

# Self-duality, helicity and higher-loop effective actions

Gerald Dunne



- *two-loop Euler-Heisenberg effective action in a self-dual background is remarkably simple*
- *two-loop = (one-loop)<sup>2</sup> + one-loop*
- *background field “loopology”*
- *algebraic perspective on mass renormalization*

## context

- dramatic recent progress in tree & multiloop amplitudes
- helicity and color decompositions, integration-by-parts, master diagrams, recurrence/differential relations, SUSY...
- twistor methods

### Fundamental idea : expand about helicity amplitudes

SUGRA, Parkes-Taylor, Siegel, Bardeen, Nair, Cangemi, Bern-Dixon-Kosower, ...  
Witten, Cachazo-Svrcek-Witten, Brandhuber et al, Bern et al, ...

- all two-loop  $2 \rightarrow 2$  QCD processes

- two-loop gluon fusion :  $g g \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$

- two-loop QED, QCD corrections to :  $\bar{q} q \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$

$$\bar{q} q \rightarrow g \gamma$$
$$e^+ e^- \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$$

all since 2000

## basic strategy and context

- complementary approach: background field

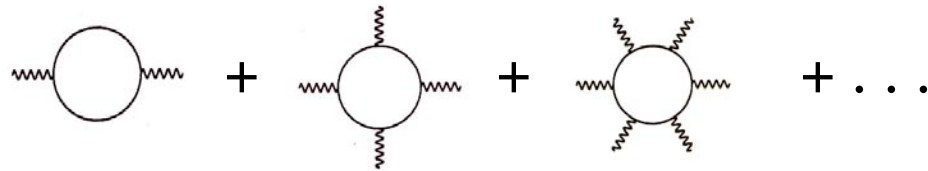
higher-loop effective Lagrangian =  
generating function for higher-loop amplitudes

goal : develop higher-loop background field  
loop tools, a la amplitudes

perturb around self-duality -- signs of magic

## One-loop effective action

$$S[A] = -\frac{i}{2} \log \det (\not{D}^2 + m^2)$$



The diagram shows a series of Feynman diagrams representing the expansion of the one-loop effective action. It starts with a circle with two external wavy lines, followed by a plus sign, a circle with two external wavy lines and two internal wavy lines, another plus sign, a circle with two external wavy lines and four internal wavy lines, and finally a plus sign followed by an ellipsis.

Heisenberg & Euler (1936) ; Weisskopf (1936)

$$\mathcal{L}^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{8\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{dT}{T} e^{-m^2 T} \left[ \frac{e^2 ab}{\tanh(eaT) \tan(ebT)} - \frac{1}{T^2} - \frac{e^2}{3} (a^2 - b^2) \right]$$

constant field-strength  $F_{\mu\nu}$

$$F = \begin{pmatrix} & a & & \\ -a & & & \\ & & & b \\ & & -b & \end{pmatrix}$$

$$ab = \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}$$

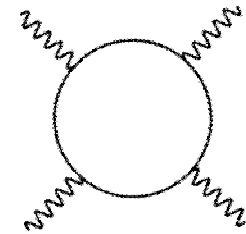
$$a^2 - b^2 = \vec{B}^2 - \vec{E}^2$$

# One-loop Applications

Light-light scattering

(Euler & Kockel, 1936)

$$S = \frac{e^4}{360\pi^2 m^4} \int d^4x \left[ (\vec{E}^2 - \vec{B}^2)^2 + 7(\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B})^2 \right] + \dots$$



Pair production from vacuum

(Heisenberg & Euler, 1936)

$$Im \mathcal{L}^{(1)} \sim \frac{e^2 E^2}{8\pi^3} \exp \left[ -\frac{m^2 \pi}{eE} \right]$$

$\beta$  - function from strong field limit :

(Weisskopf, 1936)

$$\mathcal{L}^{(1)} \sim \left( \frac{e^2}{12\pi^2} \right) \frac{B^2}{2} \ln \left( \frac{eB}{m^2} \right)$$

Beyond QED : QCD, SUSY, gravity, SUGRA, strings, ...

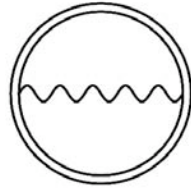
# Mass renormalization

loop expansion :  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}^{(0)} + \mathcal{L}^{(1)} + \mathcal{L}^{(2)} + \dots$   
 $= \mathcal{L}_{\text{ren}}^{(0)} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{ren}}^{(1)}(m^2) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{ren}}^{(2)}(m^2) + \dots$

mass shift :  $m^2 = m_0^2 + \delta m^2 + \dots$

mass renormalization :  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ren}}^{(1)}(m^2) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{ren}}^{(1)}(m_0^2) + \delta m^2 \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{ren}}^{(1)}}{\partial m^2} + \dots$

## Two-loop E-H effective actions



Propagator in constant background

(Fock, Nambu, Schwinger)

$$G_{\text{scalar}}(x, x') = -i \frac{e^{-i\eta}}{(4\pi)^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{dT}{T^2} \exp \left[ -im^2 T - L(T) + \frac{i}{4} z \beta(T) z \right]$$

$$z_\mu \equiv x_\mu - x'_\mu$$

$$\beta_{\mu\nu} \equiv [eF \coth(eFT)]_{\mu\nu}$$

$$L \equiv \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \ln \left( \frac{\sinh(eFT)}{eFT} \right)$$

Ritus (1975) : renormalized expression for  $L^{(2)}$

Charge and mass renormalization

Complicated two-parameter integrals !

## Ritus's result (simplified!)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ren}}^{(2)} = \alpha \frac{m^4}{(4\pi)^3} \left(\frac{eB}{m^2}\right)^2 \int_0^\infty \frac{ds}{s^3} e^{-m^2 s/(eB)} \int_0^1 du \left[ L(s, u) - 2s^2 + \frac{6}{u(1-u)} \left( \frac{s^2}{\sinh^2 s} + s \coth s \right) \right] -$$

$$12\alpha \frac{m^4}{(4\pi)^3} \frac{eB}{m^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{ds}{s} e^{-m^2 s/(eB)} \left[ \coth s - \frac{1}{s} - \frac{s}{3} \right] \left[ \frac{3}{2} - \gamma - \log \left( \frac{m^2 s}{eB} \right) + \frac{eB}{m^2 s} \right]$$

$$L(s, u) = s \coth s \left[ \frac{\log\left(\frac{u(1-u)}{G(u,s)}\right)}{[u(1-u)-G(u,s)]^2} F_1 + \frac{F_2}{G(u,s)[u(1-u)-G(u,s)]} + \frac{F_3}{u(1-u)[u(1-u)-G(u,s)]} \right]$$

$$G(u, s) = \frac{\cosh s - \cosh((1-2u)s)}{2s \sinh s}$$

$$F_1 = 4s(\coth s - \tanh s)G(u, s) - 4u(1-u)$$

$$F_2 = 2(1-2u) \frac{\sinh((1-2u)s)}{\sinh s} + s(8\tanh s - 4\coth s)G(u, s) - 2$$

$$F_3 = 4u(1-u) - 2(1-2u) \frac{\sinh((1-2u)s)}{\sinh s} - 4s G(u, s)\tanh s + 2$$

very complicated!!!

## Two-loop : self-dual magic (GD, C. Schubert, 2002)

Self-dual background :  $F_{\mu\nu} = \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}$

$$\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} = f^2$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{spinor}}^{(2)} = -\alpha^2 \frac{f^2}{2\pi^2} [3 \xi^2(\kappa) - \xi'(\kappa)]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}}^{(2)} = \alpha^2 \frac{f^2}{4\pi^2} \left[ \frac{3}{2} \xi^2(\kappa) - \xi'(\kappa) \right]$$

dimensionless parameter :  $\kappa \equiv \frac{m^2}{2ef}$

Why so simple?

ubiquitous function :

Why so similar?

$$\xi(\kappa) \equiv -\kappa \left( \psi(\kappa) - \ln(\kappa) + \frac{1}{2\kappa} \right)$$

Why  $\xi$  and  $\xi'$  ?

## Two-loop self-dual background

Why so simple?

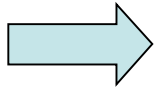
Self-duality  $\implies F_{\mu\nu} F_{\nu\rho} = -f^2 \delta_{\mu\rho} \implies$  propagators simplify

$$G_{\text{scalar}}(x, x') = -i \frac{e^{-i\eta}}{(4\pi)^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{dT}{T^2} \exp \left[ -im^2 T - L(T) + \frac{i}{4} z \beta(T) z \right]$$

$$z_\mu \equiv x_\mu - x'_\mu$$

$$\beta_{\mu\nu} \equiv [eF \coth(eFT)]_{\mu\nu}$$

$$L \equiv \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \ln \left( \frac{\sinh(eFT)}{eFT} \right)$$



**massive scalar**  $G_{\text{scalar}}(p) = \int_0^\infty \frac{dt}{\cosh^2(eft)} e^{-m^2 t - \frac{p^2}{ef} \tanh(eft)}$

**massless scalar**  $G_{\text{scalar}}(p) = \frac{1 - e^{-\frac{p^2}{ef}}}{p^2}$

## Two-loop self-dual background

Why so simple?

Self-duality  $\Rightarrow F_{\mu\nu} F_{\nu\rho} = -f^2 \delta_{\mu\rho} \Rightarrow$  propagators simplify

Self-duality  $\Rightarrow$  definite helicity :  $\sigma_{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} (1+\gamma_5)/2 = 0$

(massless) helicity amplitudes in QED, QCD, gravity, SUSY, SUGRA known to be simple

Why so similar ?

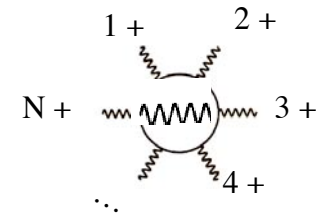
Self-duality  $\Rightarrow$  Dirac operator has QM supersymmetry

't Hooft  
Jackiw, Rebbi

one-loop : 
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{spinor}}^{(1)} = -2\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}}^{(1)} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{ef}{2\pi}\right)^2 \ln\left(\frac{m^2}{\mu^2}\right)$$

two-loop : helicity projections of propagators

## Application : two-loop helicity amplitudes



SD effective action = generating function of “all +” helicity amplitudes

$$\Gamma^{(2)}[k_1, \epsilon_1^+; k_2, \epsilon_2^+; \dots; k_N, \epsilon_N^+] = \alpha\pi \frac{(2e)^N}{(4\pi)2m^{2N-4}} c_{N/2}^{(2)} \chi_N$$

spinor helicity elements

GD, C.Schubert, JHEP 2003

$$\chi_N \equiv \frac{(N/2)!}{2^{N/2}} \{ [12]^2 [34]^2 \dots [(N-1)N]^2 + \text{all perms} \}$$

expansion coefficients

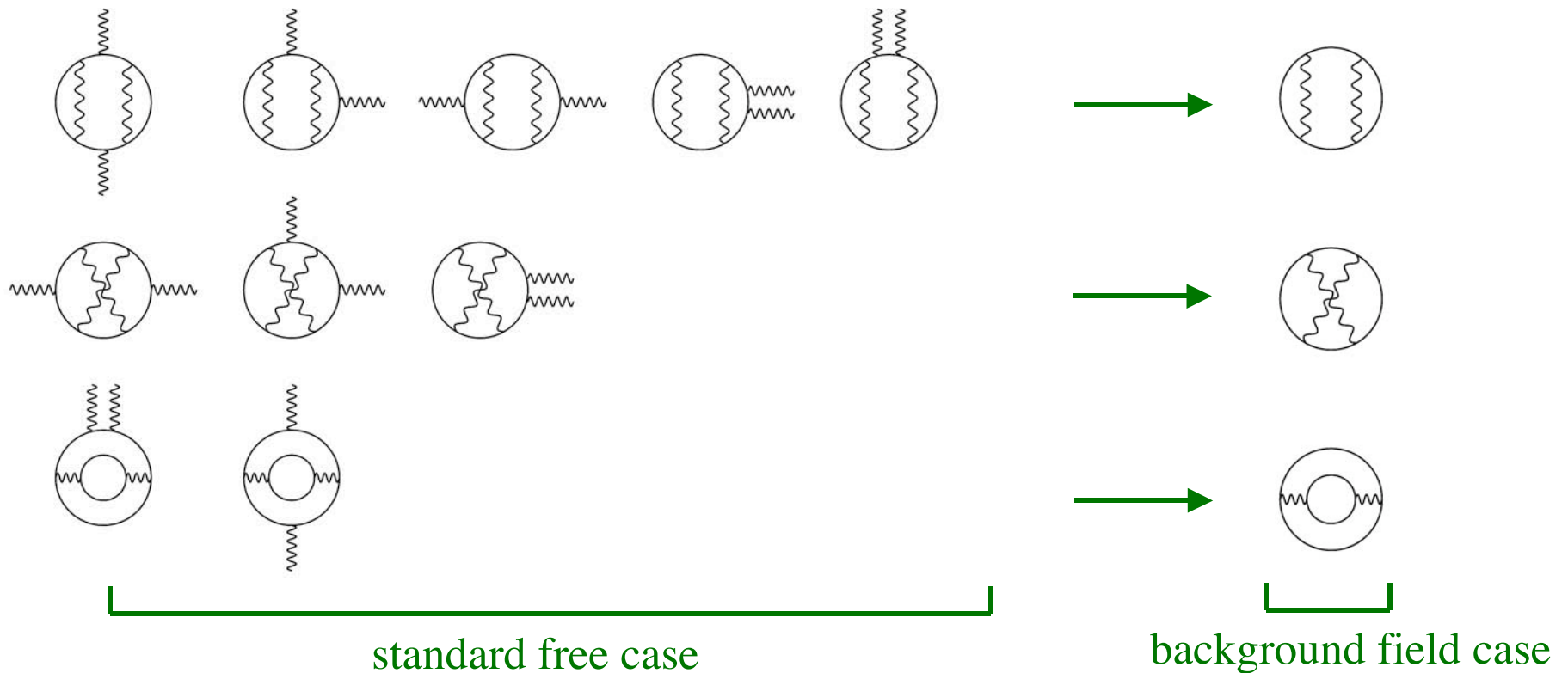
$$c_n^{(2)} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2} \left\{ \frac{2n-3}{2n-2} \mathcal{B}_{2n-2} + \frac{3}{2} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{\mathcal{B}_{2k}}{2k} \frac{\mathcal{B}_{2n-2k}}{(2n-2k)} \right\}$$

any number of legs ; but low-energy limit

generalize to any helicity combinations (hep-th/0301022)

# Effective Lagrangian and $\beta$ - function

Advantages : combinatorics and graph structure e.g. 3-loop



Disadvantage : need background field propagators

BUT : self-dual propagators are almost as simple as free ones

## Strong-field limit and $\beta$ - function

scale anomaly :  $\langle \Theta^{\mu\nu} \rangle = -\eta^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{L} + 2 \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \eta_{\mu\nu}}$        $\langle \Theta^\mu_\mu \rangle = \frac{\beta(\bar{e})}{2\bar{e}} \frac{e^2}{\bar{e}^2} (F_{\mu\nu})^2$

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} \frac{e^2}{\bar{e}^2(t)} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

$$\beta(\bar{e}(t)) \equiv \frac{d\bar{e}(t)}{dt}$$

$$t \equiv \frac{1}{4} \ln \left( \frac{e^2 |F^2|}{\mu_0^4} \right)$$

perturbatively:  $t = \int_e^{\bar{e}(t)} \frac{de'}{\beta(e')}$  ,       $\beta(e) = \beta_1 e^3 + \beta_2 e^5 + \dots$

$$\frac{1}{\bar{e}^2(t)} = \frac{1}{e^2} - 2\beta_1 t - 2\beta_2 e^2 t + O(e^4 t^2)$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{16} (2\beta_1 e^2 + 2\beta_2 e^4 + \dots) F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \ln \left( \frac{e^2 |F^2|}{\mu_0^4} \right)$$

(Cf. Gell-Mann-Low)

note : assumes well-defined massless limit

## Effective Lagrangian and $\beta$ - function

Idea : self-dual background appears to be the ‘simplest’

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}}^{(1)} \sim \frac{e^2}{48\pi^2} f^2 \ln \left( \frac{ef}{m^2} \right) \quad \mathcal{L}_{\text{spinor}}^{(1)} \sim -\frac{e^2}{24\pi^2} f^2 \ln \left( \frac{ef}{m^2} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}}^{(2)} \sim \frac{e^4}{64\pi^4} f^2 \ln \left( \frac{ef}{m^2} \right) \quad \mathcal{L}_{\text{spinor}}^{(2)} \sim -\frac{e^4}{32\pi^4} f^2 \ln \left( \frac{ef}{m^2} \right)$$

$$\beta_{\text{scalar}} = \frac{e^3}{48\pi^2} + \frac{e^5}{64\pi^4} + \dots \quad \beta_{\text{spinor}} = \frac{e^3}{12\pi^2} + \frac{e^5}{64\pi^4} + \dots$$

- mis-match for spinor QED due to fermion zero modes

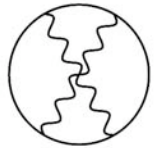
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{spinor}}^{(1)} = -2\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}}^{(1)} + \frac{1}{2}N_0 \ln \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \right) \quad N_0 = \left( \frac{ef}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

subtleties at  $> 1$ -loop for self-dual background (zero modes) (GD, Schubert, Gies, 2003)

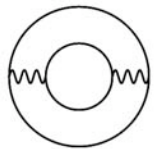
# Effective Lagrangians beyond two loops ?



- recursion for higher loops ?



- n-loop  $\longrightarrow$   $(2n - 2)$  parameter integrals ( $n > 1$ )



- background field “loop-ology”

- key question : **why  $\xi$  ?**

## At 2 loop: why $\xi(\kappa)$ ?

$$\xi(\kappa) = -\kappa(\psi(\kappa) - \ln\kappa + 1/2\kappa)$$

$$\kappa = m^2/(2ef)$$

**spinor:**  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{spinor}}^{(2)} = -6e^2 \left( \frac{m^2 \xi(\kappa)}{(4\pi)^2 \kappa} \right)^2 + e^2 \frac{(ef)^2}{2\pi^2} \frac{\xi'(\kappa)}{(4\pi)^2}$

**scalar:**  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{scalar}}^{(2)} = \frac{3e^2}{2} \left( \frac{m^2 \xi(\kappa)}{(4\pi)^2 \kappa} \right)^2 - e^2 \frac{(ef)^2}{4\pi^2} \frac{\xi'(\kappa)}{(4\pi)^2}$

**NOTE:**

$$\text{⊙} - \text{○} \equiv \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} [G(p) - G_0(p)] = -\frac{m^2}{(4\pi)^2} \frac{\xi(\kappa)}{\kappa}$$

$$\text{⊙} - \text{○} \equiv \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} [(G(p))^2 - (G_0(p))^2] = \frac{\xi'(\kappa)}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$G_{\text{scalar}}(p) = \int_0^\infty \frac{dt}{\cosh^2(eft)} e^{-m^2 t - \frac{p^2}{ef} \tanh(eft)}$$

## At 2 loop: why $\xi(\kappa)$ ?

$$\xi(\kappa) = -\kappa(\psi(\kappa) - \ln\kappa + 1/2\kappa)$$

$$\kappa = m^2/(2ef)$$

spinor:  $\left[ \text{diagram} - \text{diagram} \right] = -6 e^2 \left[ \text{diagram} - \text{diagram} \right]^2 + e^2 \frac{(ef)^2}{2\pi^2} \left[ \text{diagram} - \text{diagram} \right]$

scalar:  $\left[ \text{diagram} - \text{diagram} \right] = \frac{3}{2} e^2 \left[ \text{diagram} - \text{diagram} \right]^2 - e^2 \frac{(ef)^2}{4\pi^2} \left[ \text{diagram} - \text{diagram} \right]$

$$\text{diagram} - \text{diagram} \equiv \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} [G(p) - G_0(p)] = -\frac{m^2}{(4\pi)^2} \frac{\xi(\kappa)}{\kappa}$$

$$\text{diagram} - \text{diagram} \equiv \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} [(G(p))^2 - (G_0(p))^2] = \frac{\xi'(\kappa)}{(4\pi)^2}$$

two - loop = ( one - loop )<sup>2</sup> + one - loop

this is very surprising!



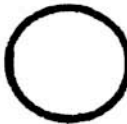

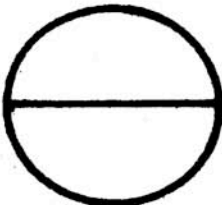
4d  $\phi^4$  theory  
at two-loop

Iliopoulos, Itzykson &  
Martin, 1975

TABLE I. Contributions of the various diagrams to the value of the effective potential up to the order of two loops. The potential is written as

$$V(\varphi_c) = \frac{\mu^4}{\lambda} \mathcal{V} \left( \frac{\lambda\varphi_c^2}{2\mu^2}, \frac{\hbar\lambda}{(4\pi)^2} \right)$$

and  $x$  and  $\alpha$  stand for  $x = \lambda\varphi_c^2/2\mu^2$ ,  $\alpha = \hbar\lambda/(4\pi)^2$ .

	Diagram	Contribution
		$x$
$\mathcal{V}_0$		$\frac{x^2}{6}$
$\mathcal{V}_1$		$(\alpha/4) ((1+x)^2 \log(1+x) - (x + \frac{3}{2}x^2))$
		$(\alpha^2/8) ((1+x) \log(1+x) - x)^2$
	(a)	
$\mathcal{V}_2$		$\frac{1}{2}\alpha^2 x (\frac{1}{2}(1+x) \log^2(1+x) - 2(1+x) \times \log(1+x) + 2x)$
	(b)	

two - loop = ( one - loop)<sup>2</sup> + one - loop

first hint : relation to diagrams with no background field

spinor:  $[\text{double wavy} - \text{wavy}] = -6 e^2 [\text{double circle} - \text{circle}]^2 + e^2 \frac{(ef)^2}{2\pi^2} [\text{double circle with dot} - \text{circle with dot}]$

free spinor QED  $\text{wavy} = -6 e^2 [\text{circle}]^2$

scalar:  $[\text{double wavy} - \text{wavy}] = \frac{3}{2} e^2 [\text{double circle} - \text{circle}]^2 - e^2 \frac{(ef)^2}{4\pi^2} [\text{double circle with dot} - \text{circle with dot}]$

free scalar QED  $\text{wavy} = \frac{3}{2} e^2 [\text{circle}]^2$

# background field “loopology”

GD, JHEP 2004

## free scalar QED

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{w} &= \frac{e^2}{2} \int \frac{d^d p d^d q}{(2\pi)^{2d}} \frac{(p+q)^2}{(p-q)^2(p^2+m^2)(q^2+m^2)} \\ &= \frac{e^2}{2} \int \frac{d^d p d^d q}{(2\pi)^{2d}} \frac{[-(p-q)^2 + 2(p^2+m^2) + 2(q^2+m^2) - 4m^2]}{(p-q)^2(p^2+m^2)(q^2+m^2)} \\ &= \frac{e^2}{2} \left( \frac{d-1}{d-3} \right) [\textcircled{O}]^2 \\ & \quad 0 = \int \frac{d^d p d^d q}{(2\pi)^{2d}} \frac{\partial}{\partial p_\mu} \left[ \frac{(p-q)_\mu}{(p-q)^2(p^2+m^2)(q^2+m^2)} \right] \\ &= (d-2) [\textcircled{\ominus}] - \int \frac{d^d p d^d q}{(2\pi)^{2d}} \frac{2p \cdot (p-q)}{(p-q)^2(p^2+m^2)^2(q^2+m^2)} \\ &= (d-2) [\textcircled{\ominus}] - \int \frac{d^d p d^d q}{(2\pi)^{2d}} \frac{[(p-q)^2 + (p^2+m^2) - (q^2+m^2)]}{(p-q)^2(p^2+m^2)^2(q^2+m^2)} \\ &= (d-3) [\textcircled{\ominus}] - [\textcircled{\bullet}] [\textcircled{O}] \\ &= (d-3) [\textcircled{\ominus}] - \frac{(d-2)}{2m^2} [\textcircled{O}]^2 \end{aligned}$$

“integration-by-parts”



## d-dimensional propagator

$$G_{\text{scalar}}(x, x') = -i \frac{e^{-i\eta}}{(4\pi)^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{dT}{T^2} \exp \left[ -im^2 T - L(T) + \frac{i}{4} z \beta(T) z \right]$$

$$z_\mu \equiv x_\mu - x'_\mu$$

$$\beta_{\mu\nu} \equiv [eF \coth(eFT)]_{\mu\nu}$$

$$L \equiv \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \ln \left( \frac{\sinh(eFT)}{eFT} \right)$$

tr ln  $\longrightarrow$  ln det

$$G(p) = \int_0^\infty \frac{dt}{\cosh^{d/2}(eft)} e^{-m^2 t - \frac{p^2}{ef} \tanh(eft)}$$

## background field “loopology”: mass renormalization

$$[\text{loop with wavy line}] - [\text{loop}] = \frac{e^2}{2} \left( \frac{d-1}{d-3} \right) \{ [\text{loop with double line}]^2 - [\text{loop}]^2 \} + O(f^2)$$

complete the square :

$$[\text{loop with double line}]^2 - [\text{loop}]^2 = [\text{loop with double line} - \text{loop}]^2 + 2[\text{loop}] [\text{loop with double line} - \text{loop}]$$

$$\delta m^2 = [\text{wavy line}]_{p^2=-m^2} = e^2 \left( \frac{d-1}{d-3} \right) [\text{loop}]$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}^{(1)}}{\partial(m^2)} = [\text{loop with double line} - \text{loop}]$$

mass renormalization is a trivial algebraic loop operation

$$[\text{loop with wavy line}] - [\text{loop}] = \frac{e^2}{2} \left( \frac{d-1}{d-3} \right) [\text{loop with double line} - \text{loop}]^2 + \delta m^2 \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}^{(1)}}{\partial(m^2)} + O(f^2)$$

## background field “loopology”: charge renormalization

$$[\text{wavy loop} - \text{wavy circle}]_{\text{mass ren}} = \frac{e^2}{2} \left( \frac{d-1}{d-3} \right) [\text{double circle} - \text{circle}]^2 + O(f^2)$$

found the (one-loop)<sup>2</sup> part purely algebraically !

only remaining divergence is prop. to  $f^2$  : charge renormalization

$$O(f^4) \xrightarrow{d \rightarrow 4} -4\pi^2 e^2 (ef)^2 \int \frac{d^4 p d^4 q}{(2\pi)^8} [G(p)G(q) - G_0(p)G_0(q)] \delta(p - q)$$

$$= -\frac{e^2}{4\pi^2} (ef)^2 [\text{double circle} - \text{circle}] \quad \text{no integrals !!!}$$

renormalized 2-loop effective Lagrangian :

$$[\text{wavy loop} - \text{wavy circle}] = \frac{3}{2} e^2 [\text{double circle} - \text{circle}]^2 - e^2 \frac{(ef)^2}{4\pi^2} [\text{double circle} - \text{circle}]$$

↑  
generic !
↑  
non-generic

## other connections

4d N = 4 SYM :

two-loop planar amplitudes related to squares of one-loop amplitudes

(Anastasiou, Bern, Dixon, Kosower, 2003)

$$M_n^{(2)}(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{2} \left( M_n^{(1)}(\epsilon) \right)^2 + f(\epsilon) M_n^{(1)}(2\epsilon) - \frac{5}{4} \zeta_4$$

suggests possibility of iterative perturbative structure ...

## other connections

### 4d N = 2 SUSY QED : 2-loop HE effective Lagrangian

(Kuzenko & McArthur, 2004)

$$\mathcal{L}(F_+^2, F_-^2) = \Lambda(F_+^2) + \bar{\Lambda}(F_-^2) + F_+^2 F_-^2 \Omega(F_+^2, F_-^2)$$

‘relaxed’ self-duality condition :

$$\Psi^2 = \frac{1}{4} \bar{D}^2 \left( \frac{\bar{W}^2}{\bar{\Phi}^2 \Phi^2} \right) \quad , \quad \bar{\Psi}^2 = \frac{1}{4} D^2 \left( \frac{W^2}{\bar{\Phi}^2 \Phi^2} \right)$$

two-loop :

$$\Gamma^{(2)}[W, \Phi] = \int d^8 z \frac{W^2 \bar{W}^2}{\bar{\Phi}^2 \Phi^2} \Omega^{(2)}(\Psi^2, \bar{\Psi}^2)$$

$$\Omega^{(2)}(\Psi^2, 0) = \frac{e^2}{2(4\pi)^4} - \frac{e^2}{4(4\pi)^4 \Psi^2} \xi'''(x)|_{x=1/\Psi}$$

similar result for N = 4 SYM

(Kuzenko & McArthur, 2004)

same function  $\xi$

## Conclusions

- self-dual background is a remarkably efficient probe
- physically : self-duality  $\Leftrightarrow$  helicity  $\Leftrightarrow$  QM SUSY
- renormalized 2-loop effective Lagrangians have very simple form
- loop recurrences : two - loop = (one - loop)<sup>2</sup> + (one - loop)
- simple graphical interpretation of mass renormalization
  - algebraic background field integration-by-parts rules
  - higher loops
  - nonabelian rules
  - Hopf algebra structure, a la Kreimer-Connes ?

## Number theory application : Bernoulli identities

$$\coth^2 x = 1 - d(\coth x)/dx$$

- Euler-Ramanujan :

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{2n}{2k} \mathcal{B}_{2k} \mathcal{B}_{2n-2k} = -(2n+1) \mathcal{B}_{2n}$$

- Miki's identity (1978) : 'exotic', proved with p-adic analysis

$$\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \frac{\mathcal{B}_{2k} \mathcal{B}_{2n-2k}}{(2k)(2n-2k)} = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \binom{2n}{2k} \frac{\mathcal{B}_{2k} \mathcal{B}_{2n-2k}}{(2k)(2n-2k)} + \frac{\mathcal{B}_{2n}}{n} (\psi(2n+1) + \gamma)$$

- simple quantum field theory proof and generalizations:

$$\frac{\xi(\kappa)}{\kappa} = - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mathcal{B}_{2n}}{2n} \frac{1}{\kappa^{2n}}$$

GD, Schubert, 2004

$$= \int_0^{\infty} ds e^{-2\kappa s} \left( \coth s - \frac{1}{s} \right)$$