

# Flat Space Holography

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based on work w. Afshar, Bagchi, Basu, Detournay, Fareghbal,  
Gary, Riegler, Rosseel, Salzer, Sarkar, Schöller, Simon, ...

# Outline

Motivations

Holography basics

Flat space holography

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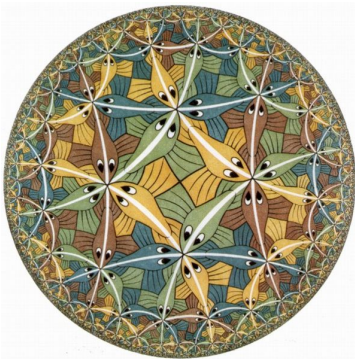
### ► Quantum gravity

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- String theory (is it the right theory? can there be any alternative? ...)



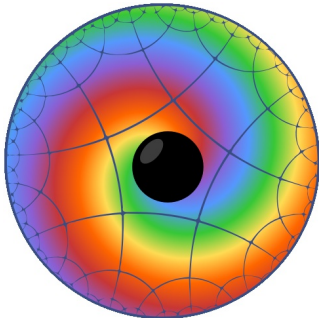
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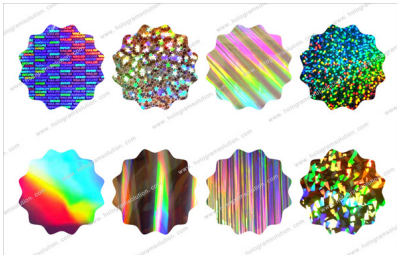
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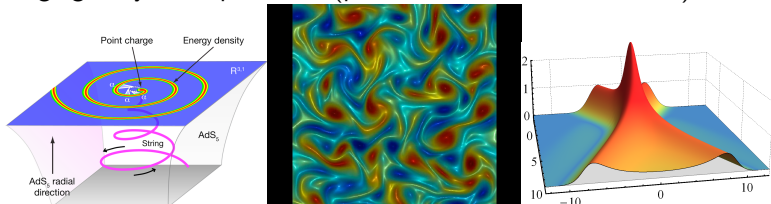
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  - ▶ How general is holography? (non-unitary holography, higher spin holography, flat space holography, non-AdS holography, ...)
- ▶ Applications
  - ▶ Gauge gravity correspondence (plasmas, condensed matter, ...)



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Address these issues in 3D!



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This talk:

- ▶ Remain agnostic about dichotomy
- ▶ Focus on generic features of dual field theories that do not require string theory embedding

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- ▶ Dual field theory (if it exists): 2D

Interesting generic constraints from CFT<sub>2</sub>!

e.g. [Hellerman '09](#), [Hartman, Keller, Stoica '14](#)

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Caveat: while there are many string compactifications with AdS<sub>3</sub> factor, applying holography just to AdS<sub>3</sub> factor does not capture everything!

## Holographic algorithm from gravity point of view

Universal recipe:

1. Identify bulk theory and variational principle

Example: Einstein gravity with Dirichlet boundary conditions

$$I = -\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^3x \sqrt{|g|} \left( R + \frac{2}{\ell^2} \right)$$

with  $\delta g = \text{fixed}$  at the boundary

## Holographic algorithm from gravity point of view

Universal recipe:

1. Identify bulk theory and variational principle
2. Fix background and impose suitable boundary conditions

Example: asymptotically AdS

$$ds^2 = d\rho^2 + (e^{2\rho/\ell} \gamma_{ij}^{(0)} + \gamma_{ij}^{(2)} + \dots) dx^i dx^j$$

with  $\delta\gamma^{(0)} = 0$  for  $\rho \rightarrow \infty$

## Holographic algorithm from gravity point of view

Universal recipe:

1. Identify bulk theory and variational principle
2. Fix background and impose suitable boundary conditions
3. Perform canonical analysis and check consistency of bc's
  - ▶ Find and classify all constraints
  - ▶ Construct canonical gauge generators
  - ▶ Add boundary terms and get (variation of) canonical charges
  - ▶ Check integrability of canonical charges
  - ▶ Check finiteness of canonical charges
  - ▶ Check conservation (in time) of canonical charges
  - ▶ Calculate Dirac bracket algebra of canonical charges

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Example: Brown–Henneaux analysis for 3D Einstein gravity

$$\{Q[\varepsilon], Q[\eta]\} = \delta_\varepsilon Q[\eta]$$

$$Q[\varepsilon] \sim \oint d\varphi \mathcal{L}(\varphi) \varepsilon(\varphi)$$

$$\delta_\varepsilon \mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L} \varepsilon + 2\mathcal{L} \varepsilon' + \frac{\ell}{16\pi G_N} \varepsilon'''$$

## Holographic algorithm from gravity point of view

Universal recipe:

1. Identify bulk theory and variational principle
2. Fix background and impose suitable boundary conditions
3. Perform canonical analysis and check consistency of bc's
4. Derive (classical) asymptotic symmetry algebra and central charges

Example: Two copies of Virasoro algebra

$$[\mathcal{L}_n, \mathcal{L}_m] = (n - m) \mathcal{L}_{n+m} + \frac{c}{12} (n^3 - n) \delta_{n+m,0}$$

with Brown–Henneaux central charge

$$c = \frac{3\ell}{2G_N}$$

Reminder: ASA = quotient algebra of asymptotic symmetries by 'trivial' asymptotic symmetries with zero canonical charges

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5. Improve to quantum ASA

Example: semi-classical ASA in spin-3 gravity (Henneaux, Rey '10; Campoleoni, Pfenninger, Fredenhagen, Theisen '10)

$$[W_n, W_m] = \frac{16}{5c} \sum_p L_p L_{n+m-p} + \dots$$

quantum ASA

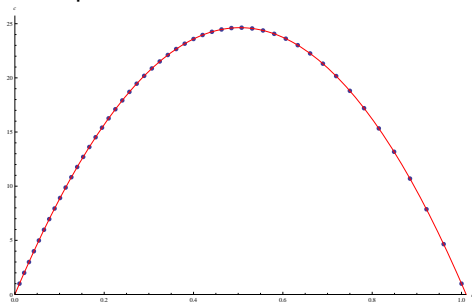
$$[W_n, W_m] = \frac{16}{5c + 22} \sum_p : L_p L_{n+m-p} : + \dots$$

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6. Study unitary representations of quantum ASA

Example:



Afshar et al '12

Discrete set of Newton  
constant values compatible  
with unitarity  
(3D spin-N gravity in  
next-to-principal embedding)



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6. Study unitary representations of quantum ASA
7. Identify/constrain dual field theory

Example: Monster CFT in (flat space) chiral gravity

Witten '07

Li, Song & Strominger '08

Bagchi, Detournay & DG '12

$$Z(q) = J(q) = \frac{1}{q} + (1 + 196883)q + \mathcal{O}(q^2)$$

Note:  $\ln 196883 \approx 12.2 = 4\pi + \text{quantum corrections}$

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Examples: too many!



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Goal of this talk:

Apply algorithm above to flat space holography in 3D gravity theories

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- ▶ Take linear combinations of Virasoro generators  $\mathcal{L}_n, \bar{\mathcal{L}}_n$

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- ▶ Make Inönü–Wigner contraction  $\ell \rightarrow \infty$  on ASA

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- ▶ Example where it does not work at all: highest weight conditions!

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Interesting example:

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Many open issues in flat space holography!

Next few slides: mention a couple of recent results

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- ▶ Unitarity of dual field theory
- ▶ Adding chemical potentials



## Apply algorithm just described to flat space theories

### Flat space Einstein and chiral gravity

#### 1. Identify bulk theory and variational principle

Topologically massive gravity with mixed boundary conditions

$$I = I_{\text{EH}} + \frac{1}{32\pi G\mu} \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} \varepsilon^{\lambda\mu\nu} \Gamma^\rho{}_{\lambda\sigma} (\partial_\mu \Gamma^\sigma{}_{\nu\rho} + \frac{2}{3} \Gamma^\sigma{}_{\mu\tau} \Gamma^\tau{}_{\nu\rho})$$

with  $\delta g = \text{fixed}$  and  $\delta K_L = \text{fixed}$  at the boundary

Deser, Jackiw & Templeton '82

## Apply algorithm just described to flat space theories

### Flat space Einstein and chiral gravity

1. Identify bulk theory and variational principle
2. Fix background and impose suitable boundary conditions asymptotically flat adapted to lightlike infinity  $(\varphi \sim \varphi + 2\pi)$

$$d\bar{s}^2 = -du^2 - 2du dr + r^2 d\varphi^2$$

$$g_{uu} = h_{uu} + O\left(\frac{1}{r}\right)$$

$$g_{ur} = -1 + h_{ur}/r + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right)$$

$$g_{u\varphi} = h_{u\varphi} + O\left(\frac{1}{r}\right)$$

$$g_{rr} = h_{rr}/r^2 + O\left(\frac{1}{r^3}\right)$$

$$g_{r\varphi} = h_1(\varphi) + h_{r\varphi}/r + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right)$$

$$g_{\varphi\varphi} = r^2 + (h_2(\varphi) + uh_3(\varphi))r + O(1)$$

Barnich & Compere '06

Bagchi, Detournay & DG '12

## Apply algorithm just described to flat space theories

### Flat space Einstein and chiral gravity

1. Identify bulk theory and variational principle
2. Fix background and impose suitable boundary conditions
3. Perform canonical analysis and check consistency of bc's

Obtain canonical boundary charges

$$Q_{M_n} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d\varphi e^{in\varphi} (h_{uu} + h_3)$$

$$Q_{L_n} = \frac{1}{16\pi G\mu} \int d\varphi e^{in\varphi} (h_{uu} + \partial_u h_{ur} + \frac{1}{2}\partial_u^2 h_{rr} + h_3) \\ + \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d\varphi e^{in\varphi} (inuh_{uu} + inh_{ur} + 2h_{u\varphi} + \partial_u h_{r\varphi} \\ - (n^2 + h_3)h_1 - inh_2 - in\partial_\varphi h_1)$$

Bagchi, Detournay & DG '12

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4. Derive (classical) asymptotic symmetry algebra and central charges

$$[L_n, L_m] = (n - m) L_{n+m} + \frac{c_L}{12} (n^3 - n) \delta_{n+m,0}$$

$$[L_n, M_m] = (n - m) M_{n+m} + \frac{c_M}{12} (n^3 - n) \delta_{n+m,0}$$

$$[M_n, M_m] = 0$$

with central charges

$$c_L = \frac{3}{\mu G} \quad c_M = \frac{3}{G}$$

Note:

- ▶  $c_L = 0$  in Einstein gravity
- ▶  $c_M = 0$  in conformal Chern–Simons gravity ( $\mu \rightarrow 0$ ,  $\mu G = \frac{1}{8k}$ )

Flat space chiral gravity!

## Apply algorithm just described to flat space theories

### Flat space Einstein and chiral gravity

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5. Improve to quantum ASA  
Trivial here

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4. Derive (classical) asymptotic symmetry algebra and central charges
5. Improve to quantum ASA
6. Study unitary representations of quantum ASA
  - ▶ Straightforward in flat space chiral gravity
  - ▶ Difficult/impossible otherwise

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5. Improve to quantum ASA
6. Study unitary representations of quantum ASA
7. Identify/constrain dual field theory

Monster CFT in flat space chiral gravity

Witten '07

Li, Song & Strominger '08

Bagchi, Detournay & DG '12

$$Z(q) = J(q) = \frac{1}{q} + (1 + 196883)q + \mathcal{O}(q^2)$$

Note:  $\ln 196883 \approx 12.2 = 4\pi + \text{quantum corrections}$

## Apply algorithm just described to flat space theories

### Flat space Einstein and chiral gravity

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7. Identify/constrain dual field theory
8. If unhappy with result go back to previous items and modify

We are happy!





## Flat space chiral gravity

Bagchi, Detournay, DG '12

Conjecture:

Conformal Chern–Simons gravity at level  $k = 1 \simeq$   
chiral extremal CFT with central charge  $c = 24$

$$I_{\text{CSG}} = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int (\Gamma \wedge d\Gamma + \frac{2}{3}\Gamma \wedge \Gamma \wedge \Gamma) + \text{flat space bc's}$$

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Missing: full partition function on gravity side

$$Z(q) = J(q) = \frac{1}{q} + 196884q + \mathcal{O}(q^2)$$



## Cosmic evolution from phase transition

### Flat space version of Hawking–Page phase transition

Hot flat space

$$(\varphi \sim \varphi + 2\pi)$$

$$ds^2 = \pm dt^2 + dr^2 + r^2 d\varphi^2$$

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$$ds^2 = \pm d\tau^2 + \frac{(E\tau)^2 dx^2}{1 + (E\tau)^2} + (1 + (E\tau)^2) \left( dy + \frac{(E\tau)^2}{1 + (E\tau)^2} dx \right)^2$$

Flat space cosmology

$$(y \sim y + 2\pi r_0)$$

Bagchi, Detournay, DG & Simon '13

## Flat space cosmologies (Cornalba & Costa '02)

- ▶ Start with BTZ in AdS:

$$ds^2 = -\frac{(r^2 - R_+^2)(r^2 - r_-^2)}{r^2 \ell^2} dt^2 + \frac{r^2 \ell^2 dr^2}{(r^2 - R_+^2)(r^2 - r_-^2)} + r^2 \left( d\varphi - \frac{R_+ r_-}{\ell r^2} dt \right)^2$$

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Question we want to address:

Is FSC or HFS the preferred Euclidean saddle?



## Euclidean path integral

Evaluate Euclidean partition function in semi-classical limit

$$Z(T, \Omega) = \int \mathcal{D}g e^{-\Gamma[g]} = \sum_{g_c} e^{-\Gamma[g_c(T, \Omega)]} \times Z_{\text{fluct.}}$$

boundary conditions specified by temperature  $T$  and angular velocity  $\Omega$

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Two Euclidean saddle points in same ensemble if

- ▶ same temperature  $T = 1/\beta$  and angular velocity  $\Omega$
- ▶ obey flat space boundary conditions
- ▶ solutions without conical singularities

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Two Euclidean saddle points in same ensemble if

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- ▶ solutions without conical singularities

Periodicities fixed:

$$(\tau_E, \varphi) \sim (\tau_E + \beta, \varphi + \beta\Omega) \sim (\tau_E, \varphi + 2\pi)$$

## Results

On-shell action:

$$\Gamma = -\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^3x \sqrt{g} R - \underbrace{\frac{1}{16\pi G_N}}_{\frac{1}{2}\text{GHY!}} \int d^2x \sqrt{\gamma} K$$

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$$F_{\text{HFS}} = -\frac{1}{8G_N} \quad F_{\text{FSC}} = -\frac{r_+}{8G_N}$$

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- ▶  $r_+ > 1$ : FSC dominant saddle
- ▶  $r_+ < 1$ : HFS dominant saddle

Critical temperature:

$$T_c = \frac{1}{2\pi r_0} = \frac{\Omega}{2\pi}$$

HFS “melts” into FSC at  $T > T_c$

# Entanglement entropy of Galilean CFTs and flat space holography

Bagchi, Basu, DG, Riegler '14

Using methods similar to CFT:

$$S_{\text{EE}}^{\text{GCFT}} = \underbrace{\frac{c_L}{6} \ln \frac{\ell_x}{a}}_{\text{like CFT}} + \underbrace{\frac{c_M}{6} \frac{\ell_y}{\ell_x}}_{\text{like grav anomaly}}$$

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with

$$[L_n, L_m] = (n - m) L_{n+m} + \frac{c_L}{12} (n^3 - n) \delta_{n+m,0}$$

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and

- ▶  $\ell_x$ : spatial distance
- ▶  $\ell_y$ : temporal distance
- ▶  $a$ : UV cutoff (lattice size)



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Same results obtained holographically!

- ▶ Using methods similar to Ammon, Castro Iqbal '13, de Boer, Jottar '13, Castro, Detournay, Iqbal, Perlmutter '14
- ▶ geodesics  $\Rightarrow$  Wilson lines

## Flat space higher spin gravity

Afshar, Bagchi, Fareghbal, DG, Rosseel '13, Gonzalez, Matulich, Pino, Troncoso '13

- ▶ AdS gravity in CS formulation:  $\text{spin } 2 \rightarrow \text{spin } 3 \sim \text{sl}(2) \rightarrow \text{sl}(3)$

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$$S_{\text{CS}}^{\text{flat}} = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int \text{CS}(\mathcal{A})$$

with  $\mathfrak{isl}(3)$  connection ( $e^a =$  “zuvielbein”)

$$\mathcal{A} = e^a T_a + \omega^a J_a \quad T_a = (M_n, V_m) \quad J_a = (L_n, U_m)$$

$\mathfrak{isl}(3)$  algebra (spin 3 extension of global part of BMS/GCA algebra)

$$[L_n, L_m] = (n - m)L_{n+m}$$

$$[L_n, M_m] = (n - m)M_{n+m}$$

$$[L_n, U_m] = (2n - m)U_{n+m}$$

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- ▶ Spin 3 charges:

$$Q[\varepsilon_M, \varepsilon_L, \varepsilon_V, \varepsilon_U] \sim \oint (\varepsilon_M(\varphi)M(\varphi) + \varepsilon_L(\varphi)L(\varphi) + \varepsilon_V(\varphi)V(\varphi) + \varepsilon_U(\varphi)U(\varphi))$$



## Flat space higher spin gravity

Asymptotic symmetry algebra at finite level  $k$  Afshar, Bagchi, Fareghbal, DG, Rosseel '13

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- ▶ Obtain new type of  $W$ -algebra as extension of BMS (“BMW”)

$$[L_n, L_m] = (n - m)L_{n+m} + \frac{c_L}{12} (n^3 - n) \delta_{n+m, 0}$$

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$$[U_n, U_m] = (n - m)(2n^2 + 2m^2 - nm - 8)L_{n+m} + \frac{192}{c_M} (n - m)\Lambda_{n+m} \\ - \frac{96(c_L + \frac{44}{5})}{c_M^2} (n - m)\Theta_{n+m} + \frac{c_L}{12} n(n^2 - 1)(n^2 - 4) \delta_{n+m, 0}$$

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$$\Lambda_n = \sum_p : L_p M_{n-p} : - \frac{3}{10} (n + 2)(n + 3)M_n \quad \Theta_n = \sum_p M_p M_{n-p}$$

other commutators as in  $\text{isl}(3)$  with  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$

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- ▶ Note **quantum shift** and **poles** in central terms!
- ▶ Analysis generalizes to flat space contractions of other  $W$ -algebras

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Unitarity leads to further contraction DG, Riegler, Rosseel '14

Facts:

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Higher spin states decouple and become null states!

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Generic flat space  $W$ -algebras DG, Riegler, Rosseel '14

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Generically (see paper) you can have only two out of three:

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Flat space chiral gravity

Bagchi, Detournay, DG, 1208.1658

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Minimal model holography

Gaberdiel, Gopakumar, 1011.2986, 1207.6697

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Example:

Flat space higher spin gravity (Galilean  $W_3$  algebra)

Afshar, Bagchi, Fareghbal, DG and Rosseel, 1307.4768

Gonzalez, Matulich, Pino and Troncoso, 1307.5651



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### 2. YES-GO:

There is (at least) one counter-example, namely a Vasiliev-type of theory, where you can have all three properties!

Unitary, non-trivial flat space higher spin algebra exists!  
Vasiliev-type flat space chiral higher spin gravity?

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Flat space  $W_\infty$ -algebra compatible with unitarity DG, Riegler, Rosseel '14

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$$[\mathcal{V}_m^i, \mathcal{V}_n^j] = \sum_{r=0}^{\lfloor \frac{i+j}{2} \rfloor} g_{2r}^{ij}(m, n) \mathcal{V}_{m+n}^{i+j-2r} + c_{\mathcal{V}}^i(m) \delta^{ij} \delta_{m+n,0}$$

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- ▶ AdS parent theory: no trace anomaly, but **gravitational anomaly** (Like in conformal Chern–Simons gravity  $\rightarrow$  Vasiliev type analogue?)

Long story short:



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$$A_u \rightarrow A_u + \mu$$

Works nicely in Chern–Simons formulation!

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Line-element with spin-2 and spin-3 chemical potentials:

$$g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = \left( r^2 (\mu_L^2 - 4\mu_U'' \mu_U + 3\mu_U'^2 + 4\mathcal{M}\mu_U^2) + r g_{uu}^{(r)} + g_{uu}^{(0)} + g_{uu}^{(0')} \right) du^2 + \left( r^2 \mu_L - r\mu_M' + \mathcal{N}(1 + \mu_M) + 8\mathcal{Z}\mu_V \right) 2 du d\varphi - (1 + \mu_M) 2 dr du + r^2 d\varphi^2$$

$$g_{uu}^{(0)} = \mathcal{M}(1 + \mu_M)^2 + 2(1 + \mu_M)(\mathcal{N}\mu_L + 12\mathcal{V}\mu_V + 16\mathcal{Z}\mu_U) + 16\mathcal{Z}\mu_L\mu_V + \frac{4}{3}(\mathcal{M}^2\mu_V^2 + 4\mathcal{M}\mathcal{N}\mu_U\mu_V + \mathcal{N}^2\mu_U^2)$$

Spin-3 field with same chemical potentials:

$$\Phi_{\mu\nu\lambda} dx^\mu dx^\nu dx^\lambda = \Phi_{uuu} du^3 + \Phi_{ruu} dr du^2 + \Phi_{uu\varphi} du^2 d\varphi - (2\mu_U r^2 - r\mu_V' + 2\mathcal{N}\mu_V) dr du d\varphi + \mu_V dr^2 du - (\mu_U' r^3 - \frac{1}{3}r^2(\mu_V'' - \mathcal{M}\mu_V + 4\mathcal{N}\mu_U) + r\mathcal{N}\mu_V' - \mathcal{N}^2\mu_V) du d\varphi^2$$

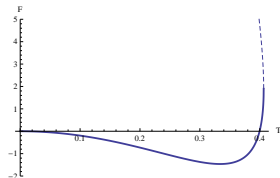
$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{uuu} = & r^2 [2(1 + \mu_M)\mu_U(\mathcal{M}\mu_L - 4\mathcal{V}\mu_U) - \frac{1}{3}\mu_L^2(\mathcal{M}\mu_V - 4\mathcal{N}\mu_U) + 16\mu_L\mu_U(\mathcal{V}\mu_V + \mathcal{Z}\mu_U) - \frac{4}{3}\mathcal{M}\mu_U^2(\mathcal{M}\mu_V \\ & + 2\mathcal{N}\mu_U)] + 2\mathcal{V}(1 + \mu_M)^3 + \frac{2}{3}(1 + \mu_M)^2(6\mathcal{Z}\mu_L + \mathcal{M}^2\mu_V + 2\mathcal{M}\mathcal{N}\mu_U) + 16\mu_L\mu_V^2(\mathcal{N}\mathcal{V} - \frac{1}{3}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{Z}) \\ & + \frac{2}{3}(1 + \mu_M)((\mathcal{N}\mu_L + 16\mathcal{Z}\mu_U)(2\mathcal{M}\mu_V + \mathcal{N}\mu_U) + 12\mathcal{M}\mathcal{V}\mu_V^2) + \frac{64}{3}\mathcal{Z}\mu_U\mu_V(\mathcal{N}\mu_L + 12\mathcal{V}\mu_V + 12\mathcal{Z}\mu_U) \\ & + \mathcal{N}^2\mu_L^2\mu_V + 64\mathcal{V}^2\mu_V^3 - \frac{8}{27}(\mathcal{M}^3\mu_V^3 - \mathcal{N}^3\mu_U^3) - \frac{4}{9}\mathcal{M}\mathcal{N}\mu_U\mu_V(4\mathcal{M}\mu_V + 5\mathcal{N}\mu_U) + \sum_{n=0}^3 r^n \Phi_{uuu}^{(r^n)} \end{aligned}$$

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Interesting novel phase transitions of zeroth/first order:



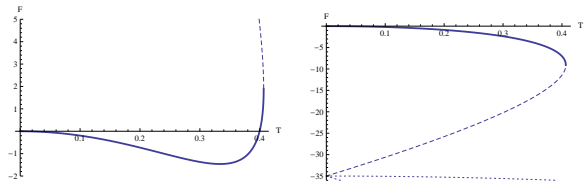
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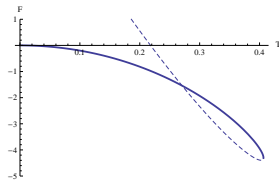
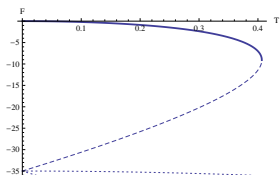
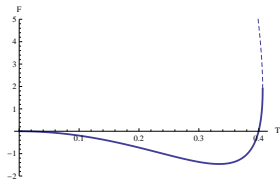
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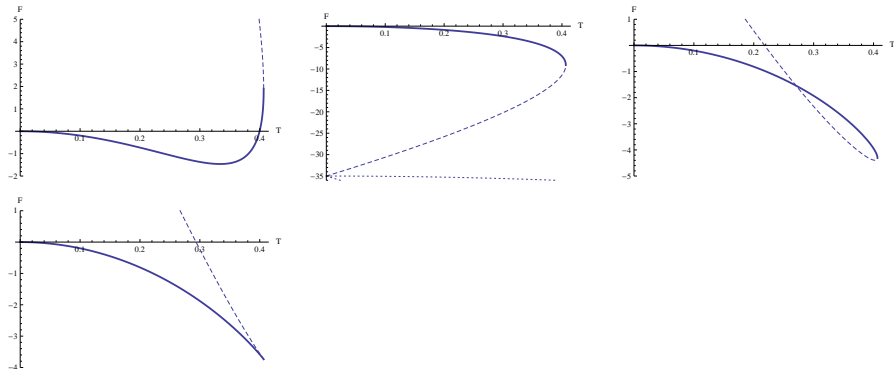
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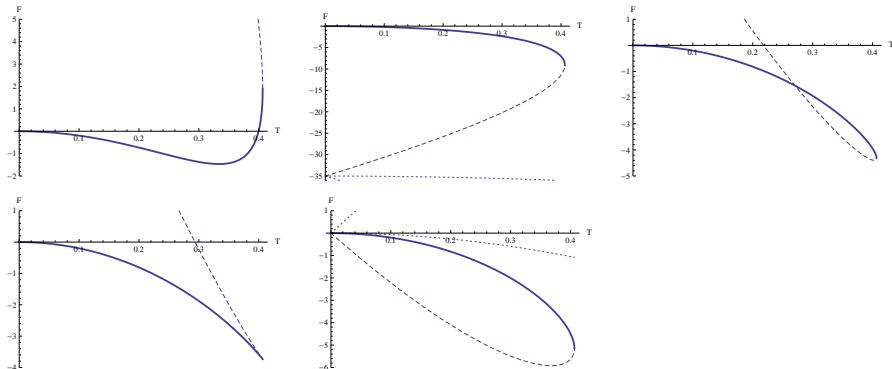
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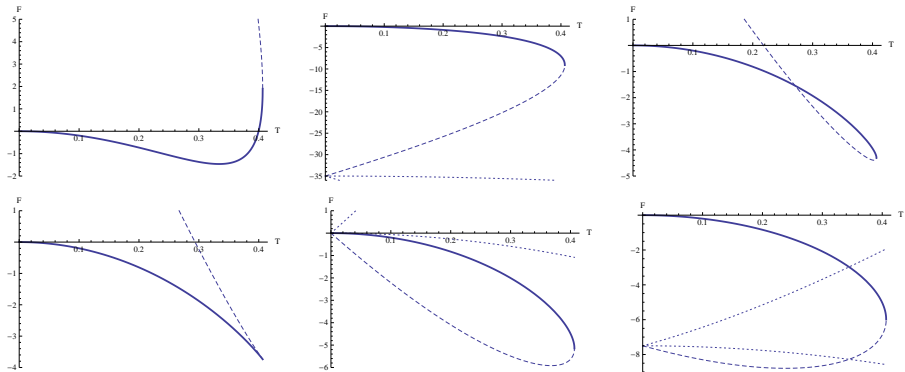
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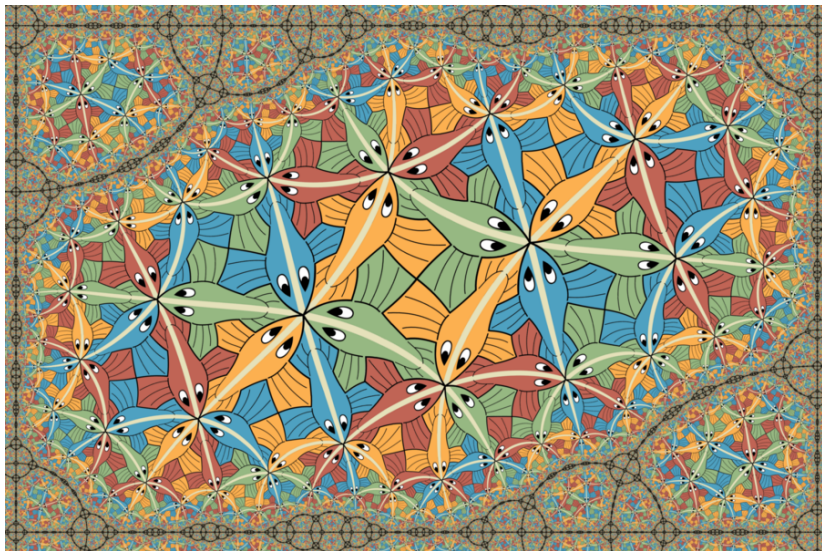
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Still missing: comprehensive family of simple models such that

- ▶ dual (conformal) field theory identified
  - ▶ exists for  $c \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$  (ultra-quantum limit)
  - ▶ exists for  $c \rightarrow \infty$  (semi-classical limit)
- ... or prove that no such model  $\exists$ , unless UV-completed to string theory!

Thanks for your attention!



Vladimir Bulatov, M.C. Escher Circle Limit III in a rectangle