



# $N=2$ Born-Infeld Attractors

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*It is a great honor to speak today in the occasion of the  
50th Anniversary of the ICTP center.*

*I am old enough to have had the chance to meet  
and discuss in several occasions with its founder,  
Prof. ABDUS SALAM*

*Salam was one of the discoverers of many  
fundamental concepts in Physics  
(beyond the one for which he got the Nobel Prize)*

*Among them, he was one of the beginners of the field theories based on **SUPERSYMMETRY** (at the time called **SUPERGAUGE** invariance because of its inspiration from fermionic strings of Neveu-Schwarz, Ramond, Gervais-Sakita)*

*Two basic concepts he introduced (in 1974 with J. Strathdee) were*

**SUPERSPACE**       $(x_\mu, \theta_\alpha)$        $\theta_\alpha \theta_\beta = -\theta_\beta \theta_\alpha$

**GOLDSTONE FERMIONS** (*Spontaneous breaking*)

*My talk will be devoted to subjects for which the above concepts are greatly used*

*At the same time, I would like to pay a tribute to*

**BRUNO ZUMINO**

*the founding-father of **SUPERSYMMETRY***

*I had the privilege of having him as a friend  
and collaborator, and I witnessed and participated to  
some of the important discoveries attached to his name*

## *Summary of the talk*

- *Nilpotent Superfields in Superspace*
- *Applications to Rigid and Local Supersymmetry*
- *Partial Supersymmetry Breaking in Rigid N=2 Theories*
- *Emergence of Volkov-Akulov and Born-Infeld Actions*
- *Symplectic Structure and Black-Hole Attractors:  
analogies and differences*
- *New  $U(1)^n$  Born-Infeld Actions and Theory of Invariant  
Polynomials*

*Some of the material of this presentation originates from some recent work with Antoniadis, Dudas, Sagnotti; Kallosh, Linde and some work in progress with Porrati, Sagnotti*

*The latter introduces a generalization of the Born-Infeld Action for an arbitrary  $U(1)^n$   $N=2$  supergravity with  $N=2$  self-interacting vector multiplets*

# NILPOTENCY CONSTRAINTS IN SPONTANEOUSLY BROKEN $N=1$ RIGID SUPERSYMMETRY

(Casalbuoni, De Curtis, Dominici, Ferruglio, Gatto; Komargodski, Seiberg; Rocek; Lindstrom, Rocek)

$X$  chiral superfield ( $\bar{\mathcal{D}}_{\dot{\alpha}} X = 0$ )      nilpotency:  $X^2 = 0$

solution:  $X = \frac{GG}{F_G} + i\sqrt{2}\theta G + \theta^2 F_G$       ( $G$  Weyl fermion)

Lagrangian:  $\text{Re } X \bar{X} \Big|_D + f X \Big|_F$

Equivalent to Volkov-Akulov goldstino action

More general constraints (Komargodski, Seiberg)

$X^2 = 0$ ,  $XY = 0$  independent fields  $\psi_X = G$ ,  $\psi_Y$

$XW_{\alpha} = 0$  independent fields  $\psi_X = G$ ,  $F_{\mu\nu}$ ,  $\lambda = f(\psi_X, F_{\mu\nu})$

# NILPOTENT CONSTRAINTS IN LOCAL SUPERSYMMETRY (SUPERHIGGS EFFECT IN SUPERGRAVITY)

Pure supergravity coupled to the Goldstino

$$W(X) = f X + m$$

theory of a massive gravitino coupled to gravity  
and cosmological constant:  $\Lambda = |f|^2 - 3m^2$

*(Deser, Zumino; Rocek; Antoniadis, Dudas, Sagnotti, S.F.)*

Volkov-Akulov-Starobinsky supergravity

(a linear (inflaton) multiplet  $T$ , and a non-linear  
Goldstino multiplet  $S$ , with  $S^2=0$ )

$$V = \frac{M^2}{12} \left(1 - e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\phi}\right)^2 + \frac{M^2}{18} e^{-2\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\phi} a^2$$

Starobinsky inflaton potential

axion field



*Recently, nilpotent super fields have been used in more general theories of inflation*

*(Kallosh, Linde, S.F.; Kallosh, Linde)*

*For a class of models with SUPERPOTENTIAL*

$$W = S f(T)$$

*(Kallosh, Linde, Roest;  
Kallosh, Linde, Rube)*

*the resulting potential is a no-scale type, and has a universal form*

$$V_{\text{eff}} = e^{K(T)} K^{S\bar{S}} |f(T)|^2 > 0 \quad \text{goldstino } \psi_S$$

*with*  $T_{\theta=0} = \varphi + ia$ , *inflaton:*  $\varphi$  *or*  $a$

*depending which one is lighter during inflation*

# GENERALITIES ON PARTIAL SUPERSYMMETRY BREAKING GLOBAL SUPERSYMMETRY

(Witten; Hughes, Polchinski; Cecotti, Girardello, Porrati, Maiani, S.F.;  
Girardello, Porrati, S.F.; Antoniadis, Partouche, Taylor)

$a = 1 \dots N$   $\delta\chi^a$  fermion variations;  $J_{\mu\alpha}^a(X)$  susy Noether current

Current algebra relation (Polchinski)

$$\int d^3y \{ \bar{J}_{0\dot{\alpha}b}(y), J_{\mu\alpha}^a(x) \} = 2\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^\nu T_{\mu\nu}(x) \delta_b^a + \sigma_{\mu\alpha\dot{\alpha}} C_b^a$$

Relation to the scalar potential:

$$\delta\chi^a \delta\bar{\chi}_b = V \delta_b^a + C_b^a$$

In  $N=2$  (APT, FGP)

$$C_b^a = \sigma^{xa}{}_b \epsilon_{xyz} Q^x \wedge Q^y = 2\sigma^{xa}{}_b (\vec{E} \wedge \vec{M})_x; \quad Q^x = \begin{pmatrix} M^x \\ E^x \end{pmatrix}$$

*In Supergravity (partial SuperHiggs) (CGP, FM, FGP)  
there is an extra term in the potential which allows  
supersymmetric anti-de-Sitter vacua*

$$\delta\chi^a \delta\bar{\chi}_b = V \delta_b^a + 3\mathcal{M}^{ac} \bar{\mathcal{M}}_{bc}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{ab} = \mathcal{M}_{ba} \text{ "gravitino mass" term}$$

$$\delta\psi_\mu^a = D_\mu \epsilon^a + \mathcal{M}^{ab} \gamma_\mu \bar{\epsilon}_b$$

## $N=2$ RIGID (SPECIAL) GEOMETRY

$$R_{i\bar{j}k\bar{l}} = C_{ikp} \bar{C}_{\bar{j}\bar{l}\bar{p}} g^{p\bar{p}} \qquad V = \left( X^A, \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}}{\partial X^A} \right)$$

$$\partial_{\bar{i}} V = 0, \quad \mathcal{D}_j \partial_i V = C_{jik} g^{k\bar{k}} \partial_{\bar{k}} \bar{V}, \quad \partial_{\bar{j}} \partial_i V = 0$$

$$C_{ikp} = \partial_i \partial_k \partial_p \mathcal{U} = \mathcal{U}_{ikp}$$

$$\mathcal{U} = X^2 + \frac{X^3}{M} + \dots + \frac{X^{n+2}}{M^n}$$

$$\text{for } M \text{ large: } \mathcal{U} - X^2 \sim \frac{X^3}{M} \qquad M \mathcal{U}_{ABC} = d_{ABC}$$

*N=2 rigid supersymmetric theory with Fayet-Iliopoulos terms  
(n vector multiplets, no hypermultiplets) in N=1 notations*

Kahler potential:  $K = i(X^a \bar{U}_A - \bar{X}^A U_A)$ ,  $U_A = \frac{\partial \mathcal{U}_A}{\partial X^A}$

( $\mathcal{U}$ : N=2 prepotential)

Fayet-Iliopoulos terms:

triplet of (real) symplectic ( $Sp(2n)$ ) constant vectors

$$\vec{Q} = (\vec{M}^A, \vec{E}_A) = (Q_c, Q_3) = \begin{pmatrix} m_1^A + i m_2^A, & e_{1A} + i e_{2A} \\ m_3^A, & e_3^A \end{pmatrix}$$

( $A = 1, \dots, n$ )

*Superpotential:*  $W = (\mathcal{U}_A m^A - X^A e_A)$   $Q_c = (m^A, e_A)$

*D term N=1 F-I magnetic and electric charges:*  $Q_3 = (\epsilon^A, \zeta_A)$

*Due to the underlying symplectic structure of N=2 rigid special geometry, we can rewrite all expressions by using the symplectic metric*

$$\Omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and symplectic sections } V = (X^A, \mathcal{U}_A)$$

$$W = (V, Q) = V \Omega Q, \quad K = -i(V, \bar{V})$$

$$V_F = (\text{Im } \mathcal{U}_{AB}^{-1}) \frac{\partial W}{\partial X^A} \frac{\partial \bar{W}}{\partial \bar{X}^B} = \bar{Q}_c^T \mathcal{M} Q_c + i(\bar{Q}_c, Q_c)$$

$$V_D = Q_3^T \mathcal{M} Q_3 \quad \text{so that}$$

$$V = V_F + V_D = \bar{Q}_c^T (\mathcal{M} + i\Omega) Q_c + Q_3^T \mathcal{M} Q_3$$

The matrix  $\mathcal{M}$  is a real (positive definite) symmetric and symplectic  $2n \times 2n$  matrix

$$\mathcal{M}^T = \mathcal{M} \quad \mathcal{M}\Omega\mathcal{M} = \Omega \quad \mathcal{M} > 0$$

It is related to the  $F^2$ ,  $F\tilde{F}$  terms in the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = g_{AB}(X) F_{\mu\nu}^A F^{B\mu\nu} + \theta_{AB}(X) F_{\mu\nu}^A \tilde{F}^{B\mu\nu}$$

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{pmatrix} g + \theta g^{-1} \theta & -\theta g^{-1} \\ -g^{-1} \theta & g^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

*N=1 supersymmetric vacua require (Porrati, Sagnotti, S.F.)*

$$\frac{\partial W}{\partial X^A} = 0, \quad V_D = 0 \quad \text{since} \quad \mathcal{M} > 0$$

The  $V_D = 0$  condition requires  $Q_3 = 0$

The first equation implies

$$(\mathcal{M} + i\Omega) Q_c = 0 \quad \text{which requires} \quad i\bar{Q}_c \Omega Q_c < 0$$

Since  $\bar{Q}_c \mathcal{M} Q_c$  is positive definite, and at the attractor point we have

$$\bar{Q}_c \mathcal{M}_{\text{crit}} Q_c = -i\bar{Q}_c \Omega Q_c$$

So it is crucial that  $Q_c$  is complex. To simplify, we will later consider  $m^A$  real and  $e_A$  complex, so that the previous condition is  $m_1^A e_{2A} < 0$



The theory here considered is the generalization to  $n$  vector multiplets of the theory considered by Antoniadis, Partouche, Taylor (1995)

Later, this theory ( $n=1$ ) was shown to reproduce in some limit (Rocek, Tseytlin, 1998) the supersymmetric Born-Infeld action (Cecotti, S.F., 1986). The latter was shown (Bagger, Galperin, 1996) to be the Goldstone action for  $N=2$  partially broken to  $N=1$  where the gauging  $\lambda = W_\alpha \Big|_{\theta=0}$  is the Goldstone fermion of the second broken supersymmetry.

# EXTREMAL BLACK HOLE ANALOGIES

In the case of asymptotically flat black holes, the so-called

**Black-Hole Potential** for an extremal (single-center)

black-hole solution is (Kallosh, S.F., 1996)

$$V_{\text{BH}} = \frac{1}{2} Q^T \mathcal{M} Q \quad Q = (m^A, e_A) \text{ is the asymptotic black-hole charge}$$

The theory of **BH** attractors (Kallosh, Strominger, S.F., 1995)

tells that

$$V_{\text{BH}} \Big|_{\text{crit}} = \frac{1}{2} Q^c \mathcal{M}(X_{\text{crit}}) Q = \frac{1}{\pi} S(Q) = \frac{1}{4\pi} A_H$$

where  $S(Q)$  is the BH entropy (Bekenstein-Hawking area formula)

In the  $N=2$  case (Ceresole, D'Auria, S.F.; Gibbons, Kallosh, S.F.)

$$V_{\text{BH}} = g^{i\bar{j}} \mathcal{D}_i Z \mathcal{D}_{\bar{j}} \bar{Z} + |Z|^2$$

so that at the BPS attractor point ( $\mathcal{D}_i Z = 0$ )

$$V_{\text{BH}} = |Z_{\text{crit}}|^2 = \frac{1}{\pi} S(Q)$$

In analogy to the  $N=2$  partial breaking of the rigid case, the BPS black hole breaks  $N=2$  down to  $N=1$ , and the central charge is the quantity replacing the super potential  $W$ .

The entropy and BI action are both expressed through  $W$ .

In our problem, the attractors occur at  $V_{\text{crit}} = 0$ ,  
(because of unbroken space time supersymmetry)  
and this is only possible because the **Fayet-Iliopoulos** charge is  
an **SU(2)** triplet (**charged in the F-term direction**) and thus  
allows the attractor equation

$$(\mathcal{M}_{\text{crit}} + i\Omega) Q_c = 0 \quad \text{being satisfied.}$$

We call these vacua **Born-Infeld** attractors,  
for reasons will become soon evident

The superspace action of the theory in question is

$$\mathcal{L} = \text{Im} \left( \mathcal{U}_{AB} W_{\alpha}^A W_{\beta}^B \epsilon^{\alpha\beta} + W(X) \right) \Big|_F + \left( X^A \bar{\mathcal{U}}_A - \bar{X}^A \mathcal{U}_A \right) \Big|_D$$

The Euler-Lagrange equations for  $X^A$  are

$$\mathcal{U}_{ABC} W^B W^C + \mathcal{U}_{AB} (m^B - \bar{D}^2 \bar{X}^B) - e_A + \bar{D}^2 \bar{\mathcal{U}}_A = 0$$

These are the complete  $X^A$  equations for the theory in question.

The first thing to note is that our attractor gives a mass to the  $N=1$  chiral multiplet  $X^A$ , but not to the  $N=1$  vector multiplets  $W_{\alpha}$ .

So  $N=2$  is broken.

Indeed, our action is invariant under a second supersymmetry  $\eta^\alpha$ , which acts on the  $N=1$  chiral super fields  $(X^A, W_\alpha^A)$  (Bagger, Galperin  $n=1$ )

$$\begin{aligned}\delta X^A &= \eta^\alpha W_\alpha^A, \\ \delta W_\alpha^A &= \eta_\alpha (m^A - \bar{D}^2 \bar{X}^A) - i\partial_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \bar{X}^A \bar{\eta}^{\dot{\alpha}}\end{aligned}$$

and because of the  $m^A$  parameter, the second supersymmetry is spontaneously broken.

Note that the  $m^A, e_{2A}$  parameters are those which allow the equations

$$\frac{\partial W}{\partial Z^A} = \left( \mathcal{U}_{AB} m^B - e_A \right) = 0 \quad \text{to have solutions}$$

Expanding the fields around their “classical” value cancel the linear terms in the action and we obtain (Porrati, Sagnotti, S.F.)

$$\frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta X^A} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad d_{ABC} \left[ W^B W^C + X^B (m^C - \bar{D}^2 \bar{X}^C) \right] + \bar{D}^2 \bar{U}_A = 0$$

The BI approximation corresponds to have  $\bar{D}^2 \bar{U}_A = 0$ ,  
(which we solve letting  $U_A = 0$  as operator condition)

The  $N=2$  Born-Infeld generalized lagrangian turns out to be  
(Porrati, Sagnotti, S.F.)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{BI}}^{N=2} = -\text{Im} W(X) = \text{Re} F^A e_{2A} + \text{Im} F^A e_{1A}$$

with the chiral superfields  $X^A$  solutions of the above constraints

The goldstino is the fermion component of the superpotential superfield

$$\lambda_{g\alpha} = \psi_{\alpha}^A e_A$$

whose supersymmetry variation gives the BI Lagrangian

The super field **BI** constraint allows to write the  $n$  chiral fermions in terms of the  $n$  gauginos, so  $\lambda_g$  is a linear combination of the  $n$  (dressed) gauginos

In Black-Hole physics, the superpotential is the  $N=2$  central charge, and

$$S_{\text{entropy}} = |Z|_{\text{crit}}^2$$



# SOLUTION OF THE BORN-INFELD ATTRACTOR EQUATIONS

For  $n=1$ , the above equation is the BI constraint

$$X = \frac{-W^2}{m - \bar{D}^2 \bar{X}}$$

(electric magnetic self-dual BG  
inherited from the linear theory)

which also implies the nilpotency

(Komargodsky, Seiberg; Casalbuoni et al)

Type of constraints

$$X W_\alpha = 0, \quad X^2 = 0$$

This type of constraints have been recently used in inflationary supergravity dynamics to simplify and to provide a more general supergravity breaking sector

(Kallosh, Linde, S.F.; Kallosh, Linde; Antoniadis, Dudas, Sagnotti, S.F.)

The **Born-Infeld** action comes by solving the  $\theta^2$  component of the chiral superfield equation

$$\left. \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial X^A} \right|_{\theta^2} \Rightarrow d_{ABC} \left[ G_+^B G_+^C + F^B (m^C - \bar{F}^C) \right] = 0$$

$$G_{\pm}^A = F_{\mu\nu}^A \pm \frac{i}{2} \tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}^A \quad \text{and we have set} \quad D^A = 0$$

by taking the real and imaginary parts of this equation we have

$$d_{ABC} \left( H^B + \frac{m^B}{2} \right) \left( \frac{m^C}{2} - H^C \right) = d_{ABC} \left( -G^B G^C + \text{Im} F^B \text{Im} F^C \right)$$

$$d_{ABC} \text{Im} F^B m^C = -d_{ABC} G^B \tilde{G}^C$$

$$\text{and we have set} \quad \text{Re} F^A = \frac{m^A}{2} - H^A$$

# CLASSIFICATION OF $d_{ABC}$ .

## THEORY OF INVARIANT POLYNOMIALS

(Mumford, Gelfand, Dieudonné, et al)

$$\mathcal{U}(X) = \frac{1}{3!} d_{ABC} X^A X^B X^C$$

$n=2$  case:  $d_{ABC}$  (4 entries) spin  $3/2$  representation of  $SL(2)$

It has a unique (quartic) invariant which is also the discriminant of  
the cubic (Cayley hyperdeterminant)

(Duff, q-bit entanglement in quantum information theory)

$$I_4 = -27 d_{222}^2 d_{111}^2 + d_{221}^2 d_{112}^2 + 18 d_{222} d_{111} d_{211} d_{221} - 4 d_{111} d_{122}^3 - 4 d_{222} d_{211}^3$$

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$$I_4 = -27 d_{222}^2 d_{111}^2 + d_{221}^2 d_{112}^2 + 18 d_{222} d_{111} d_{211} d_{221} - 4 d_{111} d_{122}^3 - 4 d_{222} d_{211}^3$$

Four orbits  $I_4 > 0, I_4 < 0, I_4 = 0, \partial I_4 = 0$

Two of them ( $I_4 < 0, \partial I_4 = 0$ ) give trivial models.

The other two ( $I_4 \geq 0$ ) give non-trivial  $U(1)^2$  BI theories

Extremal black-hole analogy:

the model in question corresponds to the  $T^3$  model,

$\sqrt{|I_4|}$  is the BH Berenstein-Hawking entropy and the four orbits correspond to large **BPS** and **non-BPS** as well as small BH

## An example: Explicit solution of the $I_4 > 0$ theory

$$\mathcal{U} = \frac{1}{3!} X^3 - \frac{1}{2} X Y^2 \quad (d_{111} = 1, d_{122} = -1)$$

$$\text{Im } F_X = (m_X^2 + m_Y^2)^{-1} (m_X R_X + m_Y R_Y) \quad R_X = -2G^X \tilde{G}^Y$$

$$\text{Im } F_Y = (m_X^2 + m_Y^2)^{-1} (-m_Y R_X + m_X R_Y) \quad R_Y = -G^X \tilde{G}^X + G^Y \tilde{G}^Y$$

$$H_X = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \sqrt{S_X^2 + S_Y^2} - S_X \right)^{1/2} \quad S_X = T_X - \frac{m_X^2}{4} + \frac{m_Y^2}{4}$$

$$H_Y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \sqrt{S_X^2 + S_Y^2} + S_X \right)^{1/2} \quad S_Y = T_Y + \frac{m_X m_Y}{2}$$

$$-H_X^2 + H_Y^2 = S_X, \quad 2H_X H_Y = S_Y \quad (H^A \text{ equation})$$

$$T_X = -G^X G^X + \text{Im } F^X \text{Im } F^X + G^Y G^Y - \text{Im } F^Y \text{Im } F^Y$$

$$T_Y = 2(G^X G^Y + \text{Im } F^X \text{Im } F^Y) \quad \text{Note: for } G_{\mu\nu}^{X,Y} = 0 \rightarrow F_X = F_Y = 0$$