
 - M=2 Lorentz covariant quantization HST
 - $Su(4)$ covariant light-cone quantization Mandelstam
Brink, Lindgren + Nilsson

As we have seen, the M=2 superspace Feynman rules are sufficient to show cancellation of the N=4 SYM (logarithmic $\sim \frac{1}{d-4}$) divergences at $L \geq 2$ loops.

• At $L=1$ loop, one needs to do an explicit calculation, owing to ghost-for-ghost difficulties in the M=2 SYM. (At one loop only, it is convenient to use prepotentials for the background fields as well to stop the ghost-for-ghost problems, but this weakens the non-renormalization theorem for $L=1$.)

• At one loop, one finds, for m_i hypermultiplets in representations R_i of the M=2 SYM gauge group G , the β function

$$\beta_{L=1}(g) = \frac{2g^2}{16\pi^2} \left(\sum_i m_i T(R_i) - C_2(G) \right)$$

$T(R_i)$: trace over squares of the R_i rep. matrices

$C_2(G)$: quadratic Casimir for gauge group G

- $\beta_{L=1}$ vanishes for N=4 SYM ($m=1, R=adjoint$) Howe, Stelle, West as well as for other models with M=2 supersymmetry only.
- For example, in the fundamental representation of $Su(N)$, $T(R) = \frac{1}{2}$, $C_2(Su(N)) = N$ so for $m=2N$, one also has a finite theory.

Divergences in Supergravity

The structure of supergravity divergences follows the pattern of the SYM discussion above:

- At $L \geq 2$ loops, counterterms must be
 - 1) written in terms of the M -superspace supervielbeins E_M^A where $M = (\mu, \alpha, \dot{\alpha}, j)$ would be a tangent space for the background fields. These are subject to various torsion constraints in M -extended superspace, but in the background field method these constraints are solved by introducing prepotentials for the quantum parts of the fields only (at $L \geq 2$ loops).
 - 2) full superspace integrals $\int d^4x d^{4M}\Theta$
 - 3) fully gauge invariant under background gauge transformations.

The main question for pure N -extended supersymmetry is: what is M ? (Max. linearly realizable supersymmetry.)

Counting arguments for the massive fermion modes in $\int \Phi \Theta \Phi + \frac{1}{m^2} \int \Phi \Theta \Gamma \Phi$ models yield the following possibilities, assuming finite sets of auxiliary fields:

$$N = 8, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1$$

$$M = 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 1$$

The role of the non-manifest full N-extended supersymmetry

Above, we have concentrated on the non-renormalization theorem for the maximally linearly realizable M-extended supersymmetry.

However, supergravity theories with N-extended supersymmetry on-shell do have some requirements from the full N-supersymmetry.

- Slavnov-Taylor identities for the local N-supersymmetry are highly nonlinear and can involve mixing between different orders in perturbation theory except \Rightarrow at the first order with non-vanishing UV divergences.
- At this first divergent order, one gets an understandable constraint on counterterms if one imposes the classical field equations so the classical action does not mix with the counterterm.
 - then, counterterms must be invariant under the full N-extended supersymmetry
- There is no requirement on writing the on-shell N-supersymmetric counterterm as a full $\int d^4x d^{4N}\theta$ superspace integral, however.
 - there are a range of "superaction" formulas for N-extended supersymmetry involving integration of constrained integrands over submanifolds of N-superspace.
 - the simplest example of this is the N=1 chiral superspace integral $\int d^4x d^2\theta F$ $\bar{D}^2 F = 0$

The R^4 counterterm

$N=1$ R^4 counterterm:
Deber, Kay, Stelle

$D=4$ $N \geq 4$ supergravity has a field-strength superfield $W_{[jke]}$ satisfying the linearized constraints

$$D_\alpha^i W_{jkem} = -\frac{4}{N-3} \delta_{[j}^i D_\alpha^n W_{k]emn} \quad \text{SU(N) indices}$$

$$\bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}i} W_{jkem} = \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}[i} W_{jk]em}$$

and, in addition, for $N=8$, $\bar{W}_{ijkl} = \frac{1}{4!} \epsilon^{ijklmnpq} W_{mnpq}$

At the linearized level, each component of W_{jke} is a field F with 2s symmetrized spinor indices of same chirality $F_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{2s}}$ obeying $\partial_{\dot{\alpha}}^{\alpha_1} F_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{2s}} = 0 = \square F_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_{2s}}$.

These on-shell component field strengths describe massless spin s for $s \leq 2$, including $N(N-1)(N-2)(N-3)/12$ $s=0$ scalars for $N \leq 7$, 70 for $N=8$.

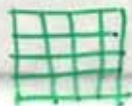
- All these scalars arise from dimensional reduction of higher-dimensional gauge fields ($A_{\mu\nu\rho}$) or the metric.

Kalosh
Howe, Stelle
& Townsend

The R^4 counterterm is written for $N=8$ as a superaction integral over a subset of the Θ_α^i fermionic coordinates:

$$\Delta I = \kappa^4 \int d^4x (d^{16} \Theta)_{232848} (W^4)_{232848}$$

232848 rep. of $Su(8)$



- one can also view the integrand as the highest-dim term in the square of $(W^2)_{1764}$ 1764: $Su(8)$ rep., which is the multiplet containing the Bel-Robinson tensor.

$$T_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}, \beta\dot{\beta}, \gamma\dot{\gamma}, \delta\dot{\delta}} = C_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} C_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}\dot{\gamma}\dot{\delta}} \quad \text{Weyl tensor}$$

- If one reduces the manifest supersymmetry to $M=4$ and uses the constraints on W_{jke} , one can write this as a full $\int d^{16} \Theta$ $M=4$ superspace integral

Resulting predictions for first divergent loop orders in D=4 N-extended Supergravity

A general L-loop counterterm for a theory written in terms of M-extended superfields is of the form

$$\mathbb{I}_M^{(L)} = \kappa^{2(L-1)} \int d^4x d^{4M}\theta \mathcal{L}_M^{(L)}$$

$$\dim \mathcal{L}_M^{(L)} = 2(L+1-M)$$

• On-shell, all superfields contributing to $\mathcal{L}_M^{(L)}$ have dimensions ≥ 0 , so one finds

$$L \geq M-1$$

• However for $N \leq 3$ the minimum dimension of $\mathcal{L}_M^{(L)}$ increases because there are no scalar fields (which have power-counting dimension 0):

$$\dim \mathcal{L}_M^{(L)} \geq 8 - 2N \quad N \leq 3$$

Thus, we obtain the following limits on first divergence order purely from the superspace power counting:

$L \geq 3$	$N = M = 1$
$L \geq 3$	$N = M = 2$
$L \geq 2$	$N = 3 \quad M = 2$
$L \geq 1$	$N = 4 \quad M = 2$
$L \geq 2$	$N = 5, 6 \quad M = 3$
$L \geq 3$	$N = 8 \quad M = 4$

Requiring on-shell full N extended supersymmetry, however, gives the same bound in all cases:

$$L \geq 3$$

Thus, as far as one can see from superspace Feynman rules with finite sets of auxiliary fields, all N-extended supergravities could diverge at 3 loops.