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# ASYMPTOTIC SYMMETRIES AND CELESTIAL CFT

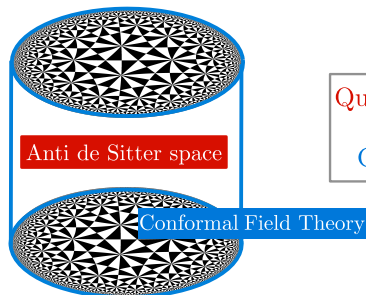
2005.08990    Laura Donnay, Sabrina Pasterski, AP  
1905.09799    AP  
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Andrea Puhm



# Holographic window into Quantum Gravity

Ground-breaking tool: **holographic principle** [’t Hooft’93] [Susskind’94]  
**AdS/CFT** correspondence [Maldacena’97]  
[Witten’98]  
[Gubser,Klebanov,Polyakov’98]



Quantum gravity in Anti de Sitter space  
=  
Conformal Field Theory on boundary

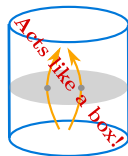
match of *symmetries* and *degrees of freedom*

e.g. black hole entropy from CFT

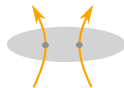
[Strominger,Vafa’96; Strominger’97]

# Holography in the Universe ?

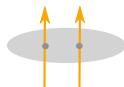
- **$\Lambda < 0$  Anti de Sitter:**  
spacetime near black holes with  
 $M \gtrsim Q$  or  $M^2 \gtrsim J$



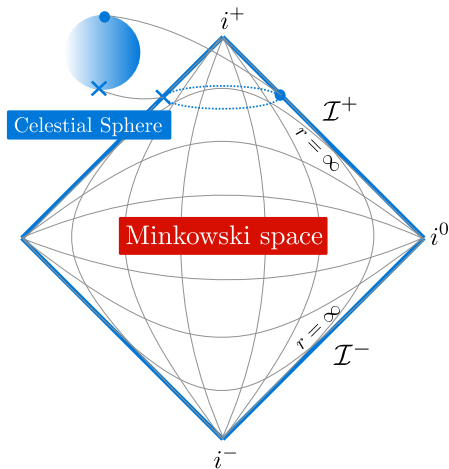
- **$\Lambda > 0$  de Sitter:**  
spacetime @ cosmological scale



- **$\Lambda = 0$  Minkowski:**  
spacetime @ scales  $>$  black hole throat  
and  $<$  cosmological



# Flat Space Holography



*What are the symmetries?*

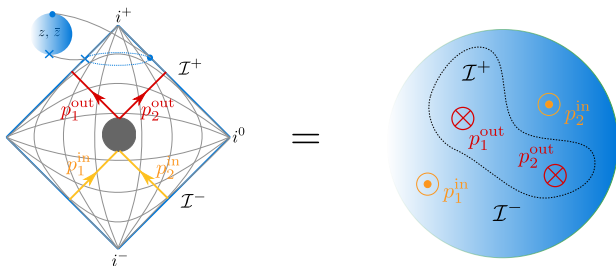
*Is there a dual CFT?*

*What are its properties?*

*Is 4D spacetime physics encoded on **conformal boundary**?*

# Conformal Basis for QFT Amplitudes

4D Lorentz group  $SO(1, 3) \simeq SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  acts as global conformal group on celestial sphere: *4D scattering amplitudes recast as 2D correlators!*



- ▶ Constraints on Quantum Gravity  $\mathcal{S}$ -Matrix
- ▶ New insights into amplitude structures

## UNIFIED TREATMENT OF “SOFT” MODES IN NEW CONFORMAL BASIS FOR FLAT SPACE HOLOGRAPHY:

- ▶ spectrum of primaries in 2D celestial CFT
- ▶ symplectic pairing of conformal primary wavefunctions
- ▶ conformal soft theorems for celestial amplitudes

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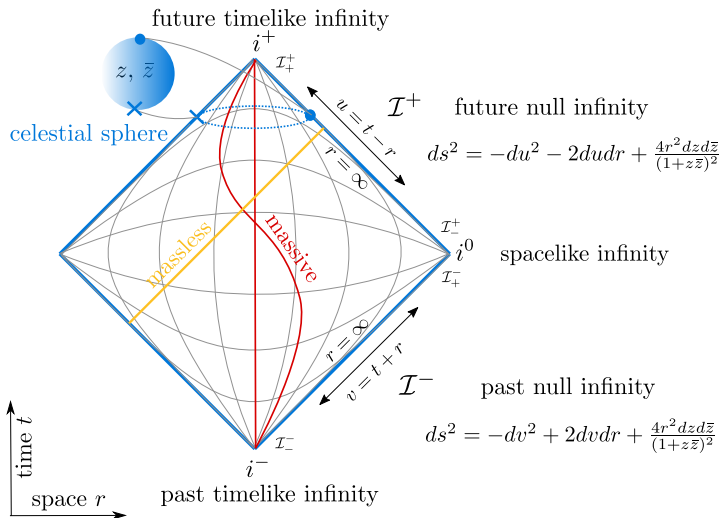
## WHAT IS THE ASYMPTOTIC SYMMETRY GROUP OF EINSTEIN GRAVITY AT NULL INFINITY ?

- ▶ identification of conformally soft gravitons with generators of:
  - ★ BMS symmetry
  - ★ Celestial conformal symmetry
    - Virasoro symmetry
    - $\text{Diff}(S^2)$  symmetry

# Holographic screen of Minkowski spacetime

[Ashtekar et al'70s-80s]

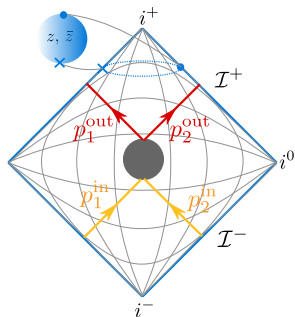
Conformal boundary:  $\mathcal{I} = \mathbb{R} \times \mathcal{CS}^2$





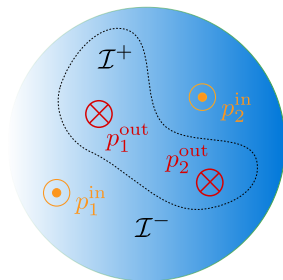
# A new basis for QFT scattering amplitudes

4D SPACETIME



2D CELESTIAL SPHERE

=



4D Scattering matrix

$$\langle out|S|in\rangle$$

$$p_k^\mu = \omega_k q^\mu(z_k, \bar{z}_k), \ell_k$$

4D Lorentz symmetry

2D correlation function

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1(z_1, \bar{z}_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_n(z_n, \bar{z}_n) \rangle$$

$$(z_k, \bar{z}_k), \Delta_k, J_k$$

2D conformal symmetry

# Mapping wavefunctions

[de Boer, Solodukhin'03]

MOMENTUM BASIS

*translation symmetry*

momentum eigenstates

$$e^{i\omega q \cdot X}$$

$$p^\mu = \omega q^\mu(w, \bar{w}), \ell$$

basis of  $\omega \geq 0$  wavefunctions

*Mellin transform*  
→

$$\int_0^\infty d\omega \omega^{\Delta-1} \rightarrow$$

CONFORMAL BASIS

*conformal symmetry*

boost eigenstates

$$\frac{\mathcal{N}(\Delta)}{(-q \cdot X)^\Delta} \equiv \Phi^\Delta$$

$$w = \frac{p^1 + ip^2}{p^3 + p^0}, \Delta, J = \ell$$

basis of  $\Delta \in 1 + i\mathbb{R}$  wavefunctions

*principal continuous series* of  $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$

[Pasterski, Shao'17]

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[Pasterski, Shao'17]

$\Phi^\Delta$  transforms as **conformal primary** with  $(h, \bar{h}) = \frac{1}{2}(\Delta, \Delta)$ :

$$\Phi^\Delta\left(\Lambda^\mu{}_\nu X^\nu; \frac{aw + b}{cw + d}, \frac{\bar{a}\bar{w} + \bar{b}}{\bar{c}\bar{w} + \bar{d}}\right) = (cw + d)^{2h}(\bar{c}\bar{w} + \bar{d})^{2\bar{h}}\Phi^\Delta(X^\mu; w, \bar{w})$$

$$ad - bc = 1$$

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$ad - bc = 1$

“State-operator correspondence”:

massless particles  $\leftrightarrow$  operators on celestial sphere

# Celestial amplitudes

[Pasterski, Shao, Strominger'17]  
[Cheung, de la Fuente, Sundrum'17]

4D AMPLITUDES

*Mellin transform*  
→

2D CORRELATORS

$$\mathcal{A}_{\ell_1 \dots \ell_n}(\omega_1, z_1, \bar{z}_1, \dots, \omega_n, z_n, \bar{z}_n) \xrightarrow{\prod_{k=1}^n \int_0^\infty d\omega_k \omega_k^{\Delta_k - 1}} \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{J_1 \dots J_n}(\Delta_1, z_1, \bar{z}_1, \dots, \Delta_n, z_n, \bar{z}_n)$$
$$= \langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_1, J_1}(z_1, \bar{z}_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_n, J_n}(z_n, \bar{z}_n) \rangle$$

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$$= \langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_1, J_1}(z_1, \bar{z}_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_n, J_n}(z_n, \bar{z}_n) \rangle$$

E.g. MHV 4 gluon amplitude

$$\mathcal{A}_{--++} \sim \frac{z_{12}^3}{z_{23} z_{34} z_{41}} \frac{\omega_1 \omega_2}{\omega_3 \omega_4} \times \delta^{(4)}\left(\sum_{k=1}^4 \epsilon_k \omega_k q_k\right)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\prod_{k=1}^4 \int_0^\infty d\omega_k \omega_k^{i\lambda_k}} \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{--++} \sim \prod_{i < j}^4 z_{ij}^{\frac{h}{3} - h_i - h_j} \bar{z}_{ij}^{\frac{\bar{h}}{3} - \bar{h}_i - \bar{h}_j} z^{\frac{5}{3}} (1-z)^{-\frac{1}{3}} \times \delta(z - \bar{z}) \delta\left(\sum_{k=1}^4 \lambda_k\right)$$

$$z_{ij} = z_i - z_j, \quad \epsilon_k = \pm 1 \quad z = \frac{z_{12} z_{34}}{z_{13} z_{24}}, \quad h = \sum_{k=1}^4 h_k, \quad \bar{h} = \sum_{k=1}^4 \bar{h}_k$$

$$q^\mu(z_k, \bar{z}_k) = (1 + z_k \bar{z}_k, z_k + \bar{z}_k, -i(z_k - \bar{z}_k), 1 - z_k \bar{z}_k)$$



# What is the appropriate spectrum ?

PLANE  
WAVEFUNCTIONS

$$\omega \geq 0$$

*finite energy*

$$\int_0^\infty d\omega \omega^{\Delta-1} \longrightarrow$$

CONFORMAL PRIMARY  
WAVEFUNCTIONS

$$\Delta \in 1 + i\mathbb{R}$$

on principal continuous series

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[Donnay, AP, Strominger'18]

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## PLANE WAVEFUNCTIONS

$$\omega \geq 0$$

*finite energy*

“energetically soft”:  $\omega \rightarrow 0$

orders of  $\omega$

$$\mathcal{A}_{n+1} \xrightarrow{\omega \rightarrow 0} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} \omega^{-1} S^{(0)} & + & \omega^0 S^{(1)} & + \dots \end{array} \right) \mathcal{A}_n$$

$\Delta \rightarrow 1 \qquad \qquad \Delta \rightarrow 0$

## CONFORMAL PRIMARY WAVEFUNCTIONS

$$\int_0^\infty d\omega \omega^{\Delta-1}$$

$$\Delta \in 1 + i\mathbb{R}$$

on principal continuous series

“conformally soft”:  $h \rightarrow 0$  or  $\bar{h} \rightarrow 0$

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poles at  $\Delta \in \mathbb{Z}$

off principal continuous series

# Celestial gravitons with $\Delta \in 1 + i\mathbb{R}$

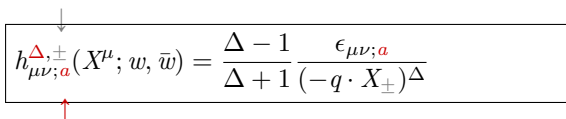
Solution to linearized Einstein:  $\square h_{\mu\nu} = 0$

[Pasterski, Shao'17]

in Lorenz gauge:  $\nabla^\mu h_{\mu\nu} = 0$

$$\epsilon_{\mu\nu;a} = \partial_a q_\mu \partial_a q_\nu$$

outgoing/incoming


$$h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\Delta,\pm}(X^\mu; w, \bar{w}) = \frac{\Delta - 1}{\Delta + 1} \frac{\epsilon_{\mu\nu;a}}{(-q \cdot X_\pm)^\Delta}$$

helicity index:  $a = ww$  gives  $J = +2$ ,  $a = \bar{w}\bar{w}$  gives  $J = -2$

# Celestial gravitons with $\Delta \in 1 + i\mathbb{R}$

Solution to linearized Einstein:  $\square h_{\mu\nu} = 0$

[Pasterski, Shao'17]

in Lorenz gauge:  $\nabla^\mu h_{\mu\nu} = 0$  and radial gauge  $X^\mu h_{\mu\nu} = 0$

$$\epsilon_{\mu\nu;a} = \partial_a q_\mu \partial_a q_\nu$$

outgoing/incoming  $\zeta_{\mu;a}^\Delta = \frac{1}{\Delta+1} \left( \frac{\epsilon_{\mu\nu;a} X_\pm^\nu}{(-q \cdot X_\pm)^\Delta} + \frac{q_\mu \epsilon_{\nu\rho;a} X_\pm^\nu X_\pm^\rho}{(-q \cdot X_\pm)^{\Delta+1}} \right)$

$$h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\Delta,\pm}(X^\mu; w, \bar{w}) = \frac{\Delta - 1}{\Delta + 1} \frac{\epsilon_{\mu\nu;a}}{(-q \cdot X_\pm)^\Delta} + \nabla_{(\mu} \zeta_{\nu);a}^{\Delta,\pm}$$

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Basis of **conformal primary wavefunctions**  $h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\Delta,\pm}$  for  $\Delta \in 1 + i\mathbb{R}$ .

principal continuous series

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principal continuous series

**Shadow transform:**

$$\widetilde{h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\Delta,\pm}} = (-X_\pm^2)^{1-\Delta} h_{\mu\nu;a}^{2-\Delta,\pm} \equiv \widetilde{h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\tilde{\Delta},\pm}} \quad \text{where} \quad \tilde{\Delta} = 2 - \Delta$$

# Celestial gravitons with $\Delta \in \mathbb{Z}$

[Donnay,Pasterski,AP'20]

arbitrary conformal dimension  $\Delta \in \mathbb{C}$

principal continuous series  $s \in 1 + i\mathbb{R}$

$$\downarrow h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\Delta,\pm}(X^\mu; w, \bar{w}) = \lim_{\nu \rightarrow 0} \int_{1-i\infty}^{1+i\infty} (-ids) \delta_{\nu,\geq}(i(\Delta - s)) \downarrow h_{\mu\nu;a}^{s,\pm}(X^\mu; w, \bar{w})$$



# Celestial gravitons with $\Delta \in \mathbb{Z}$

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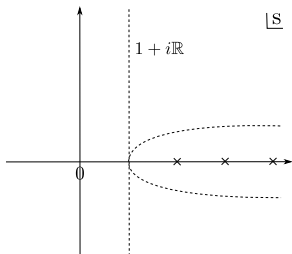
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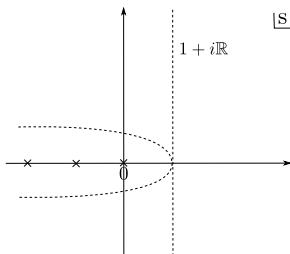
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$$\delta_{\nu,\geq}(i(\Delta - s)) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d\omega \omega^{\Delta-s-1} \begin{Bmatrix} e^{-\nu\omega} \\ e^{-\nu/\omega} \end{Bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \nu^{\pm(s-\Delta)} \Gamma(\pm(\Delta - s))$$

regulator  $\nu > 0$



Contour deformation for  $\text{Re}(\Delta) > 1$ .  
Poles of  $\Gamma(\Delta - s)$  at  $s = \Delta + n$ .



Contour deformation for  $\text{Re}(\Delta) < 1$ .  
Poles of  $\Gamma(s - \Delta)$  at  $s = \Delta - n$ .

# Mode expansion and charge operators

[Donnay,Pasterski,AP'20]

General metric perturbations expanded on conformal basis:

$$h_{\mu\nu}(X) = \int d^2w \sum_{a=ww, \bar{w}\bar{w}} \int_{1-i\infty}^{1+i\infty} (-id\Delta) \left[ \mathcal{N}_{2-\Delta}^+ h_{\mu\nu; \bar{a}}^{2-\Delta, +}(X^\mu; w, \bar{w}) \mathbf{a}_a(\Delta; w, \bar{w}) \right. \\ \left. + \mathcal{N}_{\Delta}^- h_{\mu\nu; a}^{\Delta, -}(X^\mu; w, \bar{w}) \mathbf{a}_a(\Delta; w, \bar{w})^\dagger \right]$$

Commutation relations:

$$[\mathbf{a}_{j,a}(\Delta, w, \bar{w}), \mathbf{a}_{j,a'}(\Delta', w', \bar{w}')^\dagger] = \delta_{aa'} \delta^{(2)}(w - w') \delta(i(\Delta + \bar{\Delta}' - 2))$$

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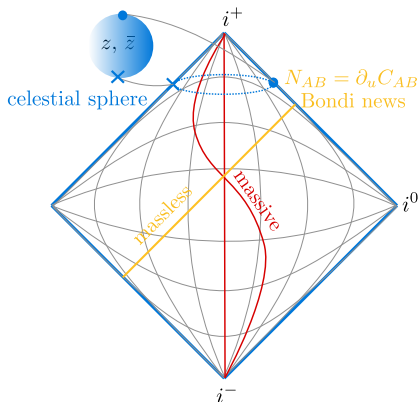
Analytically continued mode operator:

$$Q_a^\Delta \equiv i(h, h_{\bar{a}}^{\Delta, +}(w, \bar{w}))_\Sigma = i(\mathcal{N}_{\Delta}^-)^{-1} \mathbf{a}_a(\Delta; w, \bar{w})$$

- ★ shifts the metric as  $[Q_a^\Delta(w, \bar{w}), h_{\mu\nu}(X)] = ih_{\mu\nu; a}^{\Delta, -}(X^\mu; w, \bar{w})$
- ★ produces single particle states with  $h_{\mu\nu; a}^{\Delta, -}$  when acting on the vacuum

$Q_a^{\Delta=0,1}$ : asymptotic **soft charges** at null infinity

# Asymptotic Symmetry Group



Boundary conditions:

$$ds^2 = -du^2 - 2dudr + \frac{4r^2 dz d\bar{z}}{(1+z\bar{z})^2} + \dots$$

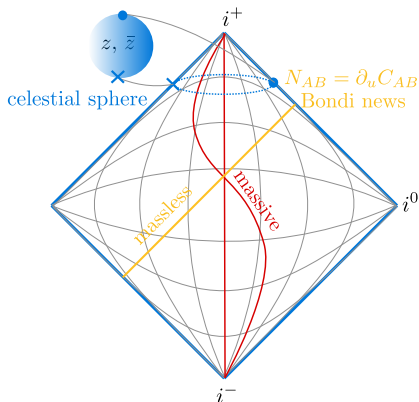
radiative spacetime:

$$\{m_B, N_A, C_{AB}\}$$

free data

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# Asymptotic Symmetry Group



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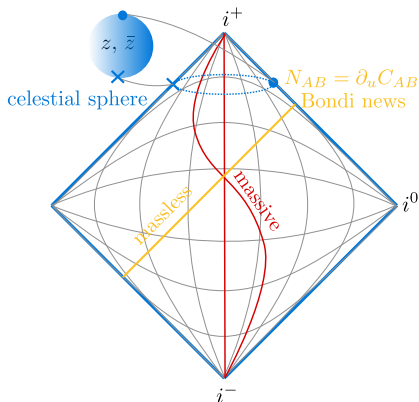
$$\{m_B, N_A, C_{AB}\}$$

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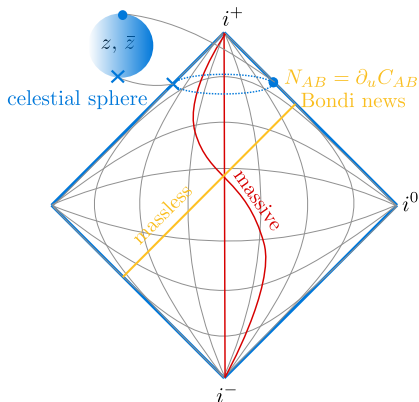
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[Bondi, van der Burg, Metzner, Sachs'62]

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Radial metric components determined by radial gauge condition.

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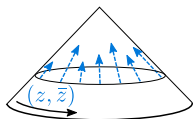
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Action of large diffeomorphism  $\zeta_f$  on the free gravitational data  $C_{AB}$ :

$$\delta_f C_{AB} = f \partial_u C_{AB} - 2 D_A D_B f + \gamma_{AB} D^2 f$$



$$\delta_f^{\text{shift}} C_{zz} = -2 D_z^2 f(z, \bar{z})$$

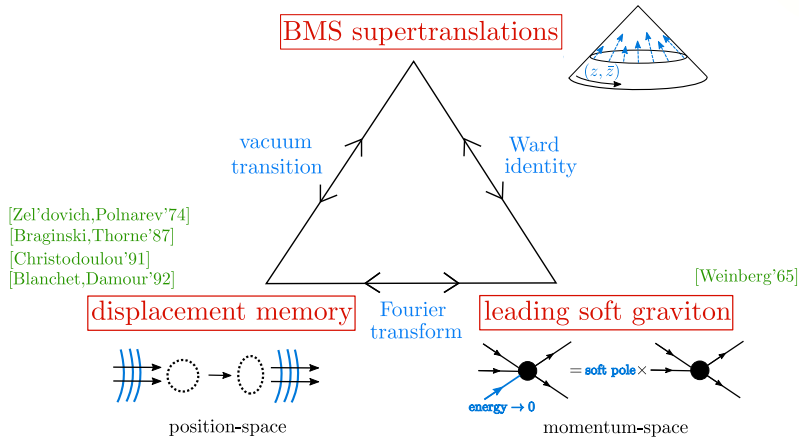
$\Rightarrow$  energy conserved *at every angle*

4 global translations  $\xrightarrow{\text{enhanced}}$  angle-dependent supertranslations  $f(z, \bar{z})$

$\Rightarrow$  Poincaré group enhanced to BMS group

# IR connections

[Bondi, van der Burg, Metzner, Sachs'62]



# Celestial $\Delta = 1$ and $\tilde{\Delta} = 1$ gravitons

Conformal spin-two basis contains a pure diffeo: [Pasterski, Shao'17]

$$h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\Delta=1} = \nabla_{(\mu} \zeta_{\nu)}^1;_a \quad \rightarrow \quad C_{zz;ww}^1 = -2D_z^2 f_{ww} \text{ with } f_{ww} = -\frac{1}{4} \frac{(\bar{z}-\bar{w})}{(z-w)(1+z\bar{z})}$$

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[Donnay,AP,Strominger'18]

$\Rightarrow$  **Goldstone mode** of **spontaneously broken BMS symmetry!**

[He,Lysov,Mitra,Strominger'14]

$$Q_f^{soft} = -\frac{1}{16\pi G} \int dud^2z \sqrt{\gamma} (D_z^2 f N^{zz} + D_{\bar{z}}^2 f N^{\bar{z}\bar{z}})$$

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Conformal primary pairing between  $1 + i\lambda$  and  $1 - i\lambda$ .

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What is the symplectic partner for  $h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\Delta=1} = \tilde{h}_{\mu\nu;a}^{\tilde{\Delta}=1}$ ?

In the momentum basis the partner of the BMS Goldstone mode is the **soft graviton**. Very subtle to see from the Mellin transform!

# Symplectically paired set of zero-modes

Hidden logarithmic branch:

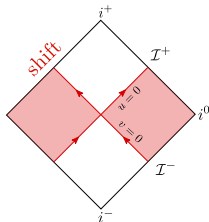
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$$h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\log,\pm} = \lim_{\Delta \rightarrow 1} \partial_{\Delta} (h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\Delta,\pm} + \tilde{h}_{\mu\nu;a}^{\tilde{\Delta},\pm})$$

yields a new  $\Delta = 1$  conformal primary.

**$\Delta = 1$  Conformally soft graviton**

$$h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\text{CS}} = [\Theta(X^2) + \log[X^2](q \cdot X)\delta(q \cdot X)]h_{\mu\nu;a}^1$$



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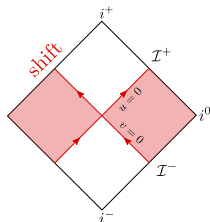
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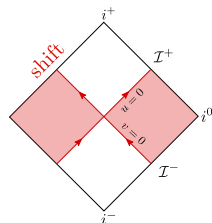
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$P_w = 4D^w Q_{a=w}^{\Delta=1}$  is the  $(h, \bar{h}) = (\frac{3}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$  BMS supertranslation current.  
It generates **BMS supertranslation symmetry**.

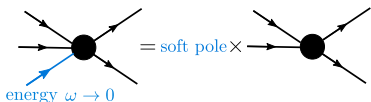
[Barnich, Troessaert'09-'11] [Strominger'13]

# Conformal soft theorem in gravity

BMS supertranslation current  $P$  with  $(\Delta, J) = (2, \pm 1)$  in amplitudes:

MOMENTUM BASIS:  $\omega \rightarrow 0$

$$P_w \mathcal{O}_\omega(z) \sim \frac{\omega}{z-w} \mathcal{O}_\omega(z)$$



Weinberg's soft graviton theorem

[Weinberg'65]

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{\omega_n \rightarrow 0} \omega_n \mathcal{A}_n(\omega_1, \dots, \omega_k, \dots, \omega_n) \\ &= S^{(0)} \mathcal{A}_{n-1}(\omega_1, \dots, \omega_k, \dots, \omega_{n-1}) \end{aligned}$$

$$S^{(0)} = \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \omega_k s(z_k, z_n)$$

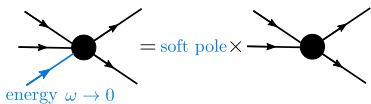
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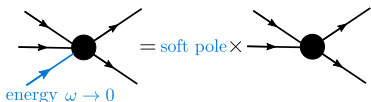
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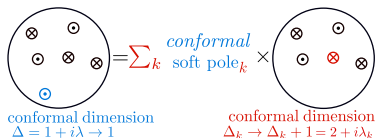
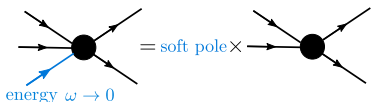
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Conformal soft graviton theorem


[Adamo, Mason, Sharma'19][AP'19][Guevara'19]

$$\lim_{\Delta_n \rightarrow 1} (\Delta_n - 1) \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_n(\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_k, \dots, \Delta_n)$$

$$= \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \tilde{S}_k^{(0)} \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{n-1}(\Delta_1, \dots, \Delta_k + 1, \dots, \Delta_{n-1})$$

$$\tilde{S}_k^{(0)} = s(z_k, z_n)$$

# BMS group

= Lorentz and ~~translations~~  local enhancement

Boundary conditions:

$$g_{uu} = -1 + \mathcal{O}(1/r), \quad g_{uA} = \mathcal{O}(1), \quad g_{AB} = r^2 \gamma_{AB} + r C_{AB} + \mathcal{O}(1)$$

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[Banks'03] [Barnich, Troessaert'09-'11]

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$Y(z)$  and  $Y(z, \bar{z})$  allowed to be singular on  $S^2$

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where  $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}D_C Y^C$



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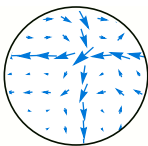
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Action of large diffeomorphism  $\xi_Y$  on  $\gamma_{AB}$  and  $C_{AB}$ :



$$\delta_Y^{\text{shift}} \gamma_{z\bar{z}} = 2\gamma_{z\bar{z}} D_{\bar{z}} Y^z(z, \bar{z})$$

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$\Rightarrow$  angular momentum conserved *at every angle*

6 global rotations and boosts  $\xrightarrow{\text{enhanced}}$  angle-dependent superrotations  $Y^A(z, \bar{z})$

$\Rightarrow$  **BMS group enhanced to extended BMS group**

# IR connections

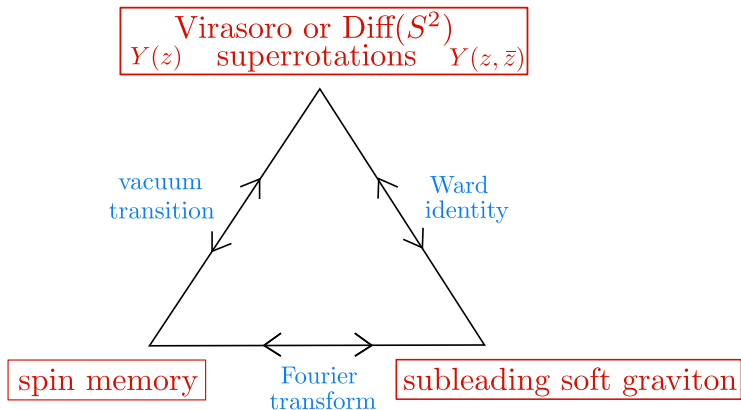
[Banks'03]

[Barnich, Troessaert'09-'11]

[Campiglia, Laddha'15]

[Compère, Fiorucci, Ruzziconi'18]

[Campiglia, Peraza'20]



[Pasterski, Strominger, Zhiboedov'15]

[Cachazo, Strominger'14]

# Virasoro or $\text{Diff}(S^2)$ superrotations ?

[Kapec,Lysov,Pasterski,Strominger'14]

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**Virasoro Ward ID**

$$\langle out|[Q_{Y(z)}, \mathcal{S}]|in\rangle = 0$$

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☹ not bijective [KLPS]

[CL] enlarged phase space ☹

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**Virasoro and  $\text{Diff}(S^2)$  asymptotic symmetry group proposals are related from celestial CFT perspective!**

# Celestial $\tilde{\Delta} = 2$ and $\Delta = 0$ gravitons

$\tilde{\Delta} = 2 - \Delta = 2$  Goldstone mode

[Pasterski,Shao'17]

$$\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu;a}^{\tilde{\Delta}=2} = \nabla_{(\mu} \xi_{\nu)}^2 \quad \rightarrow \quad \tilde{C}_{zz;ww}^2 = -uD_z^3 Y_{ww}^z \quad \text{with} \quad Y_{ww}^z(z) = \frac{1}{6(z-w)}$$

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[Kapec,Mitra,Raclariu,Strominger'16]

$\Delta = 0$  **Goldstone mode** [Pasterski,Shao'17]

$$h_{\mu\nu;a}^{\Delta=0} = \nabla_{(\mu} \xi_{\nu);a}^0 \quad \rightarrow \quad C_{zz;\bar{w}\bar{w}}^0 = -uD_z^3 Y_{\bar{w}\bar{w}}^z \text{ with } Y_{\bar{w}\bar{w}}^z(z, \bar{z}) = -\frac{(z-w)^2}{2(\bar{z}-\bar{w})}$$

[Donnay,Pasterski,AP'20]

$\tilde{T}_{\bar{w}\bar{w}}$  is the  $(h, \bar{h}) = (-1, 1)$  shadow of 2D stress tensor.

It generates  $\text{Diff}(S^2)$  “**shadow superrotation**” symmetry.

[Donnay,Pasterski,AP'20]

# Soft Virasoro and $\text{Diff}(S^2)$ charges

Iyer-Wald symplectic structure

$$\Omega[\delta g, \delta_Y^{\text{shift}} g; g] = \int_{\mathcal{I}^+} \omega[\delta g, \delta_Y^{\text{shift}} g; g]$$

for variations  $\delta g$  and  $\delta_Y^{\text{shift}} g = h^0$  or  $\tilde{h}^2$  around fixed background  $g$ .



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[Compère, Fiorucci, Ruzziconi'18]

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Soft charge associated with Virasoro and  $\text{Diff}(S^2)$  superrotations:

$$\mathcal{Q}_Y^{\text{soft}} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int dud^2 z \sqrt{\gamma} u D_z^3 Y^z N^{zz} \quad D_z^3 Y^z = \begin{cases} -2\pi \delta^{(2)}(z-w) & h_{w\bar{w}}^0 \\ -\frac{1}{(z-w)^4} & \tilde{h}_{w\bar{w}}^2 \end{cases}$$

[Donnay, Pasterski, AP'20]

Bondi news  $N_{zz} = \partial_u C_{zz}$

Agrees with results in Bondi gauge for Virasoro [Kapec, Lysov, Pasterski, Strominger'14] and for  $\text{Diff}(S^2)$  [Campiglia, Laddha'15] [Compère, Fiorucci, Ruzziconi'18].

# Virasoro or $\text{Diff}(S^2)$ superrotations ?

[Kapec,Lysov,Pasterski,Strominger'14]

**Superrotation Ward ID**

$$\langle out|[Q_{Y^z = \frac{1}{6(z-w)}}, \mathcal{S}]|in\rangle = 0$$

[KLPS]

[Campiglia,Laddha'14]

**Shadow Superrotation Ward ID**

$$\langle out|[Q_{Y^z = -\frac{(z-w)^2}{2(z-\bar{w})}}, \mathcal{S}]|in\rangle = 0$$

[CL]

**Subleading Soft Graviton Theorem**

$$\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} (1 + \omega \partial_\omega) \langle out|\mathbf{a}_-(q)\mathcal{S}|in\rangle = S^{(1)-} \langle out|\mathcal{S}|in\rangle$$

[Cachazo,Strominger'14]

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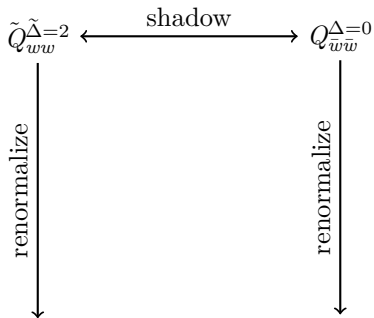
[Cachazo,Strominger'14]

Asymptotic symmetry group of Einstein gravity at null infinity should include closure of Virasoro under shadows within  $\text{Diff}(S^2)$ .

# Celestial CFT perspective

$$\tilde{Q}_{ww}^{\tilde{\Delta}=2} \xleftrightarrow{\text{shadow}} Q_{\bar{w}\bar{w}}^{\Delta=0}$$

# Celestial CFT perspective



$$\tilde{Q}_{ww}^{2 ren} = Q_Y^{soft} [Y_{ww}^z = \frac{1}{6(z-w)}]$$

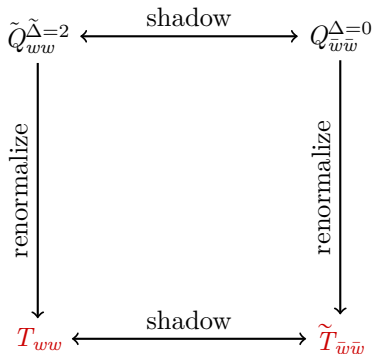
$$Q_{\bar{w}\bar{w}}^{0 ren} = Q_Y^{soft} [Y_{\bar{w}\bar{w}}^z = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{(z-w)^2}{(\bar{z}-\bar{w})}]$$

Virasoro superrotations

$\text{Diff}(S^2)$  shadow superrotations



# Celestial CFT perspective



$$\tilde{Q}_{ww}^{2 ren} = Q_Y^{soft} [Y_{ww}^z = \frac{1}{6(z-w)}] \quad Q_{\bar{w}\bar{w}}^{0 ren} = Q_Y^{soft} [Y_{\bar{w}\bar{w}}^z = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{(z-w)^2}{(\bar{z}-\bar{w})}]$$

Virasoro superrotations and  $\text{Diff}(S^2)$  shadow superrotations are on equal footing via the shadow transform

# Conclusion

*Unified treatment of conformally soft Goldstone modes of spontaneously broken asymptotic symmetries for flat space holography.*

Massless particles described as conformal primary wavefunctions with  $(\Delta, J)$  under  $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  Lorentz group in celestial CFT:

- ▶ finite energy  $\rightarrow$  principal continuous series  $\Delta \in 1 + i\mathbb{R}$
  - ▶ energetically soft  $\rightarrow$  conformally soft  $\Delta \in \mathbb{Z}$
  - ▶ **symplectically paired set of zero-modes**
  - ▶ **conformal soft theorems** for celestial amplitudes
- ) contour integral

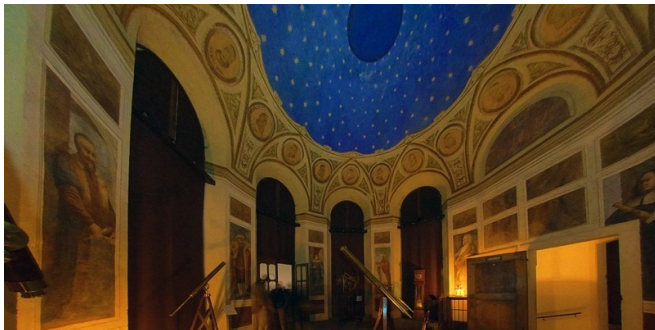
	$\widetilde{A}_\mu^\Delta$	$\widetilde{h}_{\mu\nu}^\Delta$	
$\widetilde{\Delta}$	1	1	2
symmetry	large $U(1)$	supertranslation	Virasoro superrotation
soft charge	$\mathcal{J}$	$P$	$T$
	$A_\mu^\Delta$	$h_{\mu\nu}^\Delta$	
$\Delta$	1	1	0
symmetry	large $U(1)$	supertranslation	$\text{Diff}(S^2)$ shadow superrotation
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# FLAT SPACE HOLOGRAPHY

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a developing story

[see also talks by Raju and Strominger]

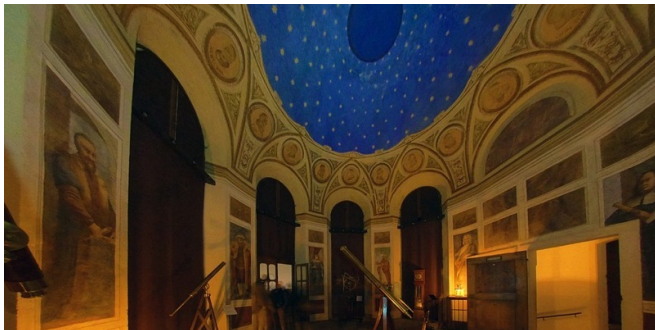


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THANK YOU!