



René Magritte, *La page blanche* (1967)

Logarithmic soft graviton theorem from asymptotic symmetries

based on 2309.11220 w/

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Established by the European Commission

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18 Jan 2024



Intro and motivations

Quantum gravity in 4d asymptotically flat spacetimes

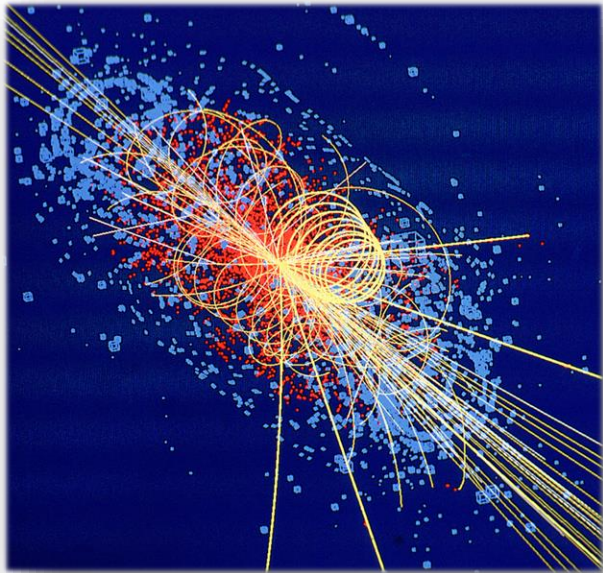
→ vanishing cosmological constant
 $\Lambda = 0$

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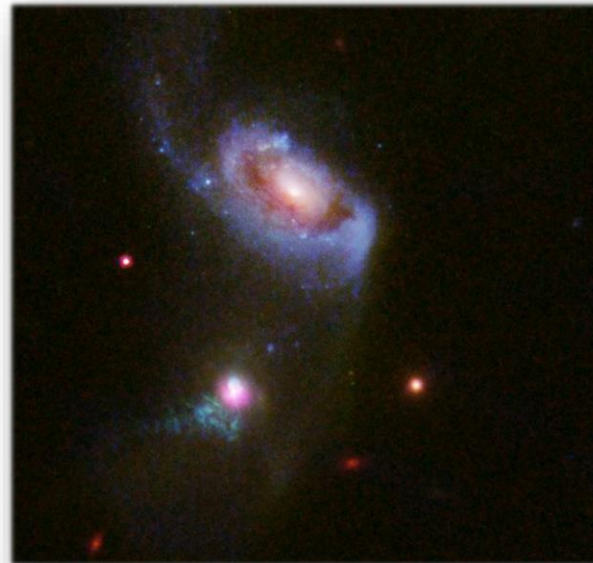
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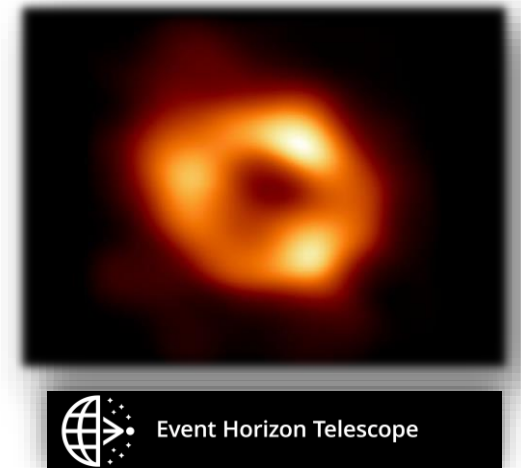
These spacetimes are relevant



from collider physics ...



... to astrophysics
($<$ cosmological scales)



Intro and motivations

Recent developments in quantum gravity for flat spacetimes

- Universal connections between fundamental results (from the 1960's) in **General Relativity** and **Quantum Field Theory**

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'asymptotic symmetries'

Bondi, Penrose,...

Gravitational waves in general relativity
VII. Waves from axi-symmetric isolated systems
BY H. BONDI, F.R.S., M. G. J. VAN DER BURG AND A. W. K. METZNER
(Received 8 January 1962—Revised 2 April 1962)

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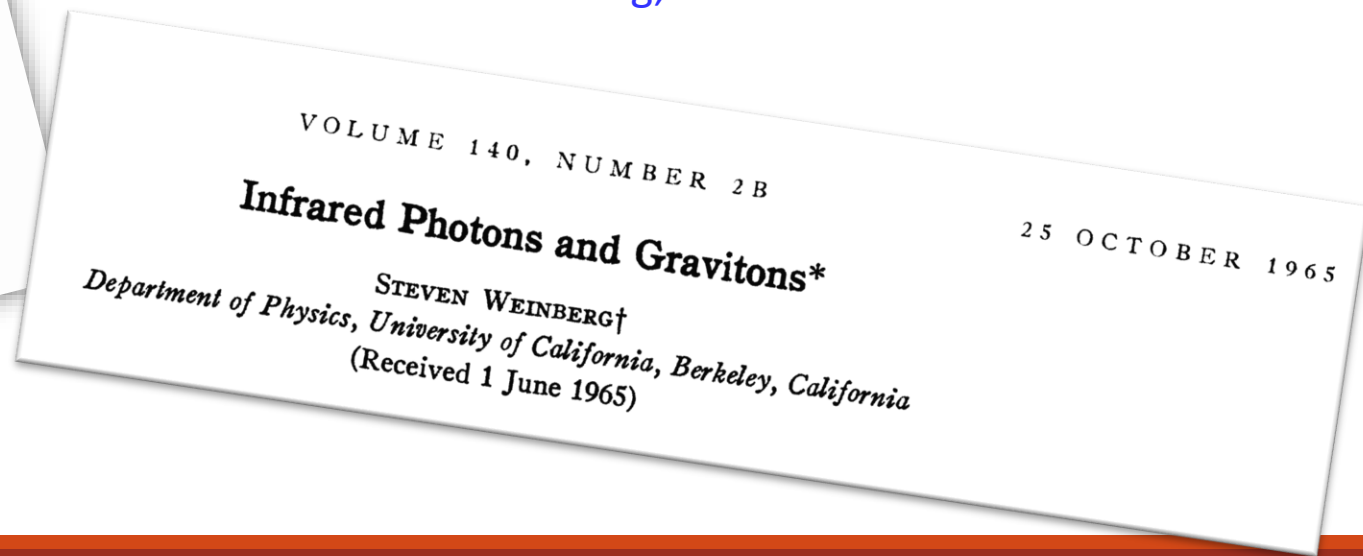
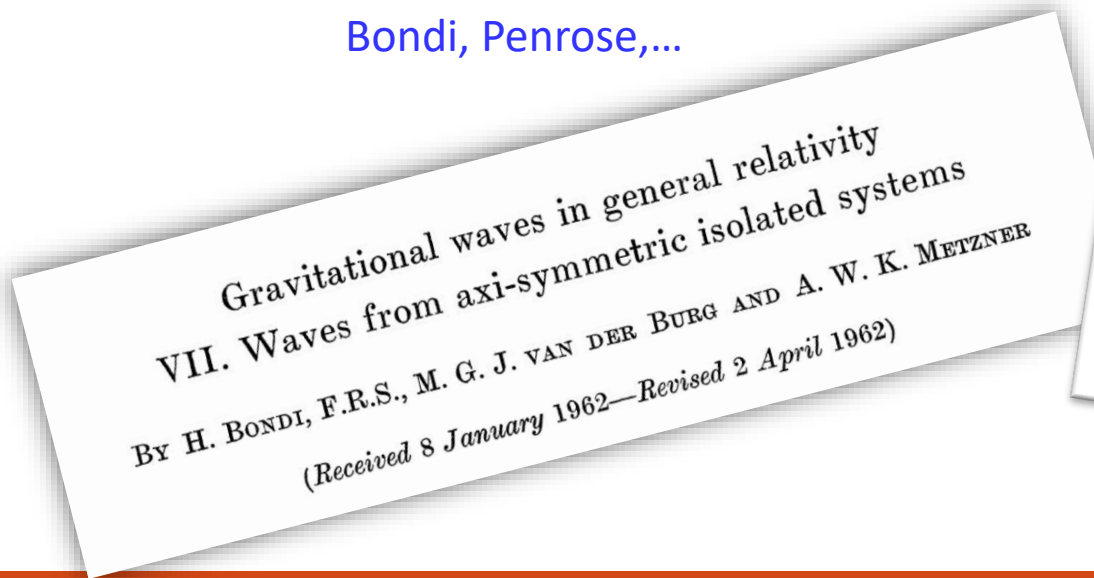
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amplitudes with a zero-energy particle (soft theorems)

Weinberg,...



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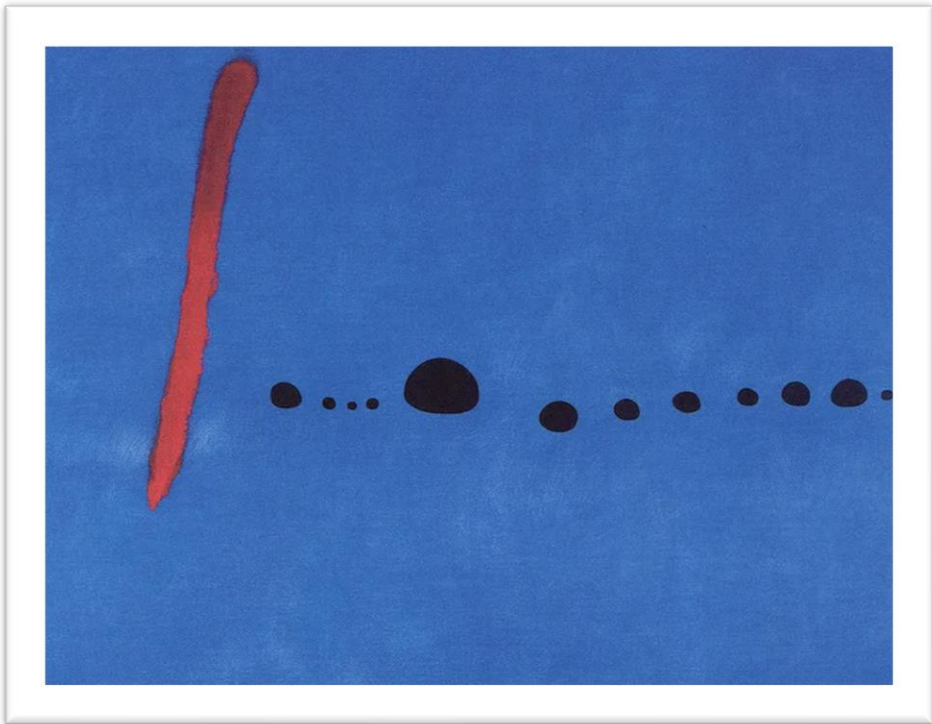
amplitudes with a zero-energy particle (soft theorems)

Weinberg,...

- General lesson: the infrared structure is **much richer** than we thought!

new observables, new patterns in scattering amplitudes,...

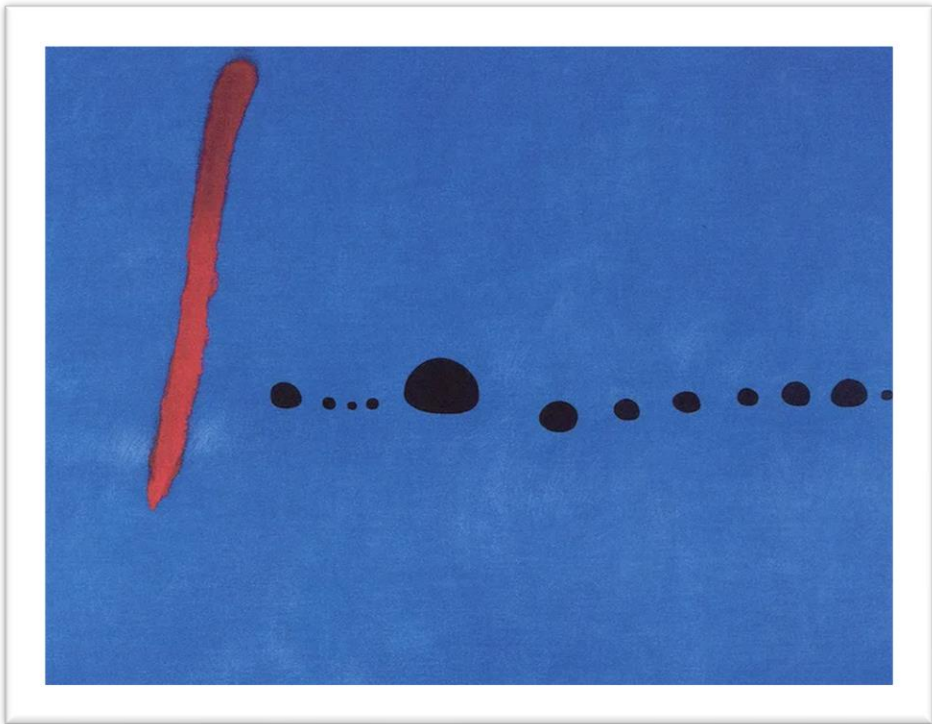
→ towards a 'holographic description'



Joan Miró, *Bleu II* (1961)

Outline

1. Asymptotically flat spacetimes
2. Soft theorems \longleftrightarrow asymptotic symmetries
3. New results for the *logarithmic* soft graviton theorem



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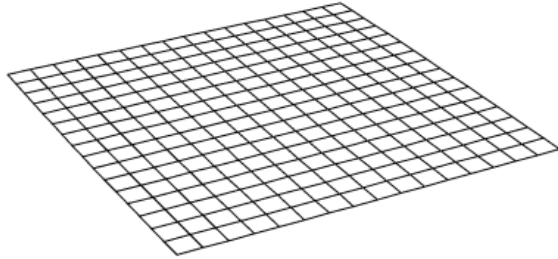
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A surprise in flat spacetimes

The BMS symmetries [Bondi-Metzner-van der Burg; Sachs, '62]

Minkowski metric (flat spacetime) in 4D



The geometry is described by the line element

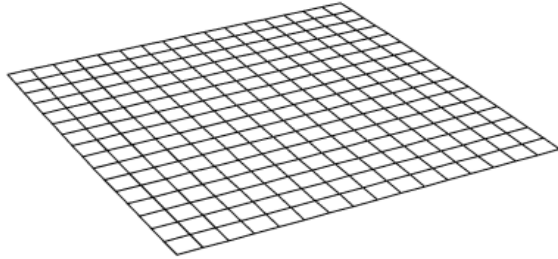
$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + dx_1^2 + dx_2^2 + dx_3^2$$

(measure of distance in flat spacetime)

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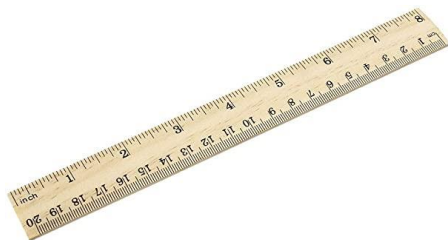


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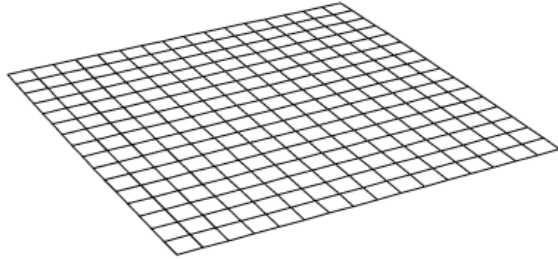
Change to *Bondi coordinates* (u, r, z, \bar{z})

$$t = u + r, \quad x_1 = \frac{r(z + \bar{z})}{1 + z\bar{z}}$$
$$x_2 = \frac{-ir(z - \bar{z})}{1 + z\bar{z}}, \quad x_3 = \frac{r(1 - z\bar{z})}{1 + z\bar{z}}$$

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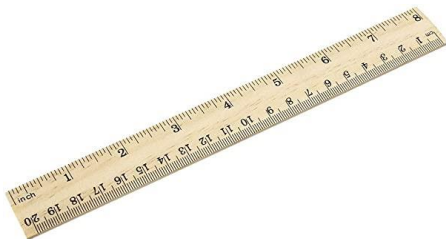


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$$z = e^{i\phi} \cot \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\bar{z} = e^{-i\phi} \cot \frac{\theta}{2}$$

$$\gamma_{z\bar{z}} = \frac{2}{(1 + z\bar{z})^2}$$

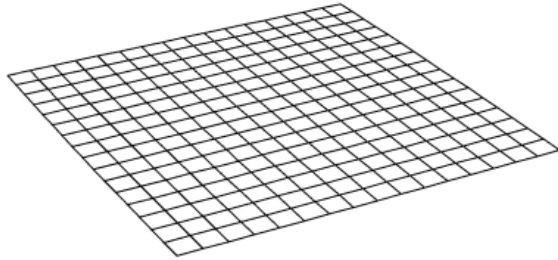
sphere angles



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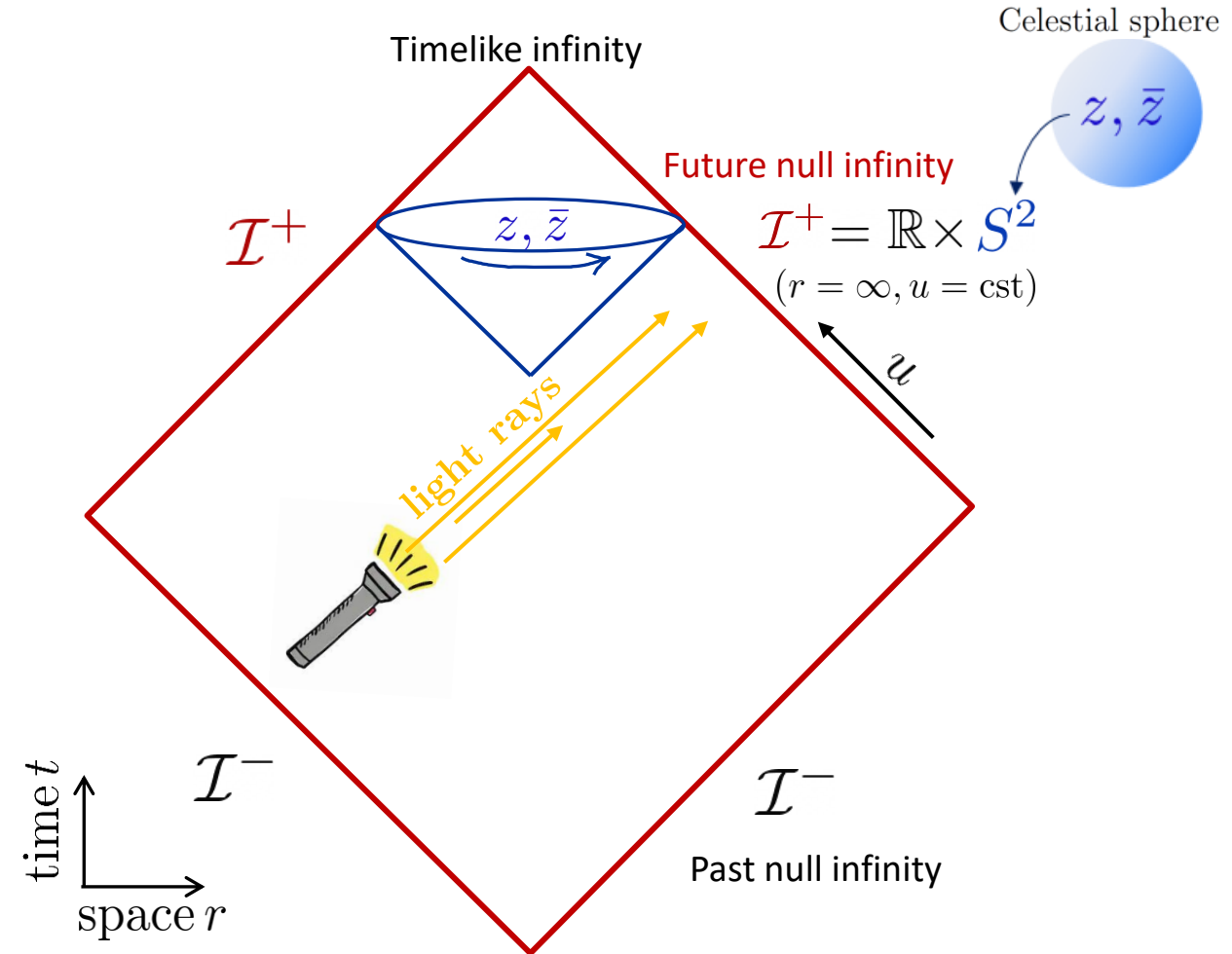
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$$u = t - r : \text{'retarded' null time}$$

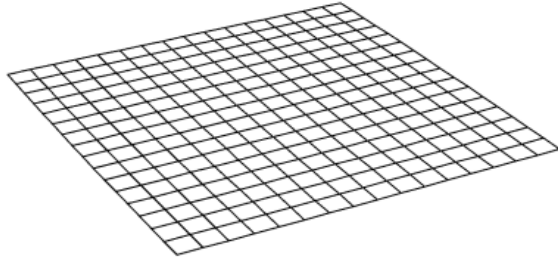


Penrose diagram of Minkowski

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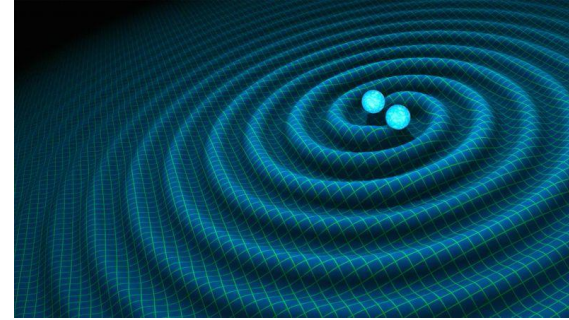
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$$ds^2 = -du^2 - 2dudr + 2r^2\gamma_{z\bar{z}} dzd\bar{z} + \frac{2M}{r}du^2 + rC_{zz}dz^2 + D^z C_{zz}dudz + \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{4}{3}(N_z + u\partial_z m_B) - \frac{1}{4}\partial_z(C_{zz}C^{zz}) \right) dudz + c.c. + \dots$$

Asymptotically flat spacetime (as $r \rightarrow \infty$)

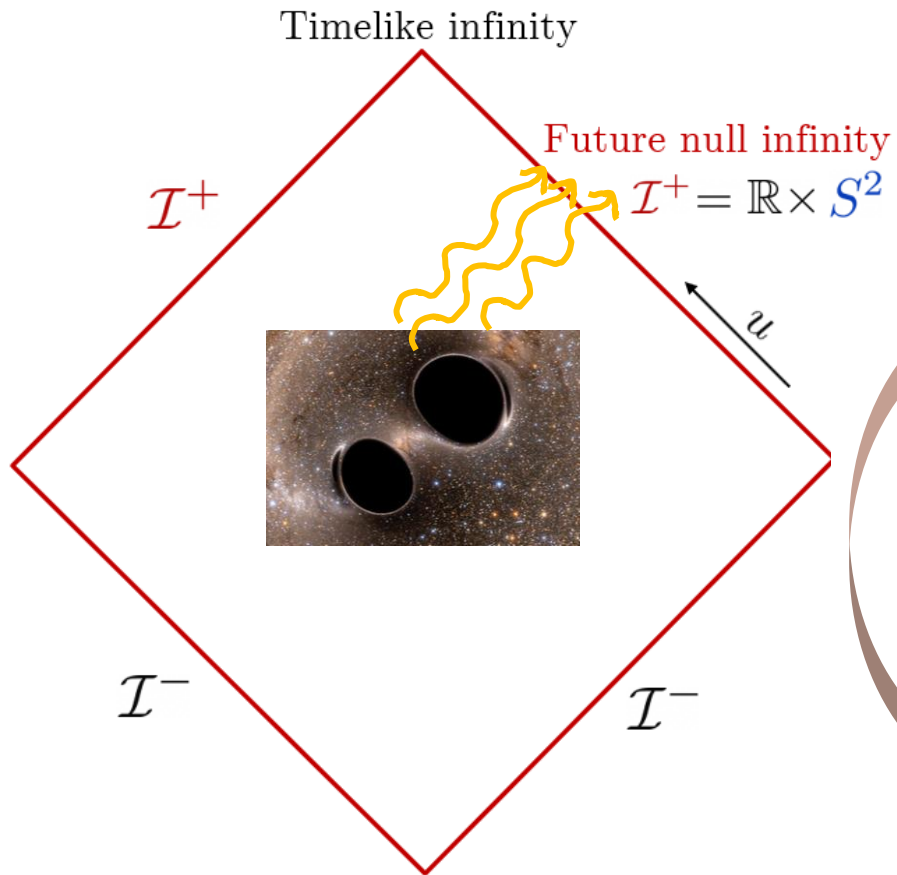


Curved spacetime that looks flat seen from a far distance. The deviation from Minkowski is dictated by **boundary conditions** for the metric.

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$M(u, z, \bar{z})$ gives the *energy* (e.g. black hole mass)

$N_z(u, z, \bar{z})$ gives the *angular momentum*

$C_{zz}(u, z, \bar{z})$ indicates the presence of **gravitational waves!**

$$\partial_u C_{zz} \neq 0$$

Mathematical description of a **radiating spacetime**

What are the symmetries of asymptotically flat spacetimes?

What are the symmetries of asymptotically flat spacetimes?

what was expected



Poincaré 4 spacetime translations
6 Lorentz transformations

what was found



Bondi-Metzner-Sachs (BMS) ('62)

Infinite-dimensional extension!

Supertranslations

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

[Barnich, Troessaert '10]

Asymptotically flat spacetimes in Bondi gauge:

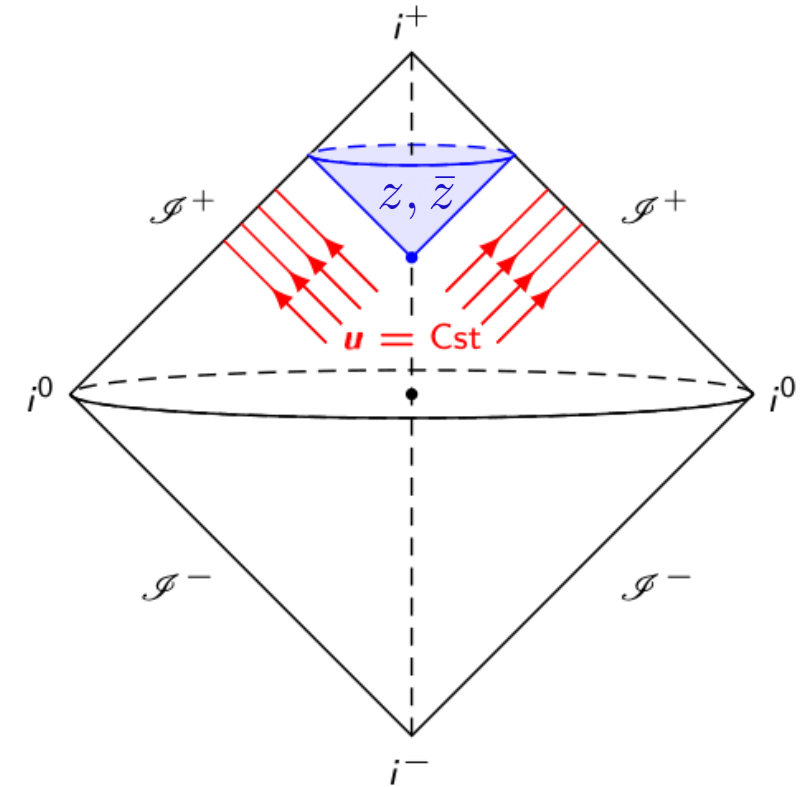
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 \end{aligned}$$

BMS **supertranslation** symmetries:

$$\xi = \mathcal{T}(z, \bar{z})\partial_u + \dots$$

arbitrary function
on the celestial sphere



4 Poincaré translations

↓ *Symmetry enhancement*

∞ **BMS supertranslations**

Supertranslations

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

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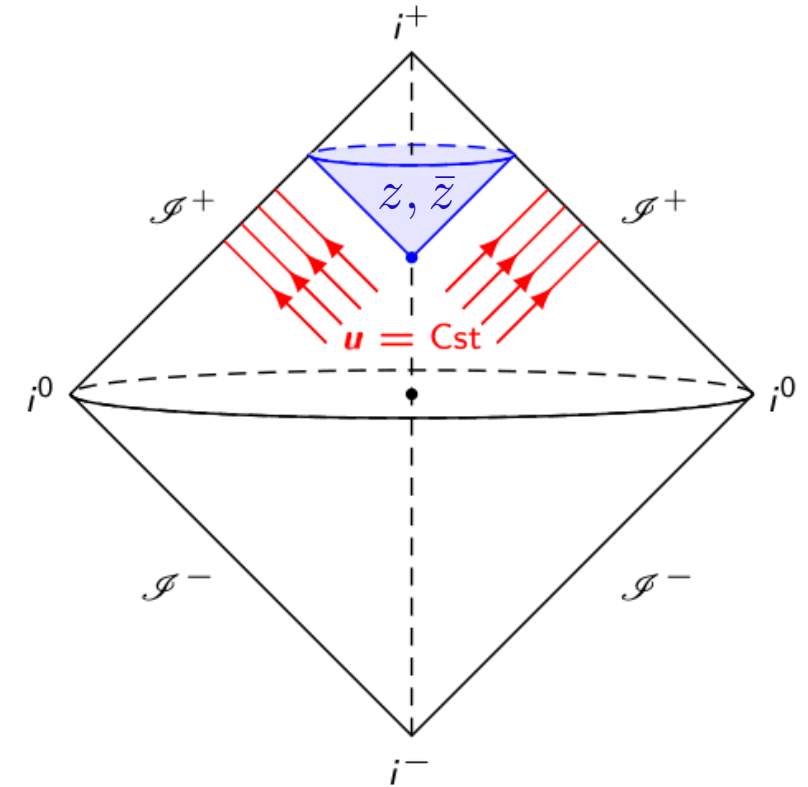
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$$\xi = \mathcal{T}(z, \bar{z})\partial_u + \dots$$

act non-trivially on the gravitational solution space

$$\delta_\xi M = \dots \quad \delta_\xi C_{zz} = (\dots)C_{zz} - 2D_z^2 \mathcal{T}$$



4 Poincaré translations

↓ *Symmetry enhancement*

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The fact that α is an arbitrary function of its arguments is quite annoying in some respects.

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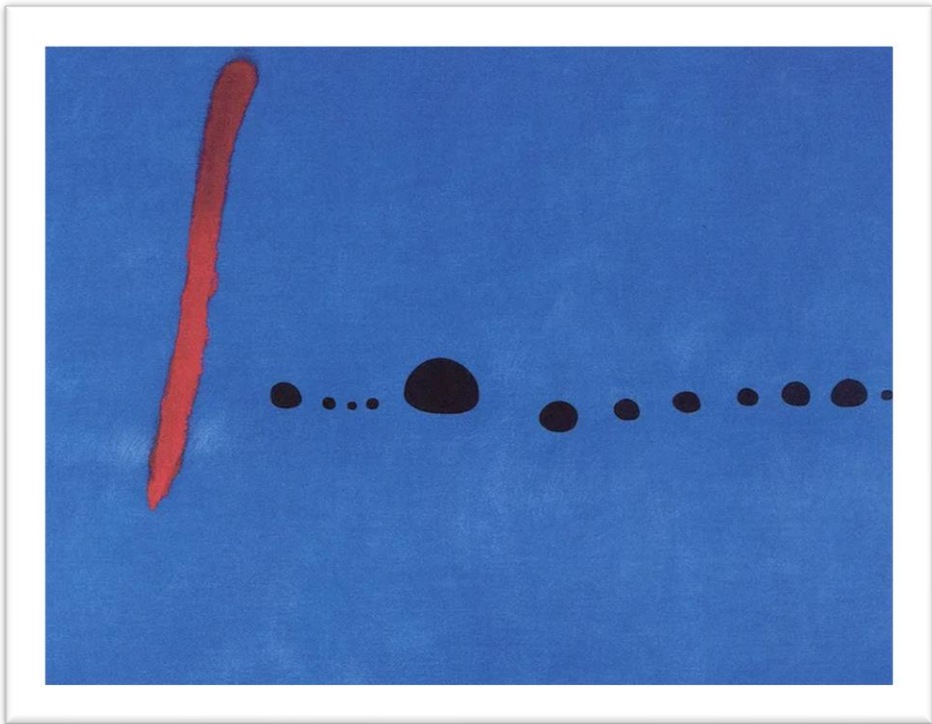
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[Sachs '62]

But...

Conceivably α is a blessing in disguise and the representations of the group (3.12) are more interesting than the representations of the Lorentz group.



Joan Miró, *Bleu II* (1961)

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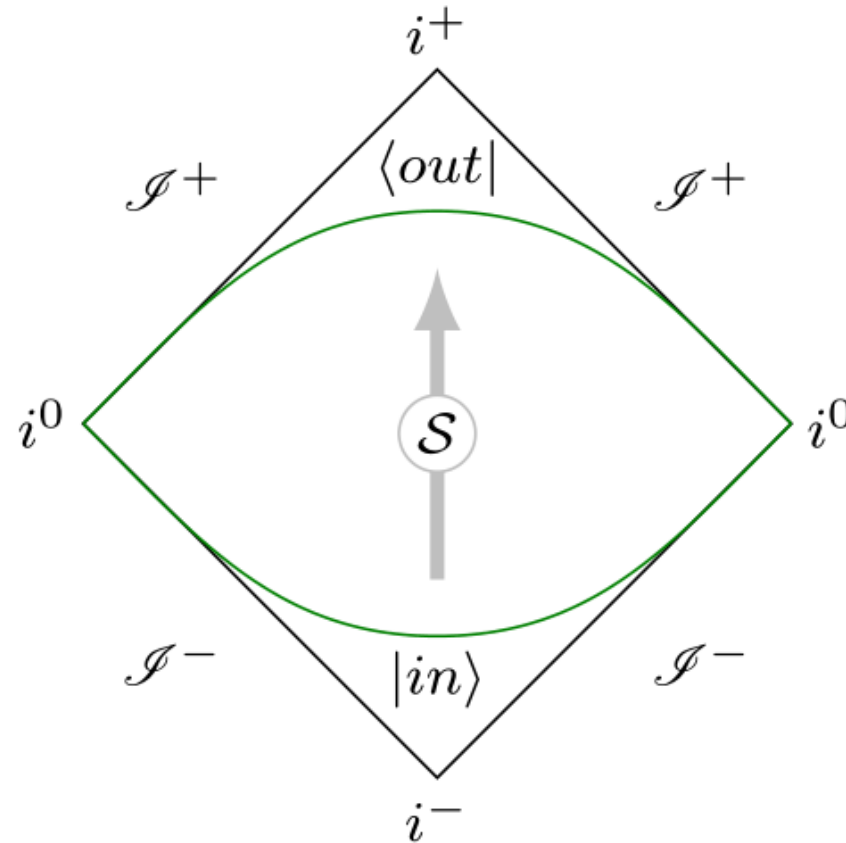
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BMS and the scattering problem

Seminal observation: BMS symmetries constrain the gravitational scattering problem!

[Strominger '14]

$\langle out|S|in\rangle$



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→ 2 key ingredients

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$$Q_{\mathcal{T}} = \frac{1}{4\pi G} \int d^2z \sqrt{\gamma} \mathcal{T} M$$



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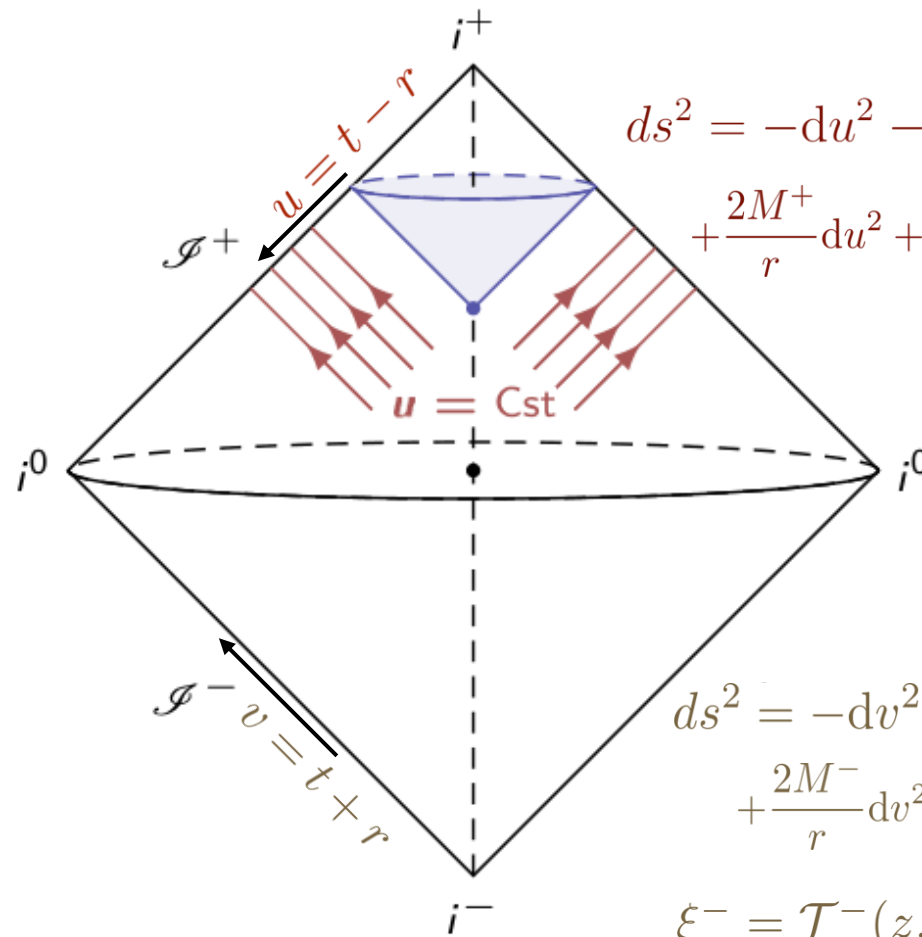
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$$\xi^- = \mathcal{T}^-(z, \bar{z}) \partial_v$$

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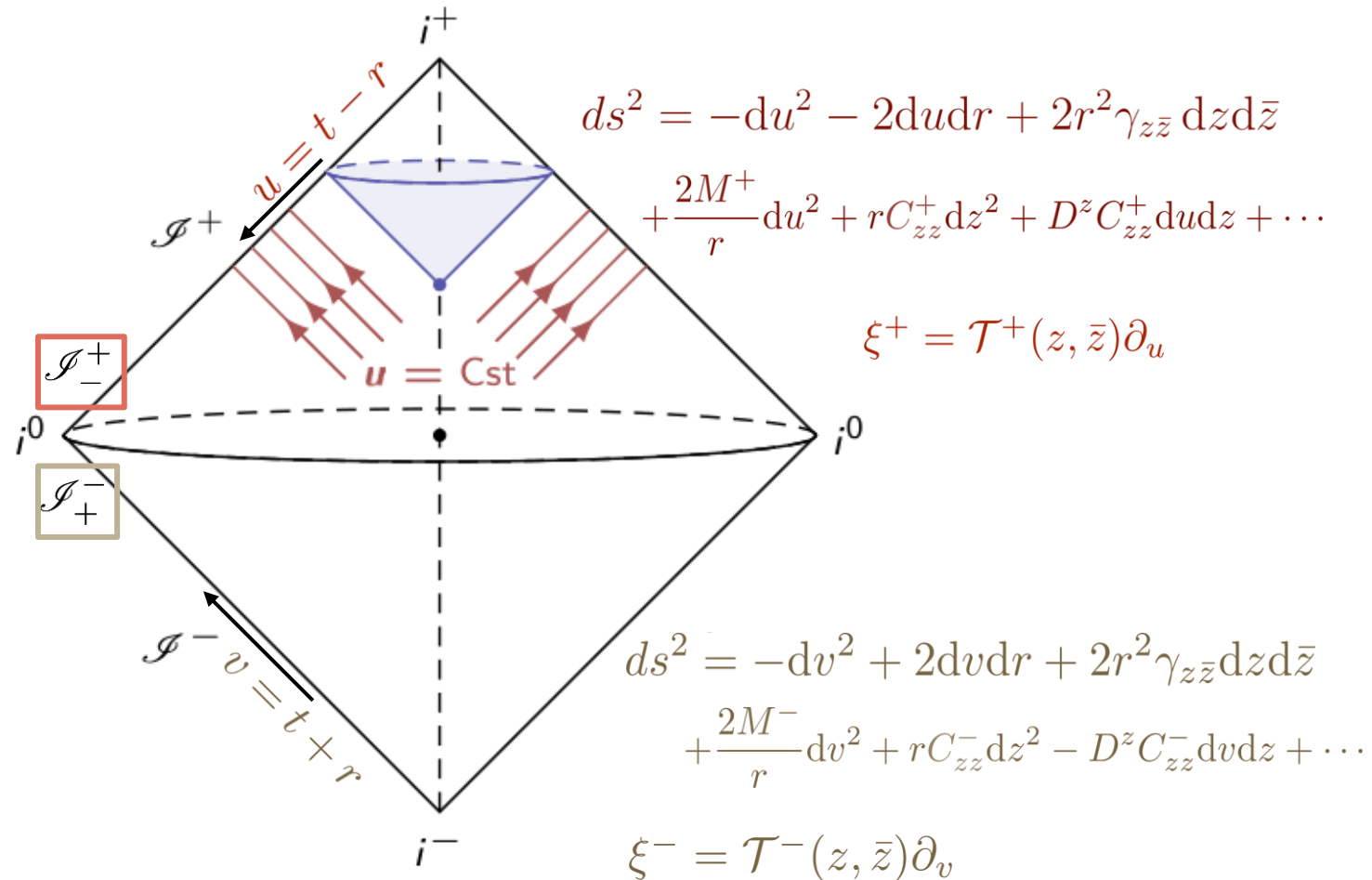
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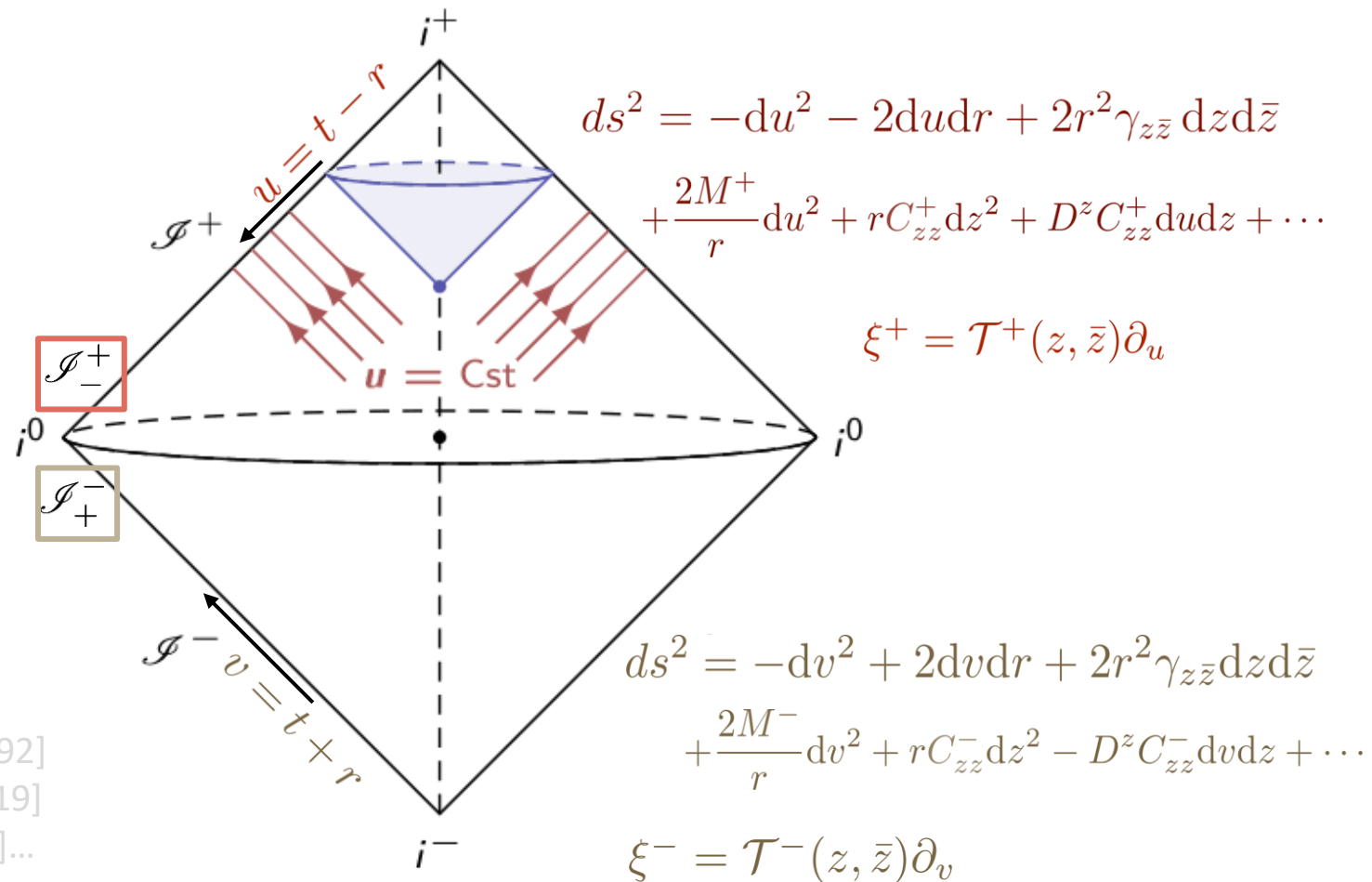
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Junction conditions

$$M^-(v, z, \bar{z})|_{\mathcal{I}^+_-} = M^+(u, z, \bar{z})|_{\mathcal{I}^+}$$

$$\mathcal{T}^-(z, \bar{z})|_{\mathcal{I}^+_-} = \mathcal{T}^+(z, \bar{z})|_{\mathcal{I}^+}$$

[Strominger '14], see also [Herberthson, Ludvigsen '92]
[Troessaert '18][Henneaux, Troessaert '18][Prabhu '19]
[Kroon, Mohamed '21][Capone, Nguyen, Parisini '22]...



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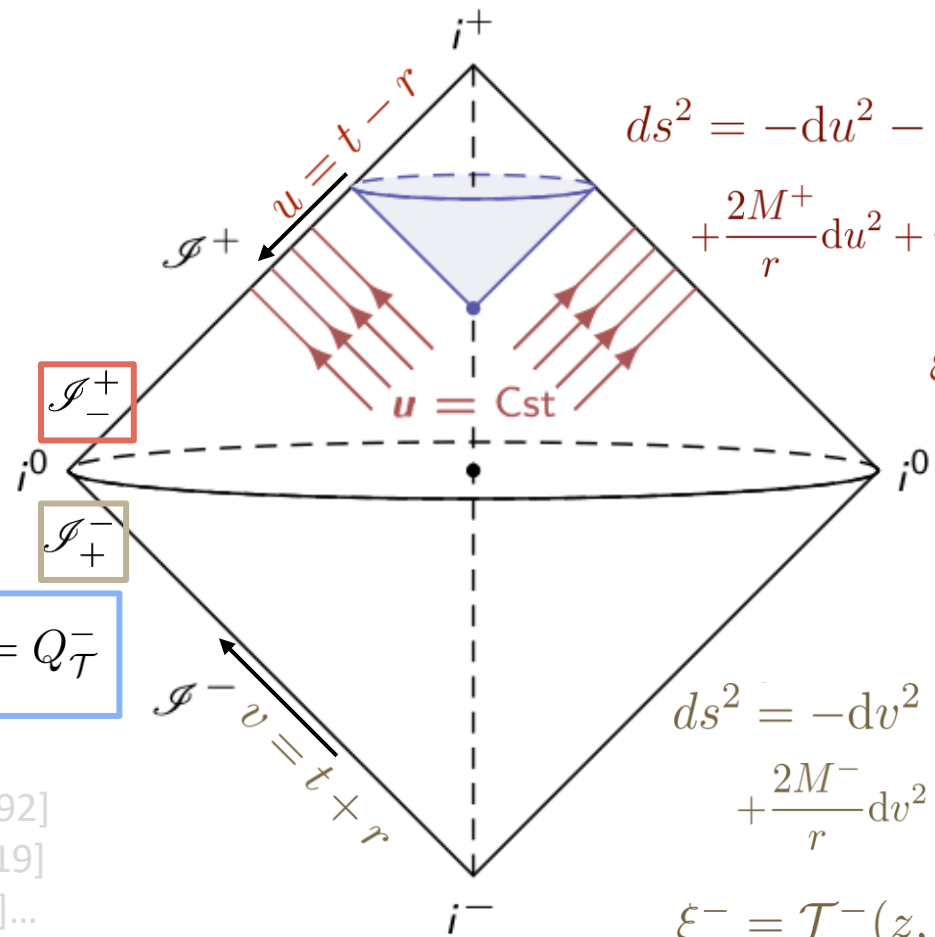
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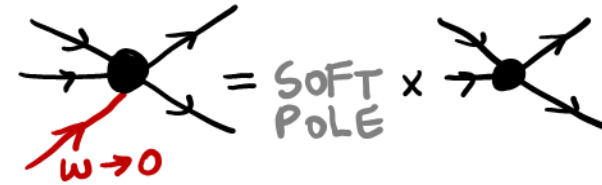
BMS and the scattering problem

Prime example:

The **leading soft graviton theorem** [Weinberg '65]

$$A_m = \langle \text{out} | S | \text{in} \rangle$$

+ soft particle (energy $\omega \rightarrow 0$)



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Prime example:

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n hard particles (p_k) + external graviton (q)

$$\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{A}_{n+1}(q) = S^{(0)} \mathcal{A}_n + \mathcal{O}(q^0)$$

$$S^{(0)} = \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{p_k^\mu p_k^\nu \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}(q)}{p_k \cdot q}$$

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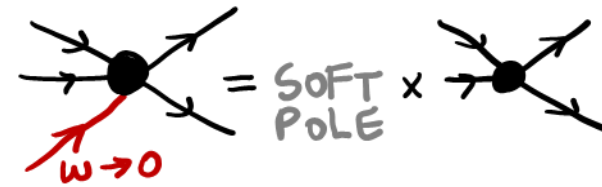
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is nothing but the **Ward identity** associated to **supertranslation** symmetry [He, Lysov, Mitra, Strominger '15]

$$\langle \text{out} | Q_{\mathcal{T}}^+ \mathcal{S} - \mathcal{S} Q_{\mathcal{T}}^- | \text{in} \rangle = 0$$



supertranslation charge

$$Q_{\mathcal{T}} = \frac{1}{4\pi G} \int d^2 z \sqrt{\gamma} \mathcal{T} M$$

3 languages for the same IR physics

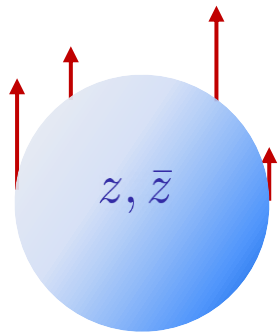
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Asymptotic symmetries

General Relativity

supertranslations

[Bondi-Metzner-Sachs '62]



$$\Delta C_{AB} \neq 0$$

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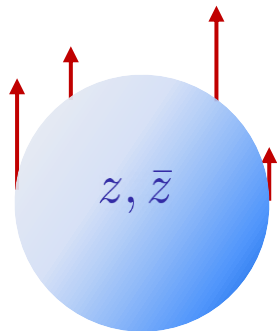
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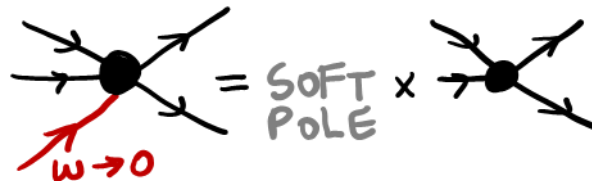
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Soft theorems

Quantum Field Theory

leading soft graviton
theorem

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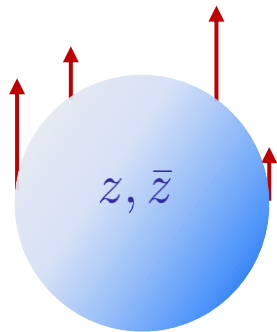
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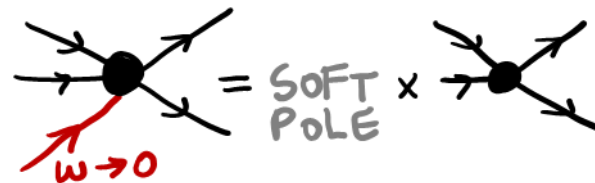
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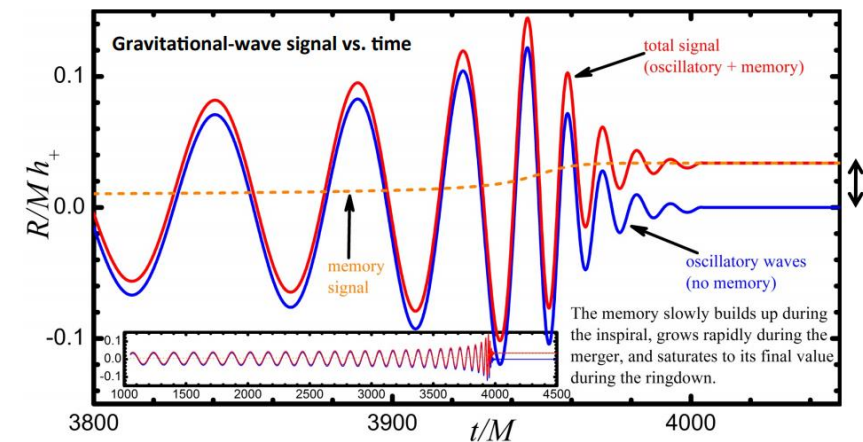


Memory effects

GW observation

displacement memory

[Zel'dovich, Polnarev, Braginskii, Thorne, Christodoulou] ... 70s – 90s

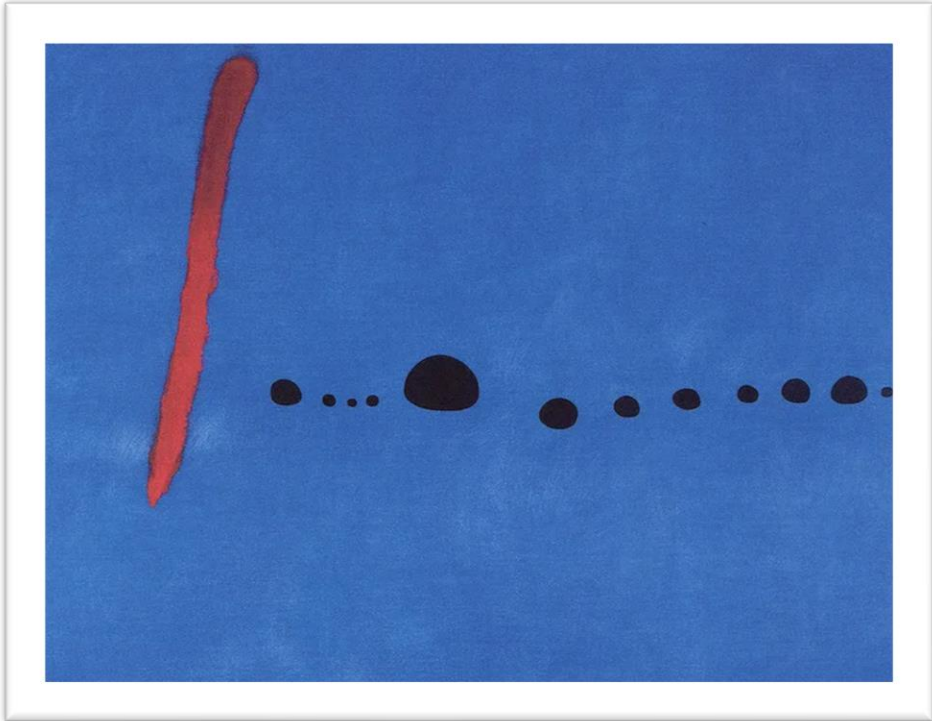


[Favata, '10]

Conclusions so far

Physics in the deep infrared is **much richer**, more subtle and **much less understood** than we previously thought.

The boundary of **flat space** exhibits an **infinite** amount of **symmetries** which constrain the scattering problem.



Joan Miró, *Bleu II* (1961)

Outline

1. Asymptotically flat spacetimes
2. Soft theorems \leftrightarrow asymptotic symmetries
3. New results for the logarithmic soft graviton theorem

Logarithmic soft theorems

- Tree-level [soft graviton theorem](#)

(assuming a power series expansion in the soft momentum $q = \omega \hat{q}$)

$$\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \stackrel{\omega \rightarrow 0}{\equiv} \left[\omega^{-1} S_n^{(0)} + \omega^0 S_n^{(1)} \right] \mathcal{M}_n + \mathcal{O}(\omega)$$

[Weinberg '65]

[Cachazo, Strominger '14]

Logarithmic soft theorems

- Tree-level **soft graviton theorem**

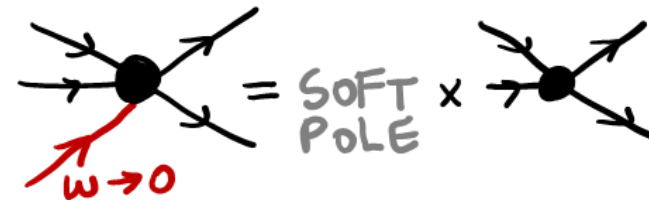
(assuming a power series expansion in the soft momentum $q = \omega \hat{q}$)

[Weinberg '65]

[Cachazo, Strominger '14]

$$\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \stackrel{\omega \rightarrow 0}{\approx} \left[\underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{leading}}}{\omega^{-1} S_n^{(0)}} + \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{subleading}}}{\omega^0 S_n^{(1)}} \right] \mathcal{M}_n + \mathcal{O}(\omega)$$

$$S_n^{(0)} = \frac{\kappa}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{p_i^\mu p_i^\nu \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}(\hat{q})}{p_i \cdot \hat{q}}$$



$$S_n^{(1)} = -\frac{i\kappa}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{p_i^\mu \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}(\hat{q}) q_\lambda}{p_i \cdot q} (J_i^{\lambda\nu} + S_i^{\lambda\nu})$$

$$\kappa = \sqrt{32\pi G}$$

Logarithmic soft theorems

- One-loop corrections generate logarithmic corrections!

$$\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \stackrel{\omega \rightarrow 0}{\equiv} \left[\omega^{-1} S_n^{(0)} - \frac{\kappa^2}{4} \ln \omega S_n^{(\ln)} \right] \mathcal{M}_n + \mathcal{O}(\omega^0)$$

↑
dominate over the subleading term

[Laddha, Sen '18 '19] [Sahoo, Sen '18] [Saha, Sahoo, Sen '19][Krishna, Sahoo '23]
[Ciafaloni, Colferai, Veneziano '18] [Addazi, Bianchi, Veneziano '19]
[di Vecchia, Heissenberg, Russo, Veneziano '23]

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$$\begin{aligned} S_n^{(\ln)} = & \frac{i\kappa}{8\pi} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\mu p_i^\nu}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j \delta_{\eta, \eta_j} q \cdot p_j \\ & + \frac{i\kappa}{16\pi} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\nu q_\rho}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j \delta_{\eta_i, \eta_j} (p_i \cdot p_j) (p_i^\mu p_j^\rho - p_j^\mu p_i^\rho) \frac{2(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - 3p_i^2 p_j^2}{[(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2]^{3/2}} \\ & - \frac{\kappa}{8\pi^2} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\nu p_i^\nu}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j q \cdot p_j \ln |\hat{q} \cdot \hat{p}_j| \\ & - \frac{\kappa}{32\pi^2} \sum_i \frac{p_i^\mu \varepsilon_{\mu\nu} q_\lambda}{p_i \cdot q} \left(p_i^\lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{i\nu}} - p_i^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{i\lambda}} \right) \sum_j \frac{2(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}{[(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2]^{1/2}} \ln \left(\frac{p_i \cdot p_j + \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}}{p_i \cdot p_j - \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

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$$- \frac{\kappa}{8\pi^2} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\nu p_i^\nu}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j q \cdot p_j \ln |\hat{q} \cdot \hat{p}_j|$$

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“classical”

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 \end{aligned}$$

Classical log \longleftrightarrow tails

$$\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \stackrel{\omega \rightarrow 0}{\equiv} \left[\omega^{-1} S_n^{(0)} - \frac{\kappa^2}{4} \ln \omega S_n^{(\text{ln})} \right] \mathcal{M}_n + \mathcal{O}(\omega^0)$$

- $$S_n^{(\text{ln})} = \frac{i\kappa}{8\pi} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\mu p_i^\nu}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j \delta_{\eta, \eta_j} q \cdot p_j$$

“classical”

$$+ \frac{i\kappa}{16\pi} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\nu q_\rho}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j \delta_{\eta_i, \eta_j} (p_i \cdot p_j) (p_i^\mu p_j^\rho - p_j^\mu p_i^\rho) \frac{2(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - 3p_i^2 p_j^2}{[(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2]^{3/2}}$$

effect of **gravitational drag** on the **soft graviton**

+ effect of **late time gravitational radiation** (due to the late time acceleration of the particles via long range gravitational interaction)

Quantum log corrections

$$\mathcal{M}_{n+1} \stackrel{\omega \rightarrow 0}{=} \left[\omega^{-1} S_n^{(0)} - \frac{\kappa^2}{4} \ln \omega S_n^{(\ln)} \right] \mathcal{M}_n + \mathcal{O}(\omega^0)$$

- $$S_n^{(\ln)} = \frac{i\kappa}{8\pi} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\mu p_i^\nu}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j \delta_{\eta_i, \eta_j} q \cdot p_j$$

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“quantum”

$$- \frac{\kappa}{8\pi^2} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\nu p_i^\nu}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j q \cdot p_j \ln |\hat{q} \cdot \hat{p}_j| \quad \omega \gg \text{loop momentum}$$

$$- \frac{\kappa}{32\pi^2} \sum_i \frac{p_i^\mu \varepsilon_{\mu\nu} q_\lambda}{p_i \cdot q} \left(p_i^\lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{i\nu}} - p_i^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{i\lambda}} \right) \sum_j \frac{2(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}{[(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2]^{1/2}} \ln \left(\frac{p_i \cdot p_j + \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}}{p_i \cdot p_j - \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}} \right)$$

$\omega \ll \text{loop momentum}$

- computed via **one-loop diagrams** in a theory of **minimally coupled scalars**
[Laddha, Sen '18] [Sahoo, Sen '18] [Saha, Sahoo, Sen '19]
- recently generalized to scattering of particles of arbitrary **spin** \longrightarrow **universal results!**
[Krishna, Sahoo '23]

Question

Do **log soft theorems** arise from **symmetry** conservation?

$$\begin{aligned} S_n^{(\ln)} &= \frac{i\kappa}{8\pi} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\mu p_i^\nu}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j \delta_{\eta, \eta_j} q \cdot p_j \\ &+ \frac{i\kappa}{16\pi} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\nu q_\rho}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j \delta_{\eta_i, \eta_j} (p_i \cdot p_j) (p_i^\mu p_j^\rho - p_j^\mu p_i^\rho) \frac{2(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - 3p_i^2 p_j^2}{[(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2]^{3/2}} \\ &- \frac{\kappa}{8\pi^2} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\nu p_i^\nu}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j q \cdot p_j \ln |\hat{q} \cdot \hat{p}_j| \\ &- \frac{\kappa}{32\pi^2} \sum_i \frac{p_i^\mu \varepsilon_{\mu\nu} q_\lambda}{p_i \cdot q} \left(p_i^\lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{i\nu}} - p_i^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{i\lambda}} \right) \sum_j \frac{2(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}{[(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2]^{1/2}} \ln \left(\frac{p_i \cdot p_j + \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}}{p_i \cdot p_j - \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

→ **yes**, from local conformal symmetries (aka ‘superrotations’)

[Agrawal, LD, Nguyen, Ruzziconi ‘23]

Superrotations

- Supertranslation symmetries:

$$\xi = \mathcal{T}(z, \bar{z}) \partial_u + \dots$$

arbitrary function
on the celestial sphere

- Superrotation symmetries:

$$\xi = \mathcal{Y}(z) \partial_z + \frac{u}{2} D_z \mathcal{Y}(z) + \dots$$

local conformal Killing vector
(> 6 Lorentz transformations which are *globally* well-defined)



[Barnich, Troessaert '10]

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[Barnich, Troessaert '10]

Poincaré group: 4 translations + 6 Lorentz transfo.

↓ *Symmetry
enhancement*

↓ *Symmetry
enhancement*

BMS group: ∞ supertranslations + ∞ superrotations

Logarithmic soft theorems

- The log corrections can be written in a much simpler form

$$S_n^{(\ln)} = \hat{\sigma}'_{n+1}(\hat{q}) S_n^{(0)} - S_n^{(1)J} \sigma_n$$

leading
soft factor

subleading
soft factor

[Sahoo, Sen '18]

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_n^{(\ln)} &= \frac{i\kappa}{8\pi} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\mu p_i^\nu}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j \delta_{\eta_i, \eta_j} q \cdot p_j \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

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* I drop here some numerical factors

$$S_n^{(\ln)} = \hat{\sigma}'_{n+1}(\hat{q}) S_n^{(0)} - S_n^{(1)J} \sigma_n$$

leading
soft factor

subleading
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[Sahoo, Sen '18]

where

$$\hat{\sigma}'_{n+1}(\hat{q}) = \sum_{i=1}^n (p_i \cdot \hat{q}) \ln(\hat{p}_i \cdot \hat{q})$$

$$\sigma_n = \sum_{ij} \eta_i \eta_j m_i m_j \frac{1 + \beta_{ij}^2}{\beta_{ij} \sqrt{1 - \beta_{ij}^2}} \left(i\pi \delta_{\eta_i, \eta_j} - \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{1 + \beta_{ij}}{1 - \beta_{ij}} \right)$$

$$\eta_i = \pm 1 \quad (\text{in or out})$$

$$S_n^{(\ln)} = \frac{i\kappa}{8\pi} \sum_i \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^\mu p_i^\nu}{p_i \cdot q} \sum_j \delta_{\eta_i, \eta_j} q \cdot p_j$$

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$$\beta_{ij} = \sqrt{1 - (\hat{p}_i \cdot \hat{p}_j)^{-2}}$$

relative velocity of particles i and j

Logarithmic soft theorems

- $S_n^{(\ln)} = \underbrace{\hat{\sigma}'_{n+1}(\hat{q}) S_n^{(0)}}_{\textcircled{1}} - \underbrace{S_n^{(1)J} \sigma_n}_{\textcircled{2}}$ [Sahoo, Sen '18]

where $\hat{\sigma}'_{n+1}(\hat{q}) = \sum_{i=1}^n (p_i \cdot \hat{q}) \ln(\hat{p}_i \cdot \hat{q})$

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where
$$\hat{\sigma}'_{n+1}(\hat{q}) = \sum_{i=1}^n (p_i \cdot \hat{q}) \ln(\hat{p}_i \cdot \hat{q})$$

- The first contribution $\textcircled{1}$ is reproduced by the [superrotation Ward identity](#)

$$F_{\mathcal{Y}}^{\text{soft,new}} = \frac{2}{\kappa^2} \int d^2z \mathcal{Y} \left[-\partial^3 (C^{(0)} \mathcal{N}_{\bar{z}\bar{z}}^{(0)}) + 3\bar{\partial}^2 \mathcal{N}_{zz}^{(0)} \partial C^{(0)} + C^{(0)} \partial \bar{\partial}^2 \mathcal{N}_{zz}^{(0)} \right]$$

Noether charge for superrotations

i.e.
$$\langle \text{out} | F_{\mathcal{Y}}^{\text{soft,new}}(\mathcal{I}^+) \mathcal{S} + \mathcal{S} F_{\mathcal{Y}}^{\text{soft,new}}(\mathcal{I}^-) | \text{in} \rangle = -\frac{i\kappa}{16\pi\epsilon} \int d^2z \mathcal{Y} \partial^3 (\hat{\sigma}'_{n+1} S_n^{(0)-}) \langle \text{out} | \mathcal{S} | \text{in} \rangle$$

[Agrawal, LD, Nguyen, Ruzziconi '23]; see also [LD, Nguyen, Ruzziconi '22][Pasterski '22]

Logarithmic soft theorems

- $S_n^{(\ln)} = \underbrace{\hat{\sigma}'_{n+1}(\hat{q}) S_n^{(0)}}_{\textcircled{1}} - \underbrace{S_n^{(1)J} \sigma_n}_{\textcircled{2}}$ [Sahoo, Sen '18]

- The first contribution $\textcircled{1}$ is reproduced by the superrotation [Ward identity](#)
- The second contribution $\textcircled{2}$ is reproduced by the '[dressed](#)' superrotation charge at timelike infinity; see details in [\[Agrawal, LD, Nguyen, Ruzziconi '23\]](#)

Conclusions

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- **Logarithmic corrections** to the soft graviton theorems can be obtained from superrotation Ward identities. [Agrawal, LD, Nguyen, Ruzziconi '23] **QED:** see [Campiglia, Laddha '19]

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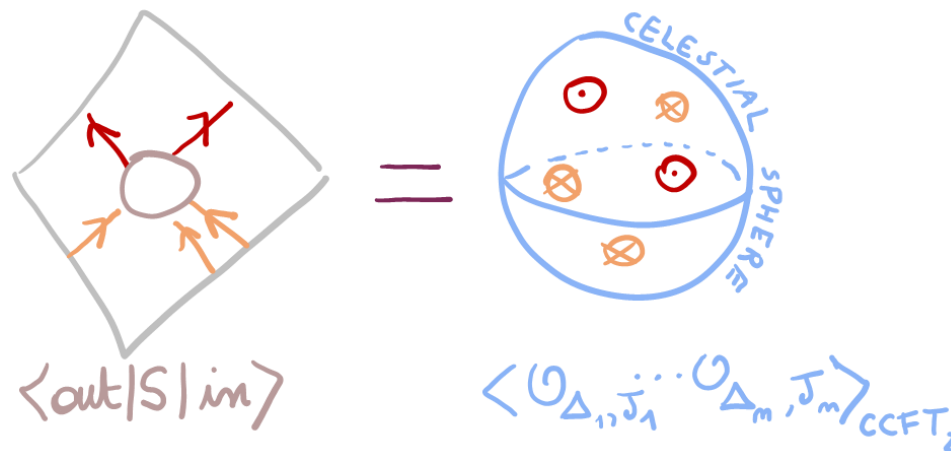
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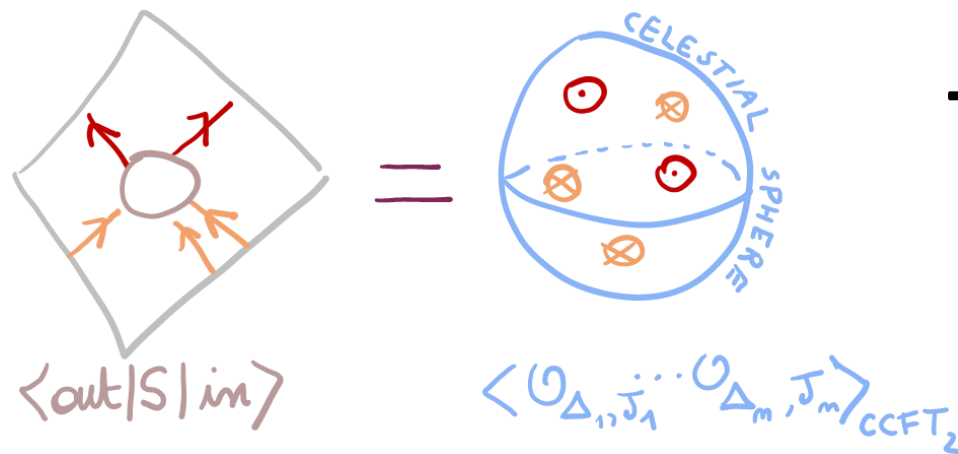
'Celestial Holography'



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Thank you!