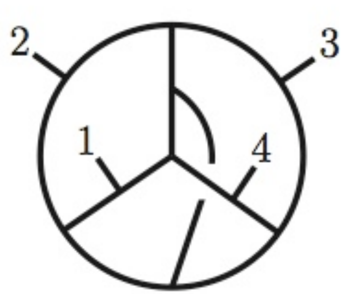
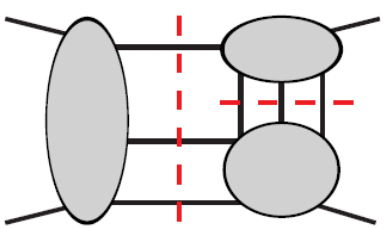
Ultraviolet Surprises in Gravity

Marcel Grossmann 2015

Zvi Bern, UCLA & CERN

ZB, Tristan Dennen, Scott Davies, Volodya Smirnov and Sasha Smirnov, arXiv:1309.2496
ZB, Tristan Dennen, Scott Davies, arXiv:1409.3089
ZB, Clifford Cheung, Huan-Hang Chi, Scott Davies, Lance Dixon, Josh Nohle (to appear)





UV in Gravity

Most people in this audience believe that UV properties of quantum field theories of gravity are well understood, up to "minor" details.

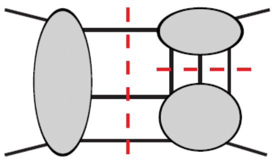
The main purpose of my talk is to try to convince you that the UV behavior of gravity is both strange and surprisingly good.

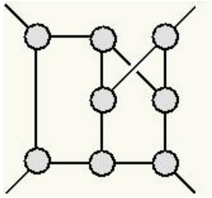
1. **Examples of no UV divergence even when symmetry arguments suggest divergences.**
2. **When UV divergences are present in pure (super) gravity, properties are weird and appear tied to anomaly-like behavior.**

Our Basic Tools

We have powerful tools for computing scattering amplitudes in quantum gravity and for uncovering new structures:

- **Unitarity method.**
  ZB, Dixon, Dunbar, Kosower
  ZB, Carrasco, Johansson , Kosower



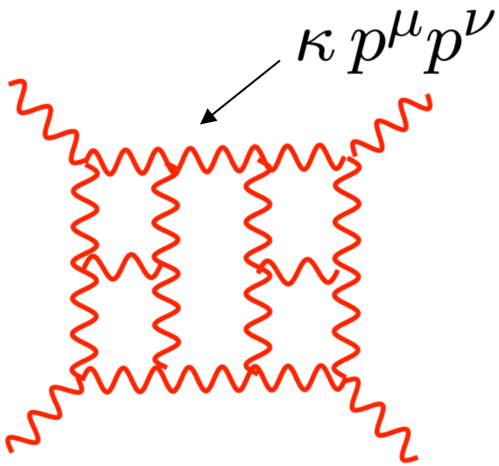


- **Advanced loop integration technology.**
  Chetyrkin, Kataev and Tkachov; A.V. Smirnov; V. A. Smirnov, Vladimirov; Marcus, Sagnotti; Cazkon; etc
- **Duality between color and kinematics.**
  ZB, Carrasco and Johansson

Many other tools and advances that I won't discuss here.

Non-Renormalizability of Gravity?

$$\kappa = \sqrt{32\pi G_N}$$ ⟵ Dimensionful coupling



Gravity: $$\int \prod_{i=1}^{L} \frac{dp_i^D}{(2\pi)^D} \frac{(\kappa\, p_j^\mu p_j^\nu)\cdots}{\text{propagators}}$$

Gauge theory: $$\int \prod_{i=1}^{L} \frac{d^D p_i}{(2\pi)^D} \frac{(g\, p_j^\nu)\cdots}{\text{propagators}}$$

- **Extra powers of loop momenta in numerator means integrals are badly behaved in the UV and must divergence at some loop order.**
- **Much more sophisticated power counting in supersymmetric theories but this is basic idea.**

- ***N*** **= 8 supergravity is best theory to look at.**
- **With more supersymmetry expect better UV properties.**
- **High symmetry implies simplicity.**

Status of UV Divergences

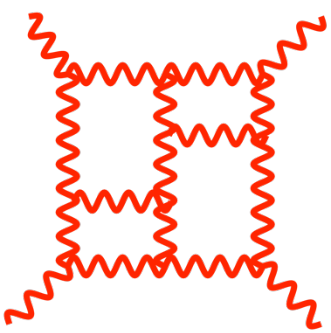
… it is not clear that general relativity, when combined with various other fields in supergravity theory, can not give a sensible quantum theory. Reports of the death of supergravity are an exaggeration. One year everyone believed that supergravity was finite. The next year the fashion changed and everyone said that supergravity was bound to have divergences even though none had actually been found.

— Stephen Hawking, 1994

Today:

We finally found a divergence in a pure supergravity theory: $N = 4$ supergravity at four loops.

ZB, Davies, Dennen



But as we shall see instead of answering Hawking's comment we only deepen the mystery surrounding UV behavior.

Where is First Potential *D* = 4 UV Divergence?

3 loops **N = 8**	Green, Schwarz, Brink (1982); Howe and Stelle (1989); Marcus and Sagnotti (1985)	✗
5 loops **N = 8**	Bern, Dixon, Dunbar, Perelstein, Rozowsky (1998); Howe and Stelle (2003,2009)	✗
6 loops **N = 8**	Howe and Stelle (2003)	✗
7 loops **N = 8**	Grisaru and Siegel (1982); Bossard, Howe, Stelle (2009);Vanhove; Björnsson, Green (2010); Kiermaier, Elvang, Freedman(2010); Ramond, Kallosh (2010); Biesert et al (2010); Bossard, Howe, Stelle, Vanhove (2011)	?
3 loops **N = 4**	Bossard, Howe, Stelle, Vanhove (2011)	✗
4 loops **N = 5**	Bossard, Howe, Stelle, Vanhove (2011)	✗
4 loops **N = 4**	Vanhove and Tourkine (2012)	✓

ZB, Kosower, Carrasco, Dixon, Johansson, Roiban; ZB, Davies, Dennen, A. Smirnov, V. Smirnov; series of calculations.

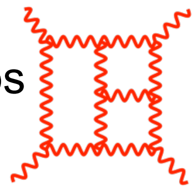
← **Don't bet on divergence**

← **Weird structure. Quantum anomaly behind divergence.**

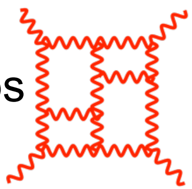
- **So far, every prediction of divergences in pure supergravity has either been wrong or missed crucial details.**
- **Conventional wisdom holds that it will diverge soon or later.**

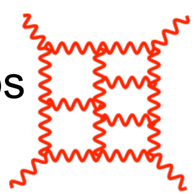
Feynman Diagrams for Gravity

SUPPOSE WE WANT TO CHECK IF CONSENSUS OPINIONS ARE TRUE

3 loops  $\sim 10^{20}$ TERMS

No surprise it has never been calculated via Feynman diagrams.

4 loops  $\sim 10^{26}$ TERMS

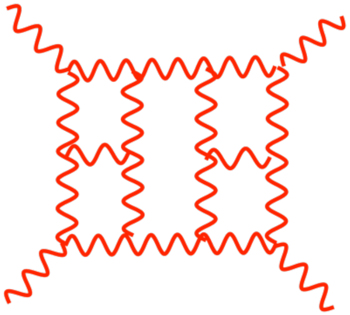
5 loops  $\sim 10^{31}$ TERMS

More terms than atoms in your brain!

– Calculations to settle this seemed utterly hopeless!
– Seemed destined for dustbin of undecidable questions.

Standard Feynman diagram methods are hopeless

New Structures?



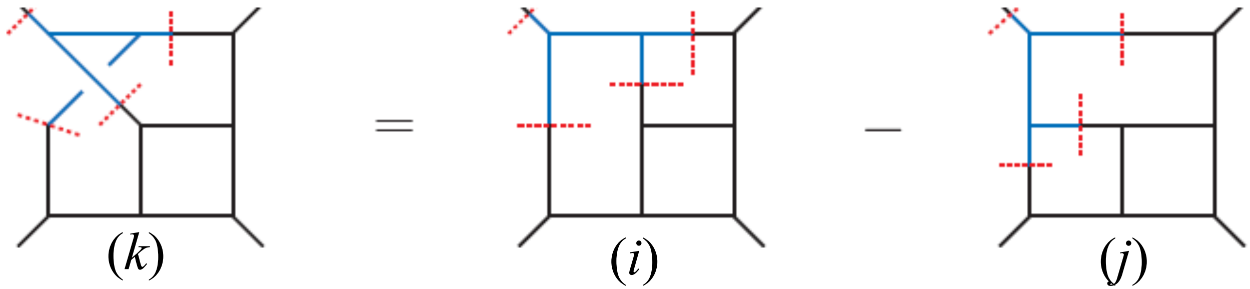
Might there be a new unaccounted structure in gravity theories that suggests the UV might be is tamer than conventional arguments suggest?

Yes!

Duality Between Color and Kinematics

ZB, Carrasco, Johansson (BCJ)

Conjecture: in gauge theory kinematic numerators exist with same algebraic properties a group theory color factors.



color factor

$$c_k = c_i - c_j$$

$$n_k = n_i - n_j$$

kinematic numerator

If you have a set of duality satisfying kinematic numerators.

$$n_i \sim k_1 \cdot l_1 \, k_3 \cdot l_2 \, \varepsilon_1 \cdot l_3 \, \varepsilon_2 \cdot k_3 \, \varepsilon_3 \cdot l_2 \, \varepsilon_4 \cdot k_3 + \ldots$$

gauge theory ⟶ gravity theory

simply take

color factor ⟶ kinematic numerator

Gravity loop integrands are trivial to obtain once we have gauge theory in a form where duality holds.

Gravity From Gauge Theory

$$\begin{array}{lcc} & n & \tilde{n} \\ \mathcal{N}=8\ \text{sugra:} & (\mathcal{N}=4\ \text{sYM}) \times & (\mathcal{N}=4\ \text{sYM}) \\ \mathcal{N}=5\ \text{sugra:} & (\mathcal{N}=4\ \text{sYM}) \times & (\mathcal{N}=1\ \text{sYM}) \\ \mathcal{N}=4\ \text{sugra:} & (\mathcal{N}=4\ \text{sYM}) \times & (\mathcal{N}=0\ \text{sYM}) \end{array}$$

- **A new structure that relates gravity theories to gauge theories.**
- **Impossibly hard quantum gravity calculations become doable!**

Some recent applications of BCJ duality and double copy structure:

- **Construction of nontrivial supergravities.**
  Anastasiou, Bornsten, Duff; Duff, Hughs, Nagy; Johansson and Ochirov; Carrasco, Chiodaroli, Günaydin and Roiban; Chiodaroli, Günaydin, Johansson, Roiban
- **Guidance for constructing string-theory loop amplitudes.**
  Mafra, Schlotterer and Steiberger; Mafra and Schlotterer
- **Recent applications to classical black hole solutions.**
  Monteiro, O'Connell and White

Predictions of Ultraviolet Divergences

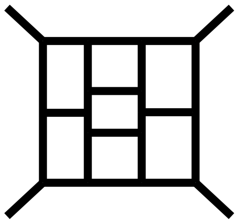
Bossard, Howe, Stelle; Elvang, Freedman, Kiermaier; Green, Russo, Vanhove ; Green and Björnsson ; Bossard , Hillmann and Nicolai; Ramond and Kallosh; Broedel and Dixon; Elvang and Kiermaier; Beisert, Elvang, Freedman, Kiermaier, Morales, Stieberger; Bossard, Howe, Stelle, Vanhove, etc

- **First quantized formulation of Berkovits' pure-spinor formalism.**
  Bjornsson and Green
- **Unitarity method.**
  ZB, Davies, Dennen

Key point: *all* supersymmetry cancellations are exposed.

Poor UV behavior, unless new types of cancellations between diagrams exist that are "not consequences of supersymmetry in any conventional sense" Bjornsson and Green

- **$\mathcal{N} = 8$ sugra should diverge at 5 loops in $D = 24/5$.** ?
- **$\mathcal{N} = 8$ sugra should diverge at 7 loops in $D = 4$.** ?
- **$\mathcal{N} = 4$ sugra should diverge at 3 loops in $D = 4$.** ✗
- **$\mathcal{N} = 5$ sugra should diverge at 4 loops in $D = 4$.** ✗



Consensus agreement from all methods

These new types of cancellations do exist: "enhanced cancellations".

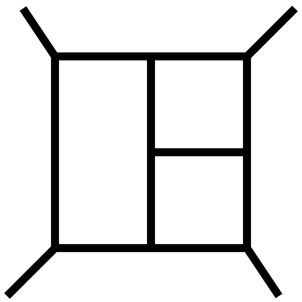
ZB, Davies, Dennen

Three-Loop $N = 4$ Supergravity Construction

ZB, Davies, Dennen, Huang

$N = 4$ sugra : ($N = 4$ sYM) x ($N = 0$ YM)

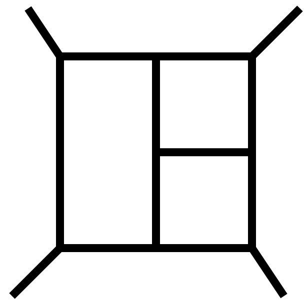
$N = 4$ sYM



$l \cdot k\, s^2 t A_4^{\text{tree}}$

BCJ representation

pure YM



$(\varepsilon \cdot l)^4\, l^4$

Feynman representation

$c_i \rightarrow n_i$

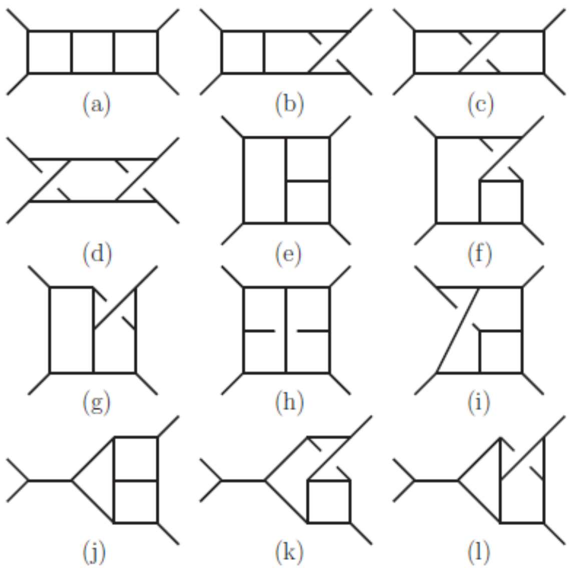
$N = 4$ sugra diagrams linearly divergent

$$\int (d^D l)^3 \frac{k^7 l^9}{l^{20}}$$

- **We trivially obtain $N = 4$ supergravity integrand.**
- **Integration to extract UV behavior straightforward using modern tools.**

Vladimirov; Marcus and Sagnotti

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ Supergravity UV Cancellation



ZB, Davies, Dennen, Huang

Graph	(divergence)$/(\langle 12\rangle^2[34]^2 st A^{\text{tree}}(\frac{\kappa}{2})^8)$
(a)-(d)	0
(e)	$\frac{263}{768}\frac{1}{\epsilon^3}+\frac{205}{27648}\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}+\left(-\frac{5551}{768}\zeta_3+\frac{326317}{110592}\right)\frac{1}{\epsilon}$
(f)	$-\frac{175}{2304}\frac{1}{\epsilon^3}-\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}+\left(\frac{593}{288}\zeta_3-\frac{217571}{165888}\right)\frac{1}{\epsilon}$
(g)	$-\frac{11}{36}\frac{1}{\epsilon^3}+\frac{2057}{6912}\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}+\left(\frac{10769}{2304}\zeta_3-\frac{226201}{165888}\right)\frac{1}{\epsilon}$
(h)	$-\frac{3}{32}\frac{1}{\epsilon^3}-\frac{41}{1536}\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}+\left(\frac{3227}{2304}\zeta_3-\frac{3329}{18432}\right)\frac{1}{\epsilon}$
(i)	$\frac{17}{128}\frac{1}{\epsilon^3}-\frac{29}{1024}\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}+\left(-\frac{2087}{2304}\zeta_3-\frac{10495}{110592}\right)\frac{1}{\epsilon}$
(j)	$-\frac{15}{32}\frac{1}{\epsilon^3}+\frac{9}{64}\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}+\left(\frac{101}{12}\zeta_3-\frac{3227}{1152}\right)\frac{1}{\epsilon}$
(k)	$\frac{5}{64}\frac{1}{\epsilon^3}+\frac{89}{1152}\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}+\left(-\frac{377}{144}\zeta_3+\frac{287}{432}\right)\frac{1}{\epsilon}$
(l)	$\frac{25}{64}\frac{1}{\epsilon^3}-\frac{251}{1152}\frac{1}{\epsilon^2}+\left(-\frac{835}{144}\zeta_3+\frac{7385}{3456}\right)\frac{1}{\epsilon}$

***All* three-loop divergences and subdivergences cancel completely!**

Still no symmetry explanation, despite valiant attempt.

Bossard, Howe, Stelle; ZB, Davies, Dennen

UV Cancellation is "enhanced": Seems unlikely that a conventional symmetry explanation exists.

Some understanding from extrapolating from two-loop heterotic string amplitudes.

Tourkine and Vanhove

The 4 loop Divergence of $N = 4$ Supergravity

ZB, Davies, Dennen, A.V. Smirnov, V.A. Smirnov

4 loops similar to 3 loops except we need industrial strength software: FIRE5 + special purpose C++ code.

dim. reg. UV pole

$$\boxed{\mathcal{M}^{4\text{-loop}}\Big|_{\text{div.}} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^8}\frac{1}{\epsilon}\left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^{10}\frac{1}{144}(1-264\zeta_3)\,\mathcal{T}}$$

kinematic factor

$D = 4 - 2\epsilon$

It diverges but it has strange properties:

- **Contributions to helicity configurations that vanish were it not for a quantum anomaly in $U(1)$ subgroup of duality symmetry.**
- **These helicity configuration have vanishing integrands in $D = 4$. Divergence is 0/0. Anomaly-like behavior not found in $N \geq 5$ sugra.**

Carrasco, Kallosh, Tseytlin and Roiban

Motivates closer examination of divergences.
Want simpler example: Pure Einstein gravity is simpler.

Pure Einstein Gravity

Standard argument for 1 loop finiteness of pure gravity:

't Hooft and Veltman (1974)

$\cancel{R^2}$ $\cancel{R_{\mu\nu}^2}$

Divergences vanish by equation of motion and can be eliminated by field redefinition.

$\cancel{R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}^2}$

In *D* = 4 topologically trivial space, Gauss-Bonnet theorem eliminates Riemann square term.

$$\int d^4x \sqrt{-g}(R^2 - 4R_{\mu\nu}^2 + R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}^2) = 32\pi^2\chi$$

Euler Characteristic.

Pure gravity divergence with nontrivial topology:

Capper and Duff; Tsao ; Critchley; Gibbons, Hawking, Perry Goroff and Sagnotti, etc

$$\mathcal{L}^{\mathrm{GB}} = -\frac{1}{(4\pi)^2}\frac{1}{360\epsilon}\Big(\underbrace{4\cdot 53}_{\text{graviton}} + \underbrace{1}_{\text{scalar}} + \underbrace{91}_{\text{antisym. tensor}} - \underbrace{180}_{\text{3 form tensor}}\Big)\underbrace{(R^2 - 4R_{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}^2)}_{\text{Gauss-Bonnet}}$$

Related to "conformal anomaly".

See Gerard 't Hooft's talk

Gauss-Bonnet one-loop divergence is "evanescent"

Two Loop Pure Gravity

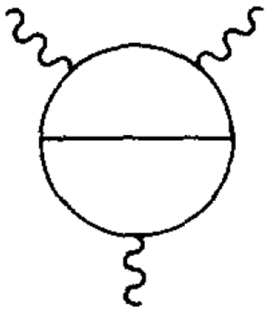
By two loops there is a valid R^3 counterterm and corresponding divergence.

Goroff and Sagnotti (1986); Van de Ven (1992)

$$D = 4 - 2\epsilon$$

Divergence in pure Einstein gravity:

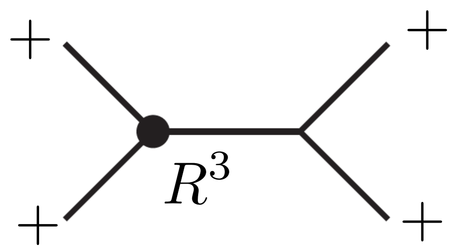
$$\mathcal{L}^{R^3} = \frac{209}{2880}\frac{1}{(4\pi)^4}\frac{1}{2\epsilon}R^{\alpha\beta}{}_{\gamma\delta}R^{\gamma\delta}{}_{\rho\sigma}R^{\rho\sigma}{}_{\alpha\beta}$$



- **The Goroff and Sagnotti result is correct in all details.**
- **On surface nothing weird going on (not evanescent).**

However, as we shall see the UV divergences in pure gravity is subtle and weird, once you probe carefully.

Two Loop Identical Helicity Amplitude



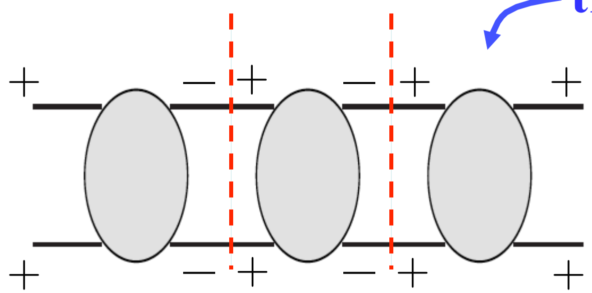
Pure gravity identical helicity amplitude sensitive to Goroff and Sagnotti divergence.

$$D = 4 - 2\epsilon$$

$$\mathcal{M}^{R^3}\Big|_{\text{div.}} = \frac{209}{24\epsilon}\mathcal{K} \qquad \mathcal{K} = \left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^6 \frac{i}{(4\pi)^4}\, stu \left(\frac{[12][34]}{\langle 12\rangle\langle 34\rangle}\right)^2$$

Curious feature:

tree amplitude vanishes



- **Integrand vanishes for four-dimensional loop momenta.**
- **Nonvanishing because of ϵ-dimensional loop momenta.**

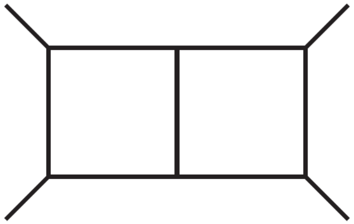
Bardeen and Cangemi pointed out nonvanishing of identical helicity is connected to an anomaly in self-dual sector.

A surprise:

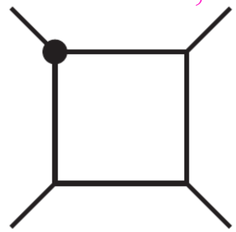
Divergence is *not* generic but appears tied to anomalous behavior.

Pure Gravity Divergence

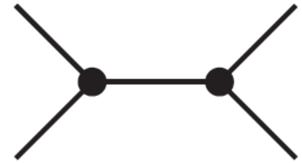
ZB, Cheung, Chi, Davies, Dixon and Nohle (to appear)



2 loop bare



single GB subdivergence



double GB subdivergence

$$D = 4 - 2\epsilon$$

$$\mathcal{M}_4^{\text{2-loop}}\Big|_{\text{div.}} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon}\,\frac{3431}{5400}\,\mathcal{K}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_4^{\text{1-loop GB}}\Big|_{\text{div.}} = \frac{1}{\epsilon}\,\frac{689}{675}\,\mathcal{K}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_4^{\text{tree GB}^2}\Big|_{\text{div.}} = \frac{1}{\epsilon}\,\frac{5618}{675}\,\mathcal{K}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_4^{\text{total}}\Big|_{\text{div.}} = \frac{1}{\epsilon}\,\frac{209}{24}\,\mathcal{K}$$

Goroff and Sagnotti divergence reproduced

Surprise: Evanescent Gauss-Bonnet (GB) operator crucial part of UV structure. Link to conformal anomaly.

Divergences and Duality

ZB, Cheung, Chi, Davies, Dixon and Nohle (to appear)

As probe add n_3 3 form fields to theory.

- **No dynamical degrees of freedom.**
- **Field strength dual to cosmological constant.**

$$\Lambda^{1/2} \leftrightarrow \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} H^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$$

Brown and Teitelboim; Bousso and Polchinski

$$\mathcal{M}_4 = \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon}\left(\frac{209}{24} - \frac{15}{2} n_3\right) - \frac{1}{4} \ln \mu^2\right] \mathcal{K} + \text{finite}$$

divergence

number of 3 forms

independent of 3 forms

Renormalization scale

Weird that renorm. scale and UV divergence not linked!
Happens because of evanescent Gauss-Bonnet subdivergence.

- **Divergence sensitive to nondynamical 3 forms.**
- **3 forms have no physical effect in scattering amplitudes!**
- **3 form is "Cheshire Cat Field".**

A simple two-loop formula

ZB, Cheung, Chi, Davies, Dixon and Nohle (to appear)

Focus on renormalization scale dependence *not* divergences!

Looking at various theories, we wind up with a simple 2 loop formula:

$$\mathcal{M}_4^{(2)}\Big|_{\ln \mu^2} = -\mathcal{K}\,\frac{N_b - N_f}{8}\,\ln \mu^2$$

N_b is number of bosonic states.
N_f is number of fermionic states.

- **Vanishes at two loops in susy theory, as expected.**
- **Unless $\ln\mu^2$ dependence vanishes, theory should still be considered nonrenormalizable.**
- **It would be very interesting to understand higher loops.**

UV properties of gravity subtle and interesting!

Summary

1. Gravity integrands from gauge theory. Very powerful tool!
2. Standard view of gravity UV much too naive:
   — New phenomenon: "Enhanced" UV cancellations in gravity.
   — Known pure (super)gravity divergences are anomaly-like: 0/0 behavior.
   — Gravity leading divergences can depend on evanescent fields and operators and duality transformations.
   — Renormalized scattering amplitudes independent of duality transformations.
3. Better to focus on renormalization scale dependence rather than divergences. Not the same!

UV structure of gravity is better than expected.
Behavior of gravity under duality transformations surprising.

Expect many more surprises as we probe gravity theories using modern perturbative tools.