



COLLÈGE
DE FRANCE
—1530—

New symmetries at spatial infinity

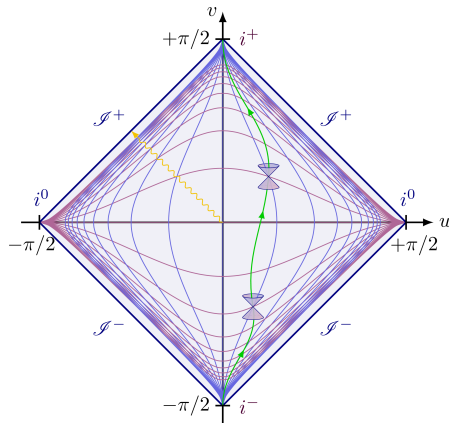
Céline Zwikel

Based on 2603.08784 with F. Girelli, S. Langenscheidt, G. Neri, C. Pollack

June '26

4d asymptotically flat spacetimes

- Spacetimes that are asymptotically Minkowski
- Why? Detectors are very far from the sources (BH mergers, etc)
- Spatial infinity (i^0)
[see also Maël's talk]



[Figure Neutelings]

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Asymptotic symmetries as symmetries for gravity

Observables in gravity need a boundary

- How to define energy in gravity?
- Locally, it is impossible (equivalence principle)

Observables in gravity need a boundary

- How to define energy in gravity?
- Locally, it is impossible (equivalence principle)
- One needs a BOUNDARY to define a charge/generator associated to a symmetry via Noether procedure
- Same for electromagnetism: electric charge is measured using Gauss law

Asymptotic symmetries - a brief sketch

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If non-vanishing, it is PHYSICAL (not pure gauge)
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Method: covariant phase space [review: Fiorucci '21] or Hamiltonian [review: Henneaux's lectures at College de France '21-'22 & '22-'23]

Caution: answer depends on the choice of the asymptotic structure

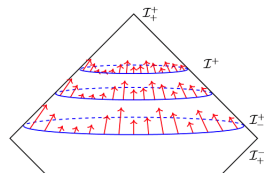
Example: BMS algebra [Bondi et al. '61, Sachs '61]

- Exact symmetries of Minkowski
Poincaré algebra
 $\mathfrak{iso}(1,3) = \mathfrak{so}(1,3) \oplus \text{translations}$

$$x \rightarrow x + \text{constant}$$

- Asymptotic symmetries of asymptotically flat
spacetimes [Compère-Gralla-Wei '23]
 $\text{BMS} = \mathfrak{iso}(1,3) \oplus \text{supertranslations}$

$$x \rightarrow x + c(x)$$



[Action of
supertranslation by Lim
Zheng Liang]

Why?

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- Quantum Gravity: quantum states form a representation of the asymptotic symmetry algebra $\rightarrow$ Non-perturbative handle on Quantum Gravity
- Connection with low energy physics (infrared triangle)

Symmetries at spatial infinity

Main result

- New asymptotic symmetries at spatial infinity: *extension of BMS by logarithmic supertranslations (no parity conditions imposed)*

log-BMS: $\mathfrak{iso}(1,3) \ltimes \text{Heisenberg}(\text{supertranslation}, \text{log-supertranslation})$

$Q_{\text{supertranslation}} \sim \text{mass aspects}$

$Q_{\text{log-supertranslation}} \sim \mathcal{I} \text{ supertranslation Goldstone aspects}$

Main result

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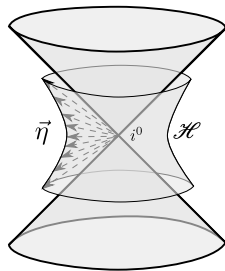
- BMS frame invariant notion of angular momentum (using the construction of [Fuentealba-Henneaux-Troessaert '22])

$$\mathfrak{iso}(1, 3) \oplus \text{Heisenberg}(\text{supertranslation, log-supertranslation})$$

Spatial infinity

- In Penrose's conformal compactification is a point but the fields are not single valued
- Blow-up of spatial infinity [Ashtekar-Hansen '77], such that it asymptotes to an unit-hyperboloid.

$$\lim_{\rho \rightarrow \infty} \frac{ds^2}{\rho^2} = (-d\tau^2 + \cosh^2 \tau d\Omega^2) = \mathbf{h}_{ab} dx^a dx^b.$$



[Figure from 1902.08200]

$$\text{Parity: } F(\tau, \theta, \phi) \rightarrow F(-\tau, \pi - \theta, \pi + \phi) = \begin{cases} +F & \text{even} \\ -F & \text{odd} \end{cases}$$

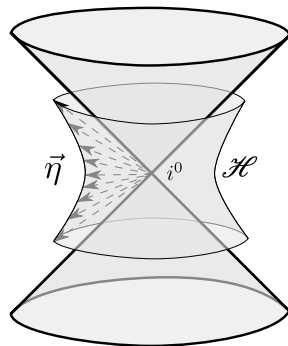
Beig-Schmidt coordinate chart

- Minkowski:

$$\eta_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = d\rho^2 + \rho^2 \mathbf{h}_{ab} dx^a dx^b$$

- Fall-offs:

$$g_{\mu\nu} - \eta_{\mu\nu} = o(\rho)^0$$



[Figure from 1902.08200]

Charge analysis

- Covariant phase space
 - [Ashtekar-Bombelli-Reula '91] Poincaré
 - [Compère-Dehouck '11] Lorentz + log translations + supertranslations
 - [Troessaert '17] BMS and connection to smooth null infinity upon imposing parity conditions (see also [Prabhu '19, Prabhu-Shehzad '21, Capone-Nguyen-Parisini '22])

$$\mathfrak{so}(1,3) \ltimes \mathbb{R}_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}$$

- Hamiltonian
 - [Regge-Teitelboim '88] Poincaré
 - [Henneaux-Troessaert '18] BMS
 - [Fiorucci-Matulich-Ruzziconi '24] gBMS

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 - [Henneaux-Troessaert '18] BMS
 - [Fiorucci-Matulich-Ruzziconi '24] gBMS
 - [Fuentealba-Henneaux-Troessaert '22] = BMS + logarithmic supertranslations H

$$\text{FHT log-BMS: } \mathfrak{iso}(1,3) \ltimes (\mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}, H_{\text{even}}^{\text{super}}))$$

Project:

Goal: Log-supertranslations in covariant phase space in Beig-Schmidt coordinates

Why:

- easier to map spatial infinity to null infinities
useful for the gravitational S -matrix
- no need to impose parity conditions
usually imposed for obtaining finiteness and/or for connecting to smooth null infinity
- independent derivation of FHT results

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We will obtain an enlarged symmetry algebra

$$\text{log BMS: } \mathfrak{iso}(1,3) \ltimes [\mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}, H_{\text{even}}^{\text{super}}) \oplus \mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{even}}^{\text{super}}, H_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}) \oplus \mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{sing}}, H_{\text{reg}})]$$

Set-up: Beig–Schmidt coordinates chart

- without imposing parity conditions
- with a generic polyhomogeneous radial expansion, starting at first order

Criteria and method:

- *Finiteness* obtained using the regularization scheme of [McNees-Zwikel '23, '24]
- *Conserved charges* obtained by imposing new boundary conditions

Beig-Schmidt polyhomogenous expansion

$$ds^2 = \sigma^2 d\rho^2 + \rho^2 h_{ab} dx^a dx^b + o(\rho^{-1}) d\rho dx^a$$

Expansion

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= 1 + \frac{1}{\rho}(\bar{\sigma} + \log \rho \tilde{\sigma}) + o(\rho^{-1}), \\ h_{ab} &= h_{ab}^0 + \frac{1}{\rho}(\bar{h}_{ab} + \log \rho \tilde{h}_{ab}) + o(\rho^{-1}),\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\tau}_{ab} &= \bar{h}_{ab} - \tilde{h}_{ab} - \mathbf{h}_{ab}(\bar{h} - \tilde{h} + 4\bar{\sigma}), \\ \tilde{\tau}_{ab} &= \tilde{h}_{ab} - \mathbf{h}_{ab}\tilde{h}, \\ \bar{\tau} &= -2(\bar{h} - \tilde{h} + 6\bar{\sigma}), \\ \tilde{\tau} &= -2\tilde{h}.\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Kerr-Taub-NUT: } \bar{\sigma} = GM \cosh 2\tau \operatorname{sech} \tau, \quad \bar{\tau}_{ab} = -2GNk_{(0)ab}$$

Boundary conditions for conserved charges (for $\tilde{\sigma} = 0$)

New boundary conditions:

$$h_{ab}^0 = \mathbf{h}_{ab}, \quad \tilde{\tau} = 0 = \bar{\tau}, \quad \tilde{\tau}_{\langle ab \rangle} = 2D_{\langle a}D_{b \rangle}\tilde{\beta}, \quad (D^2 + 3)\tilde{\beta} = 0$$

Consequences: electric E_{ab} and magnetic part of the Weyl tensor B_{ab}

$$E_{ab} = \frac{1}{\rho}\bar{E}_{ab} + \frac{\log \rho}{\rho}\mathbf{0} + o(\rho^{-1}) \quad B_{ab} = \frac{1}{\rho}\bar{B}_{ab} + \frac{\log \rho}{\rho}\mathbf{0} + o(\rho^{-1})$$

$$\bar{E}_{ab} \approx -D_{\langle a}D_{b \rangle}\bar{\sigma} + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{\tau}_{\langle ab \rangle}, \quad \bar{B}_{ab} \approx -\frac{1}{2}\nabla \times \bar{\tau}_{ab}$$

Residual symmetries

$$\xi^\rho = \omega(x^c) + \log \rho H(x^c) + o(\rho^0) \quad \xi^a = \mathcal{Y}^a(x^c) + o(\rho^0)$$

- $\mathcal{Y}^a$ are diffeomorphisms of h_{ab}^0
- ω are supertranslations of both parities and translations
- H are log-supertranslations of both parities and translations

Algebra

$$\mathfrak{X}(\text{hyperboloid})_{\mathcal{Y}^a} \oplus [(\mathbb{R})_\omega \oplus (\mathbb{R})_H]$$

$$[\xi_1, \xi_2] = \xi_{12} \text{ with } \xi_i = \xi_{(\omega_i, H_i, \mathcal{Y}_i)},$$

$$\omega_{12} = \mathcal{Y}_1^a \partial_a \omega_2 - \mathcal{Y}_2^a \partial_a \omega_1, \quad H_{12} = \mathcal{Y}_1^a \partial_a H_2 - \mathcal{Y}_2^a \partial_a H_1, \quad \mathcal{Y}_{12}^a = \mathcal{Y}_1^b \partial_b \mathcal{Y}_2^a - \mathcal{Y}_2^b \partial_b \mathcal{Y}_1^a$$

Field transformations:

$$\delta_\xi \bar{\sigma} = \mathcal{L}_Y \bar{\sigma} + H,$$

$$\delta_\xi \bar{\tau}_{\langle ab \rangle} = \mathcal{L}_Y \bar{\tau}_{\langle ab \rangle} + 2D_{\langle a} D_{b \rangle} \omega,$$

$$\delta_\xi \tilde{\tau}_{\langle ab \rangle} = \mathcal{L}_Y \tilde{\tau}_{\langle ab \rangle} + 2D_{\langle a} D_{b \rangle} H,$$

$$\delta_\xi \tilde{\sigma} = \mathcal{L}_Y \tilde{\sigma}$$

$$\delta_\xi \bar{\tau} = \mathcal{L}_Y \bar{\tau} - 4(D^2 + 3)\omega$$

$$\delta_\xi \tilde{\tau} = \mathcal{L}_Y \tilde{\tau} - 4(D^2 + 3)H,$$

Boundary conditions:

$$h_{ab}^0 = \mathbf{h}_{ab}, \quad \tilde{\tau} = 0 = \bar{\tau}, \quad \tilde{\tau}_{\langle ab \rangle} = 2D_{\langle a} D_{b \rangle} \tilde{\beta}$$

Consequences:

- $\mathcal{Y}^a$ are diffeomorphisms of the 6 Killing vectors of $\mathbf{h}_{ab}$, ie $D_a \mathcal{Y}_b + D_b \mathcal{Y}_a = 0$
- $(D^2 + 3)H = 0 = (D^2 + 3)\omega$

Solutions to $(D^2 + 3)f = 0$ on the hyperboloid

- Odd *Regular functions* are given in terms of $\ell = 0, 1$ harmonics satisfying $(D_a D_b + \mathbf{h}_{ab})f = 0$.

$$\zeta_0^{\text{odd}} = -\sinh(\tau) Y_{0,0}(x^A), \quad \zeta_{1m}^{\text{odd}} = \cosh(\tau) Y_{1,m}(x^A), \quad m = -1, 0, 1,$$

- Even *Singular functions* are given in terms of $\ell = 0, 1$ harmonics, but do not satisfy $(D_a D_b + \mathbf{h}_{ab})f = 0$

$$\zeta_0^{\text{even}} = \frac{\cosh(2\tau)}{\cosh(\tau)} Y_{0,0}(x^A), \quad \zeta_{1m}^{\text{even}} = \left(2\sinh(\tau) + \frac{\tanh(\tau)}{\cosh(\tau)} \right) Y_{1,m}(x^A), \quad m = -1, 0, 1$$

and they are parity-time even. We denote them as f_{sing}

- Odd/even *Super functions* correspond to higher harmonics ($\ell \geq 2$)

Example: ordinary translations are ω_{reg} .

Note: H_{sing} is disallowed, by setting $\tilde{\beta}_{\text{sing}} = 0$, for preventing reaching negative mass solution.

Intermediate summary

- Subleading solution space:

$$\bar{\sigma}, \quad \bar{\tau}_{\langle ab \rangle} = \bar{\wp}_{\langle ab \rangle} + D_{\langle a} D_{b \rangle} \bar{\beta}, \quad \tilde{\tau}_{\langle ab \rangle} = D_{\langle a} D_{b \rangle} \tilde{\beta}, \quad \tilde{\beta}_{\text{sing}} = 0$$

where $f = (\bar{\sigma}, \bar{\beta}, \tilde{\beta})$ are solutions of $(D^2 + 3)f = 0$.

- Subsubleading solution space $\ni T_{ab}$, carrying information about angular momentum
- Boundary conditions

$$h_{ab}^0 = \mathbf{h}_{ab}, \quad \tilde{\tau} = 0 = \bar{\tau}, \quad \tilde{\wp}_{\langle ab \rangle} = 0$$

- Residual symmetries $\xi(\mathcal{Y}^a, \omega_{\text{reg}}, \omega_{\text{sing}}, \omega_{\text{super}}, H_{\text{reg}}, H_{\text{super}})$

$$\xi = \omega \partial_\rho + H \log \rho \partial_\rho + \mathcal{Y}^a \partial_a M \quad (D^2 + 3)\omega = 0 = (D^2 + 3)H$$

Symplectic current

Renormalization scheme [McNees-Zwikel '23, '24]: *Prescription of corner ambiguities that guarantee finite symplectic current and charges.*

$$\Theta^\rho = \frac{\sqrt{-h_0}}{2\kappa^2} \left(T^{ab} \delta h_{ab}^0 + \bar{\sigma} \delta \bar{\tau} + \bar{\beta} \delta \tilde{\tau} + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\wp}^{\langle ab \rangle} \delta \tilde{\wp}_{\langle ab \rangle} \right)$$

As announced, enforcing the boundary conditions yields $\Theta^\rho = 0$ hence conserved charges.

Charges

[Iyer-Wald '94]: $\delta_\xi \Theta^\rho = \partial_a k_\xi^{\rho a} + \text{eom}$, $\delta Q_\xi = \oint_{S^2} k_\xi$

$$Q_\xi = \frac{2}{\kappa^2} \oint_{S^2} \cosh^2 \tau s_a \left[\omega D^a \bar{\sigma} - \bar{\sigma} D^a \omega + H D^a \bar{\beta} - \bar{\beta} D^a H + \frac{1}{2} T^{ab} \gamma_b \right]$$

s_a timelike normal

- Conserved
- Kerr black holes, $Q_{\text{time translation}} \sim \text{mass}$, $Q_{\text{rotation}} \sim \text{angular momentum}$
- $\bar{\beta}$ corresponds to the supertranslation Goldstone at null infinity [Compere-Gralla-Wei '23]

Asymptotic symmetry algebra

Representation theorem:

$$\{Q_{\xi_1}, Q_{\xi_2}\} = \delta_{\xi_2} Q_{\xi_1} = Q_{[\xi_1, \xi_2]_*} + K_{(\xi_1, \xi_2)}.$$

$$K_{(\xi_1, \xi_2)} = \frac{2}{\kappa^2} \oint_{S^2} \cosh^2 \tau s_a [\omega_1 D^a H_2 - H_2 D^a \omega_1 + H_1 D^a \omega_2 - \omega_2 D^a H_1]$$

$$\text{log BMS: } \mathfrak{iso}(1, 3)_{(\mathcal{Y}^a, \omega_{\text{reg}})} \ltimes [\mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}, H_{\text{even}}^{\text{super}}) \oplus \mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{even}}^{\text{super}}, H_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}) \oplus \mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{sing}}, H_{\text{reg}})]$$

Time translation commutes with $(H_{\text{reg}}, H_{\text{super}}, \omega_{\text{sing}}, \omega_{\text{super}})$, so the vacuum is degenerate along these directions in the phase space.

Recovering former results

- [Compère-Dehouck '11] $\tilde{\tau}_{ab} = 0$, no log-supertranslations.
Beig-Schmidt gauge, different renormalization techniques, same charges
- Restriction on parity to glue to smooth null infinity [Compère-Gralla-Wei '23]:
 - $\bar{\beta}$ odd and $\bar{\sigma}$ even for harmonics $\ell \geq 2$.
Asymptotic symmetries: $\xi = \xi(\omega_{\text{reg}}, \omega_{\text{super}}^{\text{odd}}, H_{\text{super}}^{\text{even}})$

$$\text{FHT - log BMS: } \mathfrak{iso}(1,3) \ltimes \mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}, H_{\text{even}}^{\text{super}})$$

Caution: The match with FHT at the level of boundary conditions/metric is hard as they use a different coordinates system. We match the algebra structure.

- $\tilde{\tau}_{ab} = 0$, we recover BMS

$$\text{BMS}_{(\mathcal{Y}_a, \omega_{\text{reg}}, \omega_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}})}$$

Results

- New finite and conserved charges associated to log-supertranslations in the covariant space formalism without imposing parity conditions
- New asymptotic symmetry algebra at spatial infinity

$$\mathfrak{iso}(1,3) \oplus [\mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}, H_{\text{even}}^{\text{super}}) \oplus \mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{even}}^{\text{super}}, H_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}) \oplus \mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{sing}}, H_{\text{reg}})]$$

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- Redefinition of the Lorentz generators such that Poincaré is an ideal (similar construction as in [FHT '22, Fuentealba-Henneaux '23]). “BMS frame independent” definition of angular momentum

$$\mathfrak{iso}(1,3) \oplus [\mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}, H_{\text{even}}^{\text{super}}) \oplus \mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{even}}^{\text{super}}, H_{\text{odd}}^{\text{super}}) \oplus \mathfrak{h}(\omega_{\text{sing}}, H_{\text{reg}})]$$

Future prospects:

- Log BMS as symmetries of null infinity? [\[WIP\]](#)
- We kept both parities. What is the other sector?
- Holographic interpretation of these new charges?
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Merci!

In modes, $F = \frac{1}{2 \cosh(\tau)} \sum F_{\ell,m}^O f(\tau)_\ell^O Y_{\ell,m} + F_{\ell,m}^E f(\tau)_\ell^E Y_{\ell,m}$

$$Q_\omega = \frac{1}{4\pi G} \sum_{\ell m} (\hat{\sigma}_{\ell m}^E \hat{\omega}_{\ell,-m}^O - \hat{\sigma}_{\ell m}^O \hat{\omega}_{\ell,-m}^E) \mathcal{C}_\ell$$

$$Q_H = \frac{1}{4\pi G} \sum_{\ell \geq 2, m} (\hat{\beta}_{\ell m}^E \hat{H}_{\ell,-m}^O - \hat{\beta}_{\ell m}^O \hat{H}_{\ell,-m}^E) \mathcal{C}_\ell + \frac{1}{4\pi G} \sum_{\ell=0,1,m} (\hat{\beta}_{\ell m}^E \hat{H}_{\ell,-m}^O) \mathcal{C}_\ell$$

$\mathcal{C}_\ell$ are numbers.

$$K_{(\xi_1, \xi_2)} = \frac{2}{\kappa^2} \sum_{\ell \geq 2, m} ((\hat{\omega}_1)_{\ell,m}^E (\hat{H}_2)_{\ell,-m}^O - (\hat{\omega}_1)_{\ell,m}^O (\hat{H}_2)_{\ell,-m}^E) \mathcal{C}_\ell + \frac{2}{\kappa^2} \sum_{\ell=0,1,m} (\hat{\omega}_1)_{\ell,m}^E (\hat{H}_2)_{\ell,-m}^O \mathcal{C}_\ell -$$