

**Absence of 3-loop divergence in  $\mathcal{N}=4$  supergravity**

Renata Kallosh

*Department of Physics, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305, USA*

(Received 29 February 2012; published 27 April 2012)

We argue that  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity is 3-loop UV-finite because the relevant supersymmetric candidate counterterm is known to be  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(6)$ -invariant, which violates the Noether-Gaillard-Zumino current conservation. Analogous arguments, based on the universality properties of groups of type E7, also apply to  $\mathcal{N} = 5, 6, 8$  in 4, 5, 7 loops, respectively, since the  $1/\mathcal{N}$  supersymmetry invariants, integrals over the fraction of the superspace, break duality symmetry between Bianchi identities and quantum-corrected vector field equations.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.85.081702](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.85.081702)

PACS numbers: 04.65.+e, 04.62.+v

**I. INTRODUCTION**

A new miraculous cancellation of the 3-loop ultraviolet divergence was discovered [1] at 3 loops in  $d = 4$   $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity<sup>1</sup> using  $d = 4$   $\mathcal{N} = 4$  and  $\mathcal{N} = 0$  Yang-Mills theory and Bern-Carrasco-Johansson color-kinematic duality [3]. Pure  $d = 4$   $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity [4] (without vector multiplets) has an electromagnetic  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(6)$  duality group  $\mathcal{G}$  which will be central for our discussion of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ .

Meanwhile, the earlier recent work [5] predicted that all  $\mathcal{N} \geq 4$  supergravities are expected to be UV-divergent at loop order  $L = \mathcal{N} - 1$ , since the new supersymmetric and duality-invariant  $1/\mathcal{N}$  supersymmetry candidate counterterms were constructed at the fully nonlinear level. In particular for  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  the 3-loop  $R^4$  divergence was predicted and for  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  the 7-loop  $\partial^8 R^4$  divergence was predicted, complementing the analysis in [6]. It is therefore rather important to understand the origin of the cancellation of the UV divergences of tens of thousands of high-rank tensor integrals in [1].

The difference with the previous case of 3-loop UV finiteness of  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  [7] is that the candidate counterterm [8] was only known at the linear level. But this difference may not be important since the duality argument in [9] for explanation of the 3-loop finiteness in  $\mathcal{N} = 8$ , is also valid for  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ , as we will show below. The argument in [9] is based on duality current conservation and associated with it Noether-Gaillard-Zumino (NGZ) identity [10]. The argument is valid beyond the  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  case due to universality property of extended supergravity duality groups  $\mathcal{G}$ , which belong to groups of type E7 [11].

One has to keep in mind that  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity has a 1-loop triangle anomaly [12]. Therefore each higher-loop computation may, or may not support the formal path integral predictions. By looking at Table I in [1] it seems

likely that the anomaly may not have yet kicked in at the 4-graviton 3-loop level. The role of anomaly requires a separate investigation here. But the underlying path integral prediction [9] for  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity is the  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(6)$  duality current conservation and associated with it NGZ identity [10].

The old counterterm prediction paradigm was developed in [8,13] and applied recently in [5]. The new point made in [9] required us to revisit this paradigm: It was shown that the electromagnetic duality symmetry rotating the Bianchi identities  $\partial_\mu \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = 0$  into the vector field equations  $\partial_\mu \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} = 0$  is always broken when supersymmetric duality-invariant quantum corrections are added to classical extended supergravity. This means, quite unexpectedly, that the duality-invariant counterterms, including the counterterms constructed in [5], may be forbidden by the requirement of duality invariance of the theory modified by quantum corrections.

A need to revisit the old counterterm paradigm was confirmed in [14]. However, it was conjectured there that it is always possible to restore the duality symmetry in presence of a counterterm, by modifying the original theory. The procedure of restoration of duality symmetry of the deformed action was further developed in [15–17]. It was demonstrated there that the restoration of duality broken by the quartic counterterm deformation requires the existence of the Born-Infeld type deformation, involving higher derivatives. So far the restoration procedure performed for various models in [15–18] was only efficient for  $U(1)$  duality models. However, even if a successful Born-Infeld version of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  and  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  supergravity were constructed, it is not obvious whether the existence of such new highly nonlinear theories would have any implications for the issue of UV finiteness of the original  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  and  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  supergravity, see a discussion of this issue in [17].

In this paper we will show, along the lines of [9], that the requirement of duality symmetry forbids the 3-loop UV divergence in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity. In the absence of an alternative explanation of the 3-loop finiteness of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity, the result of the computation in [1] may be

<sup>1</sup>The absence of the 3-loop UV divergence in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$   $d = 4$  supergravity was also derived in [2] using the 2-loop heterotic string theory computation and the  $R^4$  nonrenormalization theorem.

viewed as an evidence that our duality argument [9] provides a useful tool for investigation of UV properties of extended supergravity.

## II. UNIVERSALITY OF DUALITY GROUPS OF TYPE E7 IN EXTENDED SUPERGRAVITIES

In all extended supergravities  $\mathcal{N} \geq 4$  scalars are in the coset space  $\frac{\mathcal{G}}{\mathcal{H}}$  where the duality group  $\mathcal{G}$  is of type E7. This includes  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SU(4)$ ,  $SU(5, 1)$ ,  $SO^*(12)$  and  $E_{7(7)}$  for  $\mathcal{N} = 4, 5, 6, 8$ , respectively.<sup>2</sup> In particular, duality groups  $\mathcal{G}$  of type E7 in extended supergravity admit a symplectic representation, a doublet  $(F, G)$  which transforms in the fundamental representation of  $Sp(2n, \mathbb{R})$

$$\begin{pmatrix} F \\ G \end{pmatrix}' = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} F \\ G \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

whereas the gauge kinetic  $n \times n$  matrix  $\mathcal{N}(\phi)$  transforms via fractional transformation

$$\mathcal{N}(\phi)' = (C + D\mathcal{N})(A + B\mathcal{N})^{-1}. \quad (2)$$

Here the vector part of the action is

$$\mathcal{L}_v = \frac{1}{4} F \cdot \text{Im} \mathcal{N}(\phi) \cdot F + F \cdot \text{Re} \mathcal{N}(\phi) \cdot \tilde{F}, \quad (3)$$

where the symbol  $\cdot$  is used for matrix multiplication. The scalar part is

$$\mathcal{L}_s = \frac{1}{2} g_{ij}(\phi) \partial_\mu \phi^i \partial^\mu \phi^j, \quad (4)$$

where  $g_{ij}(\phi)$  is the scalar metric of the nonlinear  $\sigma$ -model associated with the  $\mathcal{G}/\mathcal{H}$  coset space. The dual vector field strength is defined as

$$\tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}(F, \phi) \equiv 2 \frac{\delta S_v(F, \phi)}{\delta F_{\mu\nu}}. \quad (5)$$

The electromagnetic duality symmetry

$$\begin{pmatrix} \partial_\mu \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \\ \partial_\mu \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} \end{pmatrix}' = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \partial_\mu \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \\ \partial_\mu \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (6)$$

rotating the Bianchi identities  $\partial_\mu \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = 0$  into the vector field equations  $\partial_\mu \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} = 0$ , is always broken when duality-invariant quantum corrections are added to classical extended supergravity. The total quantum-corrected action has to transform under duality [10] as follows:

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta F^\Lambda} \left( S[F', \varphi'] - S[F, \varphi] - \frac{1}{4} \int (\tilde{F}CF + \tilde{G}BG) \right) = 0. \quad (7)$$

<sup>2</sup>For recent studies of the universality in properties of groups of type E7, in application to black holes and cosmology, see [19] and references therein.

Here the duality transformation on vectors acts so that the NGZ duality current is conserved. The reason for this identity is that  $G$  has to transform as in (1) but this should also be consistent with its definition given in (5) where the  $G$  transformations rules depend on those of  $F$  and  $\phi$ . When the action is deformed, for example, by counterterms, so that  $S_v = S_v^{cl} + \lambda S^{ct}$ ,  $G$  is also deformed so that  $G(F, \phi) = G^{cl}(F, \phi) + G^{ct}(F, \phi)$ . The classical supergravity actions satisfy NGZ identity, but the counterterms are duality-invariant, which means that

$$S^{ct}[F', \varphi'] = S^{ct}[F, \varphi], \quad (8)$$

which violates the current conservation (7) for the quantum-corrected action, when the counterterms are the only addition to the classical action.

## III. COUNTERTERM PREDICTION FOR $\mathcal{N} \geq 4$ , $L = \mathcal{N} - 1$ UV DIVERGENCE

The true geometric on shell supersymmetric and duality-invariant candidate counterterms, integrals over the full superspace, appear for the first time in  $L = \mathcal{N}$ , for example, for  $\mathcal{N} = 4$   $L = 4$ , or for  $\mathcal{N} = 8$   $L = 8$ , [8,13]. The status of  $1/\mathcal{N}$  supersymmetry invariants, next to geometric ones, was not clear for a very long time. The situation was clarified recently in [5] where it was shown that each of these superinvariants can be defined by the integral over the fraction of the superspace,  $4(\mathcal{N} - 1)$  fermionic coordinates, and nevertheless is both supersymmetric as well as duality-invariant at the fully nonlinear level. These candidate counterterms are given in [5]

$$I^{\mathcal{N}} = \kappa^{2(L-1)} \int d\mu_{(\mathcal{N}, 1, 1)} B_{\alpha\beta} B^{\alpha\beta}, \quad (9)$$

where  $L = \mathcal{N} - 1$  and  $\mathcal{N} = 4, 5, 6, 8$ . Here  $B_{\alpha\beta}$  is some bilinear combination of the torsion superfield, whose first component is a gaugino field and the measure of integration  $d\mu_{(\mathcal{N}, 1, 1)}$  is defined with the help of a harmonic superspace, which allows us to single out a particular direction in  $\mathcal{N}$  space as a special. For example, in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$

$$B_{\alpha\beta} \equiv B_{\alpha\beta 4}^1, \quad B_{\alpha\beta k}^l \equiv \bar{\chi}_{\beta}^{lij} \chi_{\alpha k ij}, \quad (10)$$

where the spinorial superfield  $\chi_{\alpha k ij}$  and its conjugate  $\bar{\chi}_{\dot{\alpha}}^{kij}$  are invariant under the duality group  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(6)$  and direction 1 (in  $i, j, k = 1, 2, 3, 4$ ) is special.

Spinors are invariant under  $\mathcal{G}$ -duality, in particular, for  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  spinorial superfield  $\chi_{\alpha k ij}$  and its conjugates are  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(6)$ -invariant, for  $\mathcal{N} = 5$  they are  $SU(5, 1)$ -invariant, for  $\mathcal{N} = 6$  they are  $SO^*(12)$ -invariant and for  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  they are  $E_{7(7)}$ -invariant. This leads to the statement that  $I^{\mathcal{N}=4}$  is invariant under  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(6)$ ,  $I^{\mathcal{N}=5}$  is invariant under  $SU(5, 1)$   $I^{\mathcal{N}=6}$  is one of the two possible  $SO^*(12)$  invariants, and  $I^{\mathcal{N}=8}$  is invariant under  $E_{7(7)}$  where  $I^{\mathcal{N}}$  is defined in (9) for all these cases.

Supersymmetry is manifest since the expression is defined in an on shell superspace. Finally, spinors transform under  $\mathcal{H}$ -symmetry, if it is not gauge-fixed, or under the compensating transformation, if it is gauge-fixed, but the counterterms are constructed to be  $\mathcal{H}$ -invariant.

It is therefore not accidental that the prediction in [5] about the  $\mathcal{N} = 4, L = 3$  and  $\mathcal{N} = 8, L = 7$  and intermediate cases,  $\mathcal{N} = 5, L = 4$  and  $\mathcal{N} = 6, L = 5$ , concerning the universal candidate counterterms in (9) has the flavor of universality for all of these cases. But it just turned out [1] that  $\mathcal{N} = 4, L = 3$  is free of divergences, whereas the case  $\mathcal{N} = 8, L = 7$  is beyond our reach, computationally.

We will now proceed with the explanation of the argument in [9] which predicts that all these cases are free of divergences. The general case of  $\mathcal{G}$ -duality explained in [9,10] for  $\mathcal{N}$ - extended supergravity and the one for  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  with  $E_{7(7)}$  duality are both complicated technically. The case of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  with  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(6)$  symmetry of equations of motion and Bianchi identities is, fortunately, relatively simple.

#### IV. A TOY MODEL OF $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SUPERGRAVITY

We will discuss the  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity formulation [4] in conventions of [20], which also provides the string theory context of this model. In the toy model we will keep the axion-dilaton and only one vector field, so that only the  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  duality will be present. The coset space  $\frac{\mathcal{G}}{\mathcal{H}}$  is  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{U(1)}$ . The scalar part of the action depending on  $\tau = \chi + ie^{-\phi}$  is

$$\mathcal{L}_s = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial_\mu \tau \partial^\mu \bar{\tau}}{\text{Im}\tau^2} = (\partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi + e^{2\phi} \partial_\mu \chi \partial^\mu \chi). \quad (11)$$

This is a  $\sigma$ -model action for the  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{R})}{U(1)}$  coset space, see [20] for details. It is a particular case of the general  $\mathcal{G}/\mathcal{H}$  scalar action, given in (4). The action (11) is  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ -invariant under duality transformation

$$\tau' = \frac{D\tau + C}{B\tau + A}, \quad (12)$$

with real global parameters  $A, B, C, D$  restricted by  $AD - BC = 1$  [in general case in (1) each  $A, B, C, D$  is given by a  $n \times n$  matrix, restricted by the  $Sp(2n, \mathbb{R})$  condition]. The vector part of the bosonic action is

$$\mathcal{L}_v = -\frac{1}{4} (e^{-\phi} F^2 + \chi F \tilde{F}), \quad (13)$$

where  $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$  and  $\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} e^{-1} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} F_{\lambda\sigma}$ . Up to a change of conventions between [20] describing  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  and generic extended supergravities in [10] the general kinetic term for vectors  $\mathcal{N}(\phi)$  can be identified with  $\tau$  in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ .

There is a Bianchi identity for the vector field  $\partial^\mu \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu} = 0$ . To define a duality transformation action on vectors we need to form an  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  doublet as defined in (5) so that the vector field equations are  $\partial^\mu \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu} = 0$ . The  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  symmetry action on the a single vector doublet is given in (1) for the  $Sp(2n, \mathbb{R})$  with  $n = 1$ . Under these transformations equations of motion and Bianchi identities are mixed, as shown in (6). One can check that the variation of the vector part of the classical vector action under  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  transformation of scalars and vectors given in (12) and (1), with  $G$  defined in (5) is in agreement with the NGZ identity (7). Note that the action is invariant under “electric” transformations with parameters  $A, D$  when  $B = C = 0$ . It is only noninvariant when the off-diagonal transformations mixing electric components with “magnetic,”  $B, C$  are involved which include a shift of a scalar,  $\tau \rightarrow \tau + \text{const}$ . For example, for  $A = 1, D = 1$ , and  $B = \beta, C = \gamma$ ,

$$\delta F = \beta G, \quad \delta G = \gamma F, \quad \delta \tau = \gamma - \beta \tau. \quad (14)$$

That is why the nontrivial part of duality symmetry involves the soft scalar limits, studied in the recent analysis of the supergravity counterterms, for example, in [6], but it also mixes electric and magnetic fields.

#### V. DUALITY-INVARIANT COUNTERTERMS

It was important in the proof of duality invariance of  $I^{\mathcal{N}}$  in (9) that the superfield  $\chi_{\alpha k i j}$  is manifestly invariant under  $\mathcal{G}$  and covariant under  $\mathcal{H}$  for all  $\mathcal{N} \geq 4$  where scalars are in  $\frac{\mathcal{G}}{\mathcal{H}}$ . In our toy model of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity with gauge-fixed local  $\mathcal{H} = U(1)$  when the model has only one complex physical scalar  $\tau$ , an illustration of the point above can be given. Under supersymmetry the first component of the spinor superfield transforms as follows

$$\delta_\epsilon \chi_{\alpha i j k} = e^{-\phi/2} F_{\alpha\beta[ij} \epsilon_{k]}^\beta + \dots \quad (15)$$

Under global  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$

$$(e^{-\phi/2})' = \frac{1}{|B\tau + A|} e^{-\phi/2}, \quad (F_{\alpha\beta ij})' = (B\tau + A) F_{\alpha\beta ij}. \quad (16)$$

Therefore  $e^{-\phi/2} F_{\alpha\beta ij}$  transforms with the scalar-dependent phase

$$(e^{-\phi/2} F_{\alpha\beta ij})' = \frac{B\tau + A}{|B\tau + A|} e^{-\phi/2} F_{\alpha\beta ij}, \quad (17)$$

which is a  $\tau$ -field dependent compensating transformation for local  $U(1)$  gauge-fixing. Thus the superfield  $\chi_{\alpha i j k}$  also transforms only under the compensating  $U(1)$  and the product of two such spinorial superfields  $B^l_{\alpha\beta k} \equiv \bar{\chi}^{lij} \chi_{\alpha k i j}$  is both  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ - and  $U(1)$ -invariant.

Thus, if we would look at the bosonic part of the supergravity counterterms, in particular,  $I^{\mathcal{N}}$  in (9), we

RENATA KALLOSH

would find that they—being functions of scalars and vectors—are invariant under  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  symmetry as shown in Eq. (8). Therefore the deformed action

$$S_{def} = S_{cl} + \lambda I^{\mathcal{N}} \quad (18)$$

with deformed  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  doublet  $(F, G)$ , where

$$G = G_{cl} + 2\lambda \frac{\delta I^{\mathcal{N}}}{\delta F}, \quad (19)$$

does not satisfy the NGZ identity and duality symmetry is broken. In particular, for the  $\mathcal{N} = 4, L = 3$  case the UV divergence  $I^{\mathcal{N}=4}$  would break the duality.

## VI. BORN-INFELD TYPE SUPERGRAVITY?

In [14] it was conjectured that it may be possible to develop the deformation of the action (18) further, so that the new action

$$\hat{S}_{def} = S_{cl} + \lambda S_1 + \lambda^2 S_2 + \dots \lambda^n S_n + \dots \quad (20)$$

is consistent with NGZ identity (7), despite the fact that with  $S_n = 0$  for  $n \geq 2$  the duality current conservation is broken. It was suggested in [14] that the duality argument of [9] may not imply UV finiteness in the classes of the models where such construction is possible.

We have studied this proposal in [15–17] and found that a certain generalization of the procedure or Ref. [14] is indeed possible. This led to the discovery of new, previously unknown models with electromagnetic duality group  $\mathcal{G} = U(1)$ . In particular, the Born-Infeld model with higher derivatives with initial deformation of the Maxwell action via open string corrections  $\lambda(\partial F)^4$  with  $\lambda = (\alpha')^4$  was completed, a recursive formula for  $S_n$  in (20) was found in [16] and all terms of the type  $\lambda^n \partial^{4n} F^{2n+2}$  were produced algorithmically. Some large classes of models with nonlinear  $U(1)$  duality, generalizing the Born-Infeld model with  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  supersymmetry [21] were constructed in [17,18].

The reason for the infinite proliferation of Born-Infeld type terms with higher powers of  $F$  in extended supergravities is the same as in the original Born-Infeld model [22]. Once the Maxwell action is deformed, by quartic in  $F$  terms, an infinite number of  $F^n$  terms has to be added in order to preserve the  $U(1)$  duality at the nonlinear level. The self-duality property of the Born-Infeld action,

$$F\tilde{F} + G\tilde{G} = 0, \quad (21)$$

which is a degenerate case of NGZ identity (7), was in fact discovered by Schrödinger [23] in 1935.

In classical extended supergravities the classical action is universally quadratic in  $F$ , see Eq. (3). The 3-loop

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **85**, 081702(R) (2012)

counterterms  $R^4 + (\partial F)^4 + R^2(\partial F)^2 + (\partial^2 \phi)^4 + \dots$  have terms quartic in  $\partial F$ , so all higher-order terms with more  $F$  and more derivatives must be present in (20). When groups of type E7 degenerate to  $U(1)$  and extended supergravities degenerate to pure  $\mathcal{N} = 0$  Maxwell theory, we know the answer [16] for Born-Infeld model with higher derivatives, satisfying the NGZ constraint at the nonlinear level when  $G(F)$  depends on all powers of  $F$ . It is interesting that the  $U(1)$  duality group is a degenerate case of groups of type E7.

The concept of degeneration (when the quartic invariant becomes a perfect square) is easy to illustrate using the  $E_{7(7)}$ -invariant Cartan-Cremmer-Julia black hole entropy formula [24],  $S = 4\pi\sqrt{J}$ . It depends on one fundamental  $56(p^{ij}, q_{ij})$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, 8$

$$\begin{aligned} J_{E_{7(7)}} &= p^{ij}q_{jk}p^{kl}q_{li} - \frac{1}{4}p^{ij}q_{ij}p^{kl}q_{kl} \\ &+ \frac{1}{96}\epsilon^{ijklmnpq}q_{ij}q_{kl}q_{mn}q_{pq} \\ &+ \frac{1}{96}\epsilon_{ijklmnpq}p^{ij}p^{kl}p^{mn}p^{pq}. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

In  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  the symplectic representation is  $\mathbf{R} = (2, 6)$  in  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(6)$ , and the quartic invariant remains quartic, not degenerate, see Eqs. (33) in [25]

$$J_{SL(2,\mathbb{R}) \times SO(6)} = q^2 p^2 - (q \cdot p)^2. \quad (23)$$

Reducing to  $U(1)$  leads to a degeneration of the quartic invariant of groups of type E7

$$J_{U(1)} = (p^2 + q^2)^2 \quad (24)$$

into a perfect square [11,19].

From the perspective of the UV finiteness of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  and  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  supergravity, it is important that, at present, the Born-Infeld type duality symmetric models are known only for the subclass of degenerate groups of type E7, namely, for  $U(1)$  duality models. This may explain why the duality argument [9], which was developed for the investigation of the conjectured all-loop finiteness of the  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  supergravity, may also account for the  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  case: In both cases the corresponding groups are nondegenerate groups of type E7.

## VII. DISCUSSION

The 3-loop UV finiteness of  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  was discovered [7] back in 2007. Five years later, a similar result was obtained in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity [1]. It is interesting that the origin of miraculous cancellations in both cases may be related to the universality of type E7 duality groups in classical extended supergravities. These

dualities (including  $E_{7(7)}$  and  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SO(6)$ , respectively) and local extended supersymmetry seem to control the Feynman graphs at the 3-loop quantum level. In  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  case other explanations of the 3-loop UV finiteness were proposed over the years, but for  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  the duality current conservation is the only explanation available at present. More computational data, especially for anomaly-free  $\mathcal{N} = 5$ ,  $L = 4$  and  $\mathcal{N} = 6$ ,  $L = 5$  will help to test this explanation of the 3-loop  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  and  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  miracles. In  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  one has to keep in mind that the anomaly may interfere with symmetry expectations starting from  $L = 4$ . This issue has to be investigated more thoroughly, since it looks plausible that  $\mathcal{N} = 4$   $L = 4$  result could be in reach.

In conclusion, we believe that the duality current conservation argument in [9], which explains the just established 3-loop finiteness of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supergravity [1], should be studied more extensively and it may help to clarify the UV properties of extended supergravities.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to Z. Bern, G. Bossard, J. Broedel, J. J. M. Carrasco, W. Chemissany, M. Duff, D. Freedman, M. Gunaydin, A. Linde, A. Marrani, H. Nicolai, T. Ortin, R. Roiban and especially S. Ferrara for very stimulating discussions. This work is supported by SITP and NSF Grant No. PHY-0756174.

- 
- [1] Z. Bern, S. Davies, T. Dennin, and Y.-t. Huang, [arXiv:1202.3423](#) [Phys. Rev. Lett. (to be published)].
  - [2] P. Tourkine and P. Vanhove, [arXiv:1202.3692](#).
  - [3] Z. Bern, J. J. M. Carrasco, and H. Johansson, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **105**, 061602 (2010).
  - [4] E. Cremmer, J. Scherk, and S. Ferrara, *Phys. Lett. B* **74**, 61 (1978); A. K. Das, *Phys. Rev. D* **15**, 2805 (1977).
  - [5] G. Bossard, P. S. Howe, K. S. Stelle, and P. Vanhove, *Classical Quantum Gravity* **28**, 215005 (2011).
  - [6] N. Beisert, H. Elvang, D. Z. Freedman, M. Kiermaier, A. Morales, and S. Stieberger, *Phys. Lett. B* **694**, 265 (2010).
  - [7] Z. Bern, J. J. Carrasco, L. J. Dixon, H. Johansson, D. A. Kosower, and R. Roiban, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **98**, 161303 (2007).
  - [8] R. E. Kallosh, *Phys. Lett. B* **99**, 122 (1981); P. S. Howe, K. S. Stelle, and P. K. Townsend, *Nucl. Phys.* **B191**, 445 (1981).
  - [9] R. Kallosh, [arXiv:1103.4115](#); *J. High Energy Phys.* **06** (2011) 073.
  - [10] M. K. Gaillard and B. Zumino, *Nucl. Phys.* **B193**, 221 (1981); P. Aschieri, S. Ferrara, and B. Zumino, *Riv. Nuovo Cimento* **31**, 625 (2008).
  - [11] Robert B. Brown, *J. Reine Angew. Math.* **236**, 79 (1969).
  - [12] N. Marcus, *Phys. Lett. B* **157**, 383 (1985).
  - [13] P. S. Howe and U. Lindstrom, *Nucl. Phys.* **B181**, 487 (1981).
  - [14] G. Bossard and H. Nicolai, *J. High Energy Phys.* **08** (2011) 074.
  - [15] J. J. M. Carrasco, R. Kallosh, and R. Roiban, *Phys. Rev. D* **85**, 025007 (2012).
  - [16] W. Chemissany, R. Kallosh, and T. Ortin, *Phys. Rev. D* **85**, 046002 (2012).
  - [17] J. Broedel, J. J. M. Carrasco, S. Ferrara, R. Kallosh, and R. Roiban, [arXiv:1202.0014](#).
  - [18] S. M. Kuzenko, [arXiv:1202.0126](#).
  - [19] S. Ferrara and R. Kallosh, *J. High Energy Phys.* **12** (2011) 096; S. Ferrara, R. Kallosh, and A. Marrani, [arXiv:1202.1290](#).
  - [20] J. H. Schwarz, [arXiv:hep-th/9209125](#).
  - [21] S. M. Kuzenko and S. Theisen, *J. High Energy Phys.* **03** (2000) 034.
  - [22] M. Born and L. Infeld, *Proc. R. Soc. A* **144**, 425 (1934).
  - [23] E. Schrödinger, *Proc. R. Soc. A* **150**, 465 (1935).
  - [24] R. Kallosh and B. Kol, *Phys. Rev. D* **53**, R5344 (1996).
  - [25] S. Ferrara and R. Kallosh, *Phys. Rev. D* **54**, 1525 (1996).