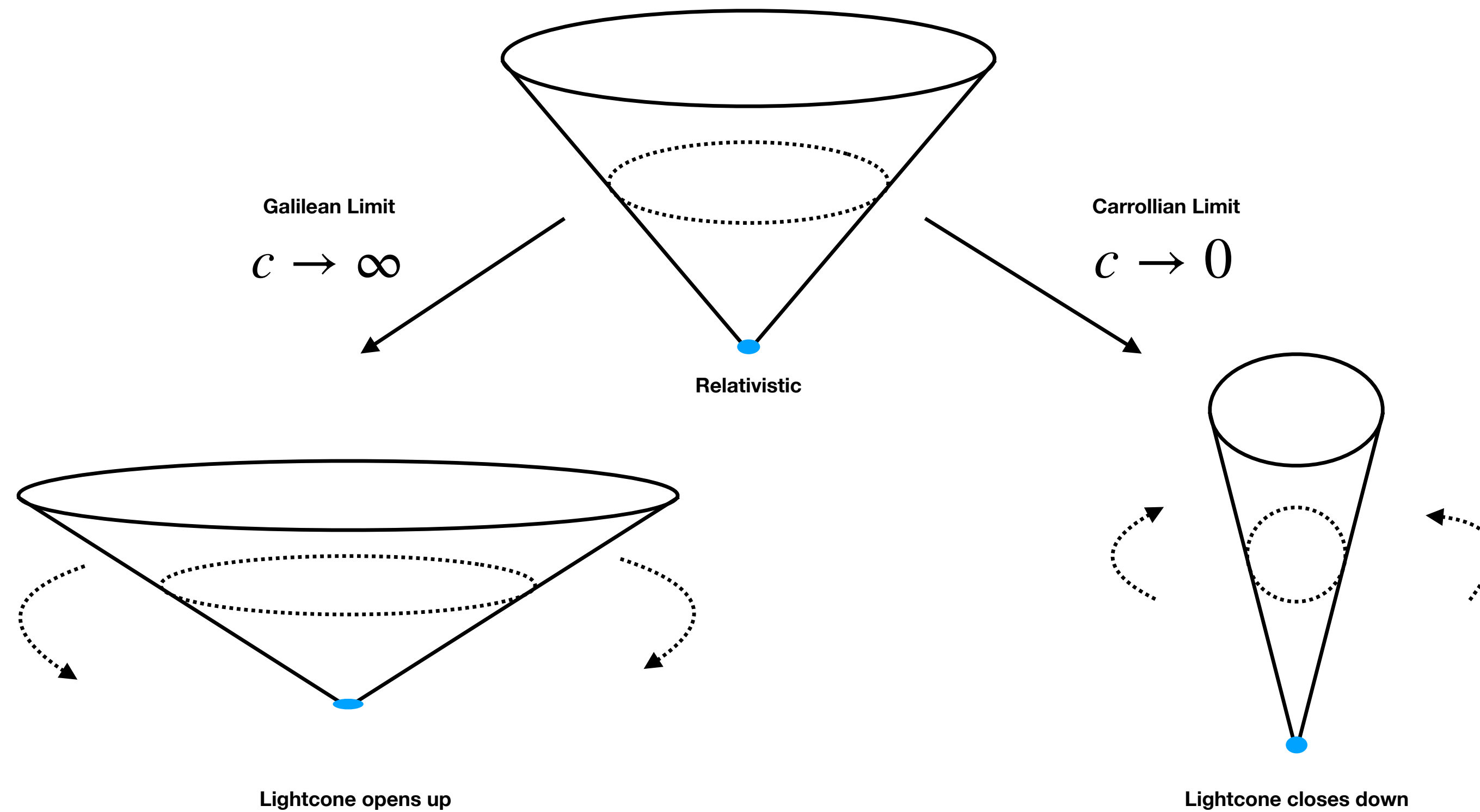




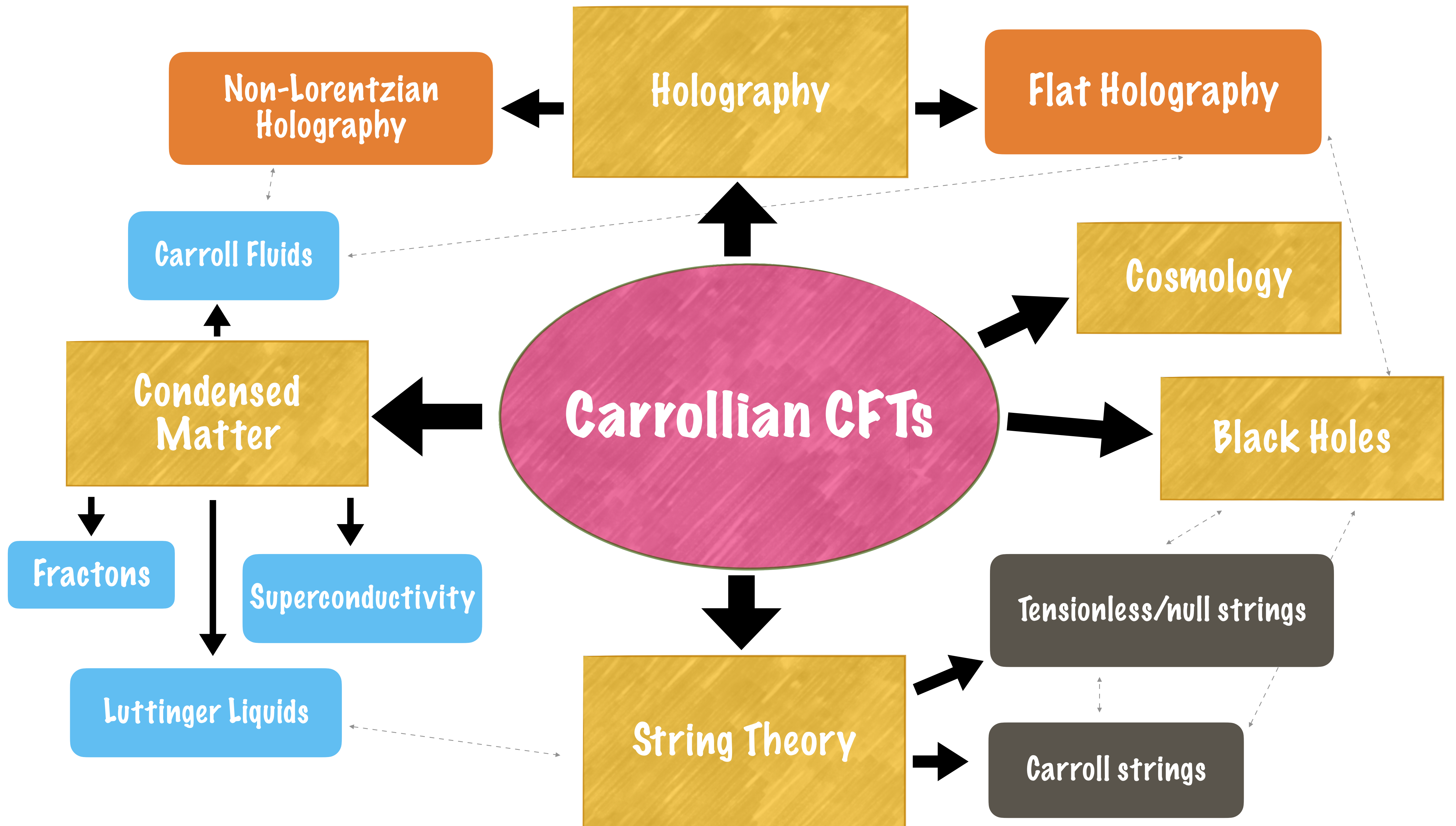
# Unbearable Effectiveness of Carroll CFTs

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# Non Lorentzian Limits



- \* We are familiar with Galilean limits.
- \* Here we would be interested in the diametrically opposite one, the Carroll limit.



# Today ...

We will give a brief overview of a few of these:

- \* Flat holography
- \* Tensionless strings
- \* Carroll Fermions

# Flat Holography

# Carroll and Conformal Carroll Symmetry: The algebraic way

- \* Carroll algebra: Inonu-Wigner contraction of Poincare algebra when  $c \rightarrow 0$
- \* This can be achieved by  $x^i \rightarrow x^i, \quad t \rightarrow \epsilon t, \quad \epsilon \rightarrow 0$
- \* Carroll generators:  $H = \partial_t, \quad P_i = \partial_i, \quad C_i = x_i \partial_t, \quad J_{ij} = x_i \partial_j - x_j \partial_i.$
- \* The algebra:  $[J_{ij}, J_{kl}] = 4\delta_{[i[k} J_{l]j}], \quad [J_{ij}, P_k] = 2\delta_{k[j} P_{i]}, \quad [J_{ij}, C_k] = 2\delta_{k[j} C_{i]}, \quad [C_i, P_j] = -\delta_{ij} H.$
- \* Crucially:  $[C_i, C_j] = 0$ . Reflects non-Lorentzian nature of the algebra.
- \* Conformal extension:  $D = t\partial_t + x_i \partial_i, \quad K_0 = x_i x_i \partial_t, \quad K_i = 2x_i(t\partial_t + x_j \partial_j) - x_j x_j \partial_i.$
- \* Conformal Carroll algebra:  $[D, P_i] = -P_i, \quad [D, H] = -H \quad [D, K_i] = K_i, \quad [D, K_0] = K_0,$   
 $[K_0, P_i] = -2C_i \quad [K_i, H] = -2C_i, \quad [K_i, P_j] = -2\delta_{ij} D - 2J_{ij}.$
- \* Can be given an infinite dimensional lift in all dimensions.

# Carroll & Conformal Carroll Symmetry: The geometric way

\* Start with Minkowski spacetime:  $ds^2 = -c^2 dt^2 + (dx^i)^2$  and send speed of light to zero.

\* Metric degenerates

$$\eta_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -c^2 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{d-1} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \tilde{h}_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{d-1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \eta^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -1/c^2 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{d-1} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow -c^2 \eta^{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \Theta^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0_{d-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

\* Also:  $\Theta^{\mu\nu} = \theta^\mu \theta^\nu$      $\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu} \theta^\nu = 0$ .    **Henneaux 1979**

\* A Carroll manifold is defined by a quadruple  $(\mathcal{C}, \tilde{h}, \theta, \nabla)$     **Duval, Gibbons, Horvathy 2014**

- $\mathcal{C}$  is a  $d$  dimensional manifold, on which one can choose a coordinate chart  $(t, x^i)$ .
- $\tilde{h}$  is a covariant, symmetric, positive, tensor field of rank  $d - 1$  and of signature  $(0, \underbrace{+1, \dots, +1}_{d-1})$ .
- $\theta$  is a non-vanishing vector field which generates the kernel of  $\tilde{h}$ .
- $\nabla$  is a symmetric affine connection that parallel transports both  $\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}$  and  $\theta^\nu$ .

\* Carroll Lie algebra:  $\mathcal{L}_\xi \tilde{h}_{\mu\nu} = 0$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_\xi \theta = 0$ . Conformal Carroll Lie algebra:  $\mathcal{L}_\xi \tilde{h} = \lambda \tilde{h}$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_\xi \theta = -\frac{\lambda}{2} \theta$ .

# Flat space and BMS symmetries

- \* Asymptotic symmetries of flat space at null infinity is given by the Bondi-Metzner-Sachs (BMS) group.
- \* In 3 and 4 dimensions, the BMS group is infinite dimensional.
- \* In 3 dimensions, the BMS<sub>3</sub> algebra reads:

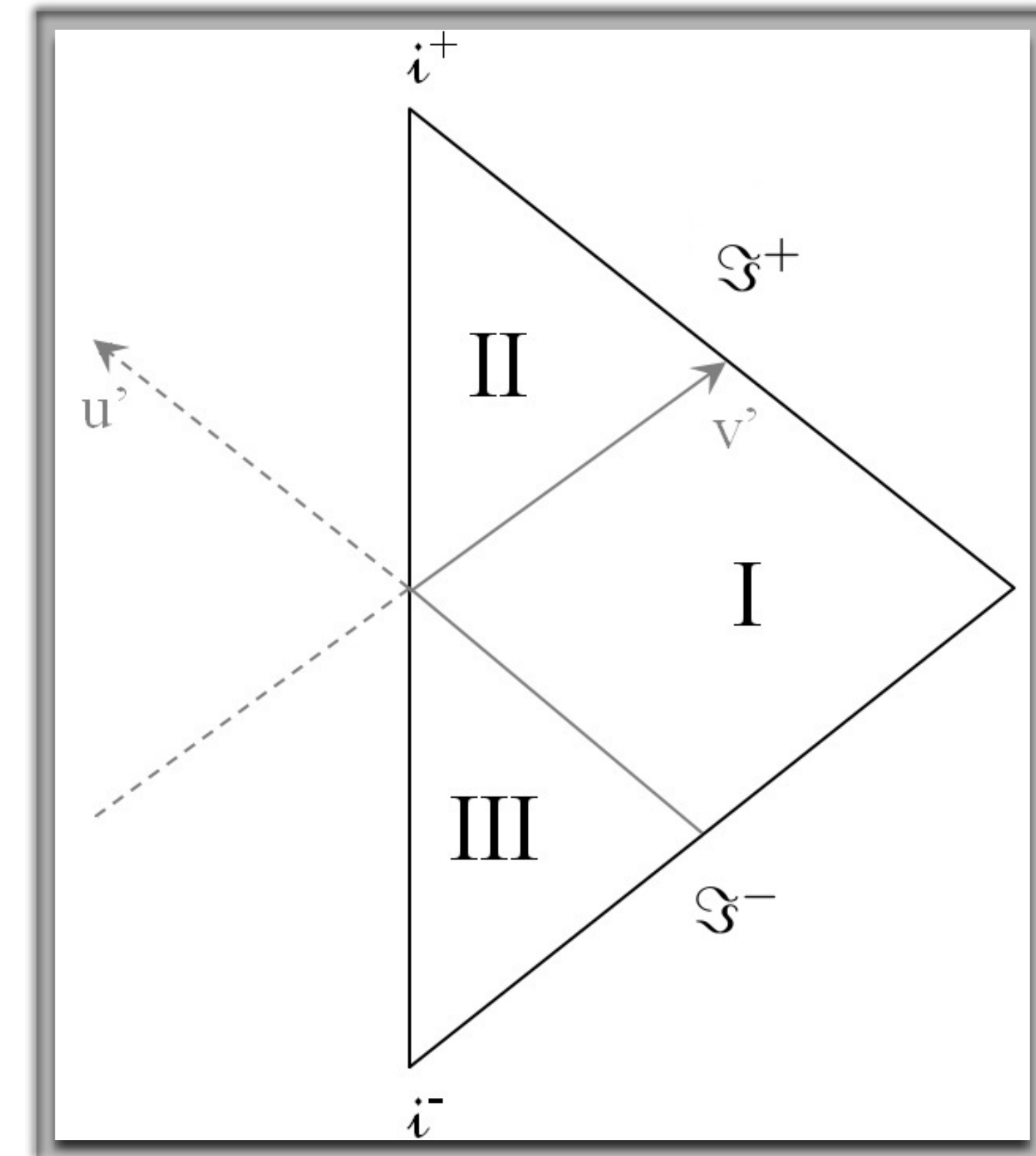
$$[L_n, L_m] = (n - m)L_{m+n} + \frac{c_L}{12}\delta_{n+m,0}(n^3 - n)$$

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

$$[M_n, M_m] = 0.$$

- \* M's: supertranslations. Angle dependent translations along the null direction.
- \* L's: superrotations. Diffeos of the circle at infinity.
- \* For Einstein gravity,  $c_L = 0$ ,  $c_M = \frac{3}{G}$

Barnich, Compere 2006



Penrose Diagram of Minkowski spacetime



# Asymptotic Symmetries of 4d Flat Spacetime

- \* In 4d, the  $\text{BMS}_4$  algebra is a bit more involved.

$$[L_n, L_m] = (n - m)L_{n+m}, \quad [\bar{L}_n, \bar{L}_m] = (n - m)\bar{L}_{n+m}$$

$$[L_n, M_{r,s}] = \left( \frac{n+1}{2} - r \right) M_{n+r,s}, \quad [\bar{L}_n, M_{r,s}] = \left( \frac{n+1}{2} - s \right) M_{r,n+s}$$

$$[M_{r,s}, M_{t,u}] = 0.$$

- \* Two Virasoros and supertranslations with two legs.
- \* Complications regarding central charges, which we will studiously avoid for now.

# The Connection

*AB 2010;  
Duval, Gibbons, Horvathy 2014.*

$$\mathcal{CCarr}_d = \mathfrak{bms}_{d+1}.$$

Conformal Carroll algebra in  $d$ -dimensions is isomorphic to the BMS algebra in  $(d+1)$  dimensions

# From AdS to Flatspace

- \* Can obtain flat space by taking the radius of AdS to infinity.
- \* Start with 2 copies of Virasoro algebra that form asymptotic symmetries of AdS3.

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

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

$$[\mathcal{L}_n, \bar{\mathcal{L}}_m] = 0$$

- \* The central terms of the left and right copies:  $c = \bar{c} = \frac{3\ell}{2G}$

- \* We take the following limit:  $L_n = \mathcal{L}_n - \bar{\mathcal{L}}_{-n}, \quad M_n = \epsilon(\mathcal{L}_n + \bar{\mathcal{L}}_{-n})$

- \* Easy to see that this contracts 2 copies of Virasoro algebra to BMS3 algebra.

- \* The central terms  $c_L = c - \bar{c} = 0$  and  $c_M = \epsilon(c + \bar{c}) = \frac{3}{G}$

Barnich, Compere 2006

- \* **Flatspace limit in bulk = Carroll limit on boundary.** AB, Fareghbal 2012

# Carrollian road to Minkowskian holography

- \* Field theory dual to Minkowski spacetimes should inherit its asymptotic symmetries.
- \* For  $\mathcal{D}$ -dim Minkowski spacetimes, the dual theory should be a  $(\mathcal{D}-1)$ -dim field theory living on the null boundary of flatspace. It should be a  **$(\mathcal{D}-1)$ -dimensional Carrollian CFT**.
- \* We would have two separate tools to study these field theories.
  - \* The intrinsic way: use only symmetries of BMS.
  - \* The limiting way: use the Carrollian limit from relativistic CFTs.
- \* We will be attempting to understand aspects of flatspace from a field theory on  $\mathcal{I}_+$ .

# Carrollian Holography: some checks of proposal

- \* Asymptotic density of states from field theory and bulk [AB, Detournay, Fareghbal, Simon 2012; Barnich 2012; AB, Basu 2013]
- \* Multipoint correlation functions of EM tensor in boundary and bulk.
  - \* Novel phase transitions from zero-point functions. [AB, Detournay, Grumiller, Simon'13].
  - \* Matching of higher point correlations [AB, Grumiller, Merbis '15].
- \* Construction and matching of Entanglement Entropy [AB, Basu, Grumiller, Riegler '14; Jiang, Song, Wen '17; Hijano-Rabideau '17].
- \* Holographic Reconstruction of 3d flat space [Hartong '15].
- \* Construction of bulk-boundary dictionary, matching of correlation functions of primary operators [Hijano-Rabideau '17; Hijano '18]
- \* BMS Characters & matching with 1-loop partition function [Oblak '15; Barnich, Gonzalez, Oblak, Maloney '15; AB, Saha, Zodinmawia '19]
- \* Asymptotic Structure constants from boundary and bulk [AB, Nandi, Saha, Zodinmawia '20]
- \* Generalisations
  - \* Flat Space Chiral Gravity: CS Gravity dual to chiral half of CFT. [AB, Detournay, Grumiller '12]
  - \* Higher spin theories in flat space. [Afshar, AB, Fareghbal, Grumiller, Rosseel '13; Gonzalez, Matulich, Pino, Troncoso '13]
- \* Fluid-Gravity correspondence for flat space [Ciambelli, Marteau, Petkou, Petropoulos, Siampos '18].

# Ancient History

**AB, Detournay, Fareghbal, Simon 2012.**

**See also Barnich 2012.**

# $S = \text{Area}/4G$ for Flat Holography?

- \* Important early checks of AdS/CFT: CFT reproduces Black Hole entropy.
- \* Entropy of BTZ black holes = Entropy from Cardy formula in CFT<sub>2</sub>.
- \* Can we do something similar for holography in flat spacetimes?
- \* Yes! **AB, Detournay, Fareghbal, Simon 2012. (See also Barnich 2012)**
- \* We will quickly review this old work to remind people of one of the early successes of this programme.

# BTZ Black holes and 2d CFT

\* The non-extremal BTZ black hole is given by

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

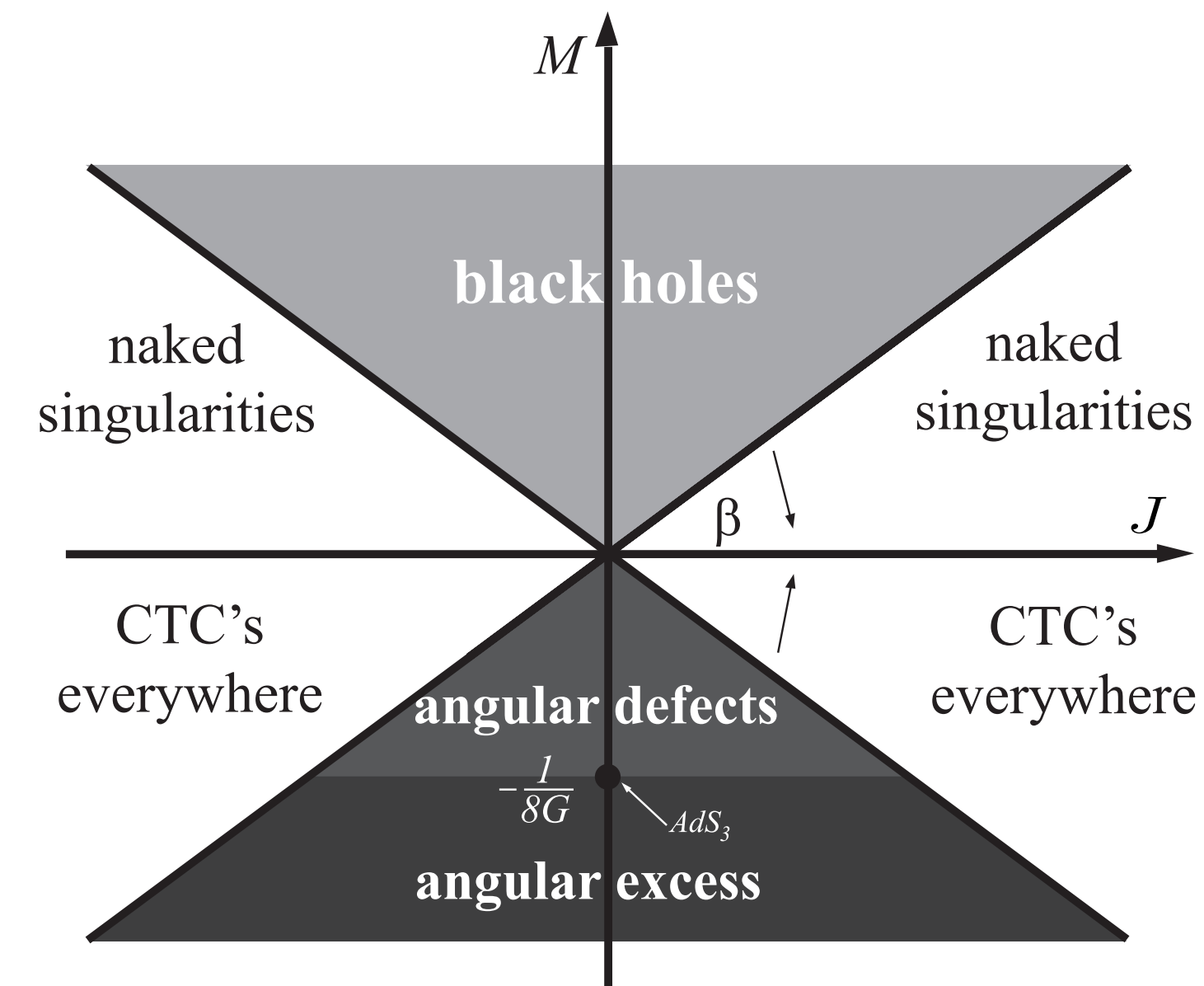
$$r_{\pm} = \sqrt{2G\ell(\ell M \pm J)} \pm \sqrt{2G\ell(\ell M - J)};$$

\* Bekenstein-Hawking entropy:  $S_{BH} = \frac{\text{Area of Horizon}}{4G} = \frac{\pi r_+}{2G}$ .

\* Cardy formula for 2d CFTs:  $S_{CFT} = 2\pi \left( \sqrt{\frac{ch}{6}} + \sqrt{\frac{\bar{c}\bar{h}}{6}} \right)$ .

\* Central terms for AdS<sub>3</sub> and weights:  $c = \bar{c} = \frac{3\ell}{2G}$ ,  $h = \frac{1}{2}(\ell M + J) + \frac{c}{24}$ ,  $\bar{h} = \frac{1}{2}(\ell M - J) + \frac{\bar{c}}{24}$

\* So ultimately:  $S_{BH} = S_{CFT}$



Phase space of AdS<sub>3</sub> solutions



# Flat Space Cosmologies

- \* Take the radius of AdS to infinity. No Black holes in 3d flat spacetimes. What is happening?
- \* Outer horizon goes to infinity. Left with inside of BTZ black hole.

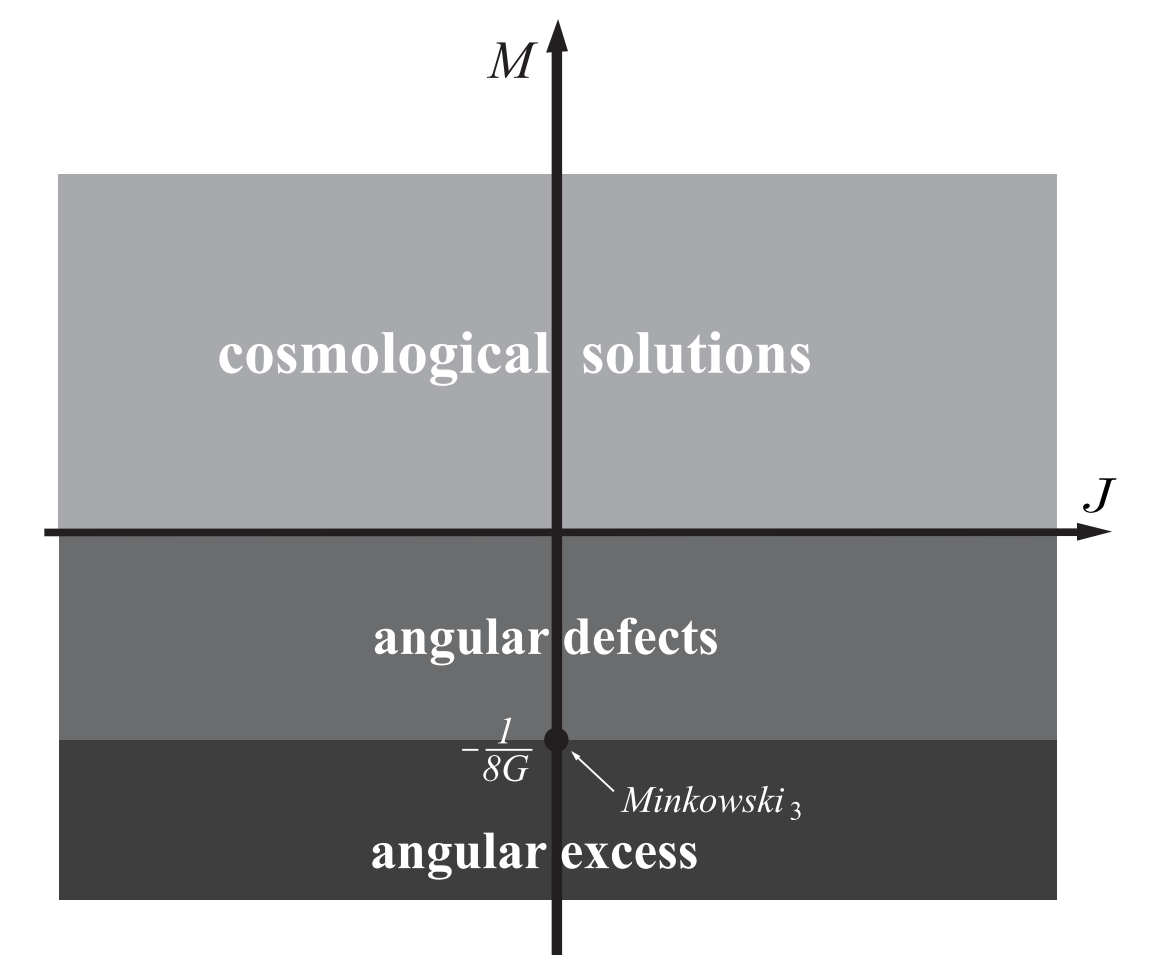
$$\ell \rightarrow \infty : r_+ \rightarrow \ell \sqrt{2GM} = \hat{r}_+, \quad r_- \rightarrow r_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2G}{M}} J.$$

- \* Inner horizon survives. Cosmological solution with horizon. Flat Space Cosmology.

$$ds_{\text{FSC}}^2 = \hat{r}_+^2 dt^2 - \frac{r^2 dr^2}{\hat{r}_+^2 (r^2 - r_0^2)} + r^2 d\phi^2 - 2\hat{r}_+ r_0 dt d\phi$$

- \* Entropy:

$$S_{\text{FSC}} = \frac{\text{Area of horizon}}{4G} = \frac{\pi r_0}{2G} = \frac{\pi J}{\sqrt{2GM}}$$



Phase space of  $\text{Min}_3$  solutions

# BMS-Cardy formula and Entropy matching

- \* Label states of the 2d Carroll CFT:  $L_0|\Delta, \xi\rangle = \Delta|\Delta, \xi\rangle$ ,  $M_0|\Delta, \xi\rangle = \xi|\Delta, \xi\rangle$
- \* Partition function:  $Z_{\text{CarrollCFT}} = \text{Tr} \exp \{2\pi i (\sigma L_0 + \rho M_0)\}$
- \* Carroll modular transformations:  $\sigma \rightarrow \frac{a\sigma + b}{c\sigma + d}$ ,  $\rho \rightarrow \frac{\rho}{(c\sigma + d)^2}$
- \* Demand invariance of  $Z$  to derive BMS-Cardy formula

$$S^{(0)} = \ln d(\Delta, \xi) = 2\pi \left( c_L \sqrt{\frac{\xi}{2c_M}} + \Delta \sqrt{\frac{c_M}{2\xi}} \right).$$

- \* Carroll Weights:  $\xi = GM$ ,  $\Delta = J$ . Central Charges:  $c_M = \frac{3}{G}$ ,  $c_L = 0$ .
- \* Putting things together:  $S_{FSC} = S_{\text{BMS-Cardy}}$

# Flat Holography : Aspects of dual theory

- **Symmetry of 2d Carroll CFT:**  $[L_n, L_m] = (n - m)L_{m+n} + \frac{c_L}{12}\delta_{n+m,0}(n^3 - n)$   
 $[L_n, M_m] = (n - m)M_{m+n} + \frac{c_M}{12}\delta_{n+m,0}(n^3 - n)$   
 $[M_n, M_m] = 0.$
- **Label states of the theory with**  $L_0|\Delta, \xi\rangle = \Delta|\Delta, \xi\rangle, M_0|\Delta, \xi\rangle = \xi|\Delta, \xi\rangle$
- **We will build highest weight representations.**
- **BMS Primaries:**  $L_n|\Delta, \xi\rangle_p = M_n|\Delta, \xi\rangle_p = 0, \forall n > 0.$
- **BMS modules are built out of these primary states by acting with raising operators.**
- **A general descent is of the form**  $L_{-1}^{k_1}L_{-2}^{k_2}\dots L_{-l}^{k_l}M_{-1}^{q_1}M_{-2}^{q_2}\dots M_{-r}^{q_r}|\Delta, \xi\rangle \equiv L_{\vec{k}}M_{\vec{q}}|\Delta, \xi\rangle$

# Carroll CFT: Partition functions.

- Can define the theory on a cylinder.  $L_n = ie^{in\phi}(\partial_\phi + in\tau\partial_\tau)$ ,  $M_n = ie^{in\phi}\partial_\tau$
- The mapping from the plane to the cylinder:  $x = e^{i\phi}$ ,  $t = i\tau e^{i\phi}$
- We can identify the end of the cylinder to define the theory on the torus.
- Partition function:  $Z_{\text{CarrollCFT}} = \text{Tr} \exp \{2\pi i (\sigma L_0 + \rho M_0)\}$
- Look at Carroll limit of CFTs. 2d CFT partition function:  $Z_{\text{CFT}} = \text{Tr} e^{2\pi i \zeta L_0} e^{-2\pi i \bar{\zeta} \bar{L}_0}$
- Relation between weights:  $\Delta = h - \bar{h}$ ,  $\xi = \epsilon(h + \bar{h})$ .
- In a convenient basis:  $Z_{\text{CFT}} = \sum d_{\text{CFT}}(h, \bar{h}) e^{2\pi i(\zeta h - \bar{\zeta} \bar{h})} = \sum d(\Delta, \xi) e^{2\pi i(\sigma \Delta - \frac{\rho}{\epsilon} \xi)}$
- Here  $2\sigma = \zeta - \bar{\zeta}$ ,  $2\rho = \zeta + \bar{\zeta}$
- We work with the assumption that  $Z_{\text{CFT}} \rightarrow Z_{\text{CarrollCFT}}$  as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$
- To keep the partition function finite, we need to scale  $\rho \rightarrow \epsilon\rho$

# Modular invariance in 2d Carroll CFTs

\* BMS Partition function:  $Z_{\text{BMS}} = \sum d(\Delta, \xi) e^{2\pi i(\sigma\Delta - \rho\xi)}$

\* Any notion of BMS modular invariance? We again investigate the limit.

\* Modular transformation in the original CFT:  $\zeta \rightarrow \frac{a\zeta + b}{c\zeta + d}$  with  $ad - bc = 1$

\* In the BMS basis:  $\sigma + \rho \rightarrow \frac{a(\sigma + \rho) + b}{c(\sigma + \rho) + d} = \frac{a\sigma + b}{c\sigma + d} + \frac{(ad - bc)\rho}{(c\sigma + d)^2} + \frac{(ad - bc)c\rho^2}{(c\sigma + d)^3} + \dots$

\* The contracted modular transformation reads:

$$\sigma \rightarrow \frac{a\sigma + b}{c\sigma + d}, \quad \rho \rightarrow \frac{\rho}{(c\sigma + d)^2}$$

\* This is what we will call the **Carroll modular transformation**.

\* Intrinsic interpretation  $\Rightarrow$  S-transformation: Exchange of circles on the Euclidean torus.  
[Lala Detournay-Hartman-Hofmann for warped CFT. See e.g. [Song et al 2017](#)]

# Invariance of Partition function

- \* Demand partition function is invariant under Carroll modular transformation and find consequences.

$$Z_{\text{BMS}}^0(\sigma, \rho) = \text{Tr} e^{2\pi i \sigma (L_0 - \frac{c_L}{2})} e^{2\pi i \rho (M_0 - \frac{c_M}{2})} = e^{\pi i (\sigma c_L + \rho c_M)} Z_{\text{BMS}}(\sigma, \rho)$$

- \* Carroll S-transformation:  $(\sigma, \rho) \rightarrow \left(-\frac{1}{\sigma}, \frac{\rho}{\sigma^2}\right)$

- \* Invariance of the above quantity:  $Z_{\text{BMS}}^0(\sigma, \rho) = Z_{\text{BMS}}^0\left(-\frac{1}{\sigma}, \frac{\rho}{\sigma^2}\right)$

- \* This translates to:  $Z_{\text{BMS}}(\sigma, \rho) = e^{2\pi i \sigma \frac{c_L}{2}} e^{2\pi i \rho \frac{c_M}{2}} e^{-2\pi i (-\frac{1}{\sigma}) \frac{c_L}{2}} e^{-2\pi i (\frac{\rho}{\sigma^2}) \frac{c_M}{2}} Z_{\text{BMS}}\left(-\frac{1}{\sigma}, \frac{\rho}{\sigma^2}\right)$

- \* The density of states can be found with an inverse Laplace transformation

$$d(\Delta, \xi) = \int d\sigma d\rho e^{2\pi i \tilde{f}(\sigma, \rho)} Z\left(-\frac{1}{\sigma}, \frac{\rho}{\sigma^2}\right).$$

where  $\tilde{f}(\sigma, \rho) = \frac{c_L \sigma}{2} + \frac{c_M \rho}{2} + \frac{c_L}{2\sigma} - \frac{c_M \rho}{2\sigma^2} - \Delta\sigma - \xi\rho$ .

- \* In the limit of large charges, this integration can be done with a saddle point approximation.

# BMS Cardy formula

- In the large charge limit,  $\tilde{f}(\sigma, \rho) \rightarrow f(\sigma, \rho) = \frac{c_L}{2\sigma} - \frac{c_M \rho}{2\sigma^2} - \Delta\sigma - \xi\rho$ .
- Value at the extremum is  $f^{max}(\sigma, \rho) = -i \left( c_L \sqrt{\frac{\xi}{2c_M}} + \Delta \sqrt{\frac{c_M}{2\xi}} \right)$ .
- BMS-Cardy formula is given by

$$S^{(0)} = \ln d(\Delta, \xi) = 2\pi \left( c_L \sqrt{\frac{\xi}{2c_M}} + \Delta \sqrt{\frac{c_M}{2\xi}} \right).$$

*Bagchi, Detournay, Fareghbal, Simon 2012.*

- One can calculate leading logarithmic corrections to this.

$$S = 2\pi \left( c_L \sqrt{\frac{\xi}{2c_M}} + \Delta \sqrt{\frac{c_M}{2\xi}} \right) - \frac{3}{2} \log \left( \frac{\xi}{c_M^{1/3}} \right) + \text{constant} = S^{(0)} + S^{(1)}.$$

*Bagchi, Basu 2013.*

# FSC entropy from dual theory

- The weights for the FSC:  $\xi = GM + \frac{c_M}{24} \sim GM, \quad \Delta = J$
- Putting this back into the BMS-Cardy formula, we get  $S_{\text{FSC}} = \frac{\pi J}{\sqrt{2GM}}$

*Bagchi, Detournay, Fareghbal, Simon 2012; Barnich 2012*

which is precisely what we obtained from the gravitational analysis.

- The log-correction is of the form  $S_{\text{FSC}}^{(1)} = -\frac{3}{2} \log(2GM)$

- Total entropy:  $S_{\text{FSC}} = \frac{2\pi r_0}{4G} - \frac{3}{2} \log\left(\frac{2\pi r_0}{4G}\right) - \frac{3}{2} \log \kappa + \text{constant}$

*Bagchi, Basu 2013.*

Here  $\kappa = \frac{\hat{r}^2}{r_0} = \frac{8GM}{r_0}$  is the surface gravity of FSC.

- Can also be obtained in the limit from the “inner” Cardy formula.

*Riegler 2014; Fareghbal, Naseh 2014.*



# What's new? Bulk Scattering from Carroll CFTs

AB, Banerjee, Basu, Dutta 2022 (PRL)

- \* In asymptotically flat spaces, S-matrices are the observables of interest.
- \* Especially true in  $d \geq 4$ , where one has propagating DOF.
- \* Can we connect Carroll CFT correlations to S-matrix? YES!
- \* Interesting branches of correlators. "Weird" branch gives correct answer.
- \* We show this for  $d=3$  boundary theory and  $d=4$  bulk.
- \* Inspired by Pasterski-Shao map for Celestial CFTs. Use modified Mellin transformations.
- \* More details: See talk by SUDIPTA DUTTA tomorrow!
- \* Also talks by Laura, Romain, Adrien in this conference for another perspective.

# 3d Carrollian CFTs

**Algebra on  $\mathcal{I}^+$  :**  $[L_n, L_m] = (n - m)L_{n+m}, \quad [\bar{L}_n, \bar{L}_m] = (n - m)\bar{L}_{n+m}$   
 $[L_n, M_{r,s}] = \left(\frac{n+1}{2} - r\right) M_{n+r,s}, \quad [\bar{L}_n, M_{r,s}] = \left(\frac{n+1}{2} - s\right) M_{r,n+s} \quad [M_{r,s}, M_{t,u}] = 0.$

**Representation (vector fields):**  $L_n = -z^{n+1}\partial_z - \frac{1}{2}(n+1)z^n u\partial_u \quad \bar{L}_n = -\bar{z}^{n+1}\partial_{\bar{z}} - \frac{1}{2}(n+1)\bar{z}^n u\partial_u \quad M_{r,s} = z^r \bar{z}^s \partial_u$

*Here  $z$ : stereographic coordinate on sphere,  $u$ : null direction.*

**Labelling of operators:**  $[L_0, \Phi(0)] = h\Phi(0), \quad [\bar{L}_0, \Phi(0)] = \bar{h}\Phi(0).$

**Assume existence of Conformal Carroll primaries on  $\mathcal{I}^+$**

**Highest weight representations:**  $[L_n, \Phi(0)] = 0, \quad [\bar{L}_n, \Phi(0)] = 0, \quad \forall n > 0, \quad [M_{r,s}, \Phi(0)] = 0, \quad \forall r, s > 0.$

**Transformation rules for Carrollian primaries:**  $\delta_{L_n} \Phi_{h,\bar{h}}(u, z, \bar{z}) = \epsilon \left[ z^{n+1}\partial_z + (n+1)z^n \left( h + \frac{1}{2}u\partial_u \right) \right] \Phi_{h,\bar{h}}(u, z, \bar{z})$

$$\delta_{M_{r,s}} \Phi_{h,\bar{h}}(u, z, \bar{z}) = \epsilon z^r \bar{z}^s \partial_u \Phi_{h,\bar{h}}(u, z, \bar{z}).$$

# Scattering in 4d flatspace: Connections to 2d CFT

Consider massless particles. 4-momenta parametrised as:

$$p^\mu = \omega (1 + z\bar{z}, z + \bar{z}, -i(z - \bar{z}), 1 - z\bar{z}), \quad p^\mu p_\mu = 0$$

**Mellin transformation:** We also introduce a symbol  $\epsilon$  which is equal to  $\pm 1$  if the particle is (outgoing) incoming.

$$\mathcal{M}(\{z_i, \bar{z}_i, h_i, \bar{h}_i, \epsilon_i\}) = \prod_{i=1}^n \int_0^\infty d\omega_i \omega_i^{\Delta_i - 1} S(\{\epsilon_i \omega_i, z_i, \bar{z}_i, \sigma_i\}), \quad \Delta \in \mathbb{C}, \quad \sigma \in \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{2}$$

$S$  is the  $S$ -matrix element for  $n$  massless particle scattering.

**Also:**  $h = \frac{\Delta + \sigma}{2}, \quad \bar{h} = \frac{\Delta - \sigma}{2}$

Using Lorentz transformation properties of the  $S$ -matrix, it can be shown that the LHS transforms like a correlation function of  $n$  primary operators of a 2d CFT.

[Pasterski-Shao(-Strominger), 2016]

# 4d Scattering: Modified Mellin Transformation

**Under supertranslations:**  $u \rightarrow u' = u + f(z, \bar{z}), z \rightarrow z' = z, \bar{z} \rightarrow \bar{z}' = \bar{z}$

**Under superrotations:**  $u \rightarrow u' = \left(\frac{dw}{dz}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{d\bar{w}}{d\bar{z}}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} u, z \rightarrow z' = w(z), \bar{z} \rightarrow \bar{z}' = \bar{w}(\bar{z})$

**Modified Mellin transformation:**

$$\tilde{\mathcal{M}}(\{u_i, z_i, \bar{z}_i, h_i, \bar{h}_i, \epsilon_i\}) = \prod_{i=1}^n \int_0^\infty d\omega_i \omega_i^{\Delta_i - 1} e^{-i\epsilon_i \omega_i u_i} S(\{\epsilon_i \omega_i, z_i, \bar{z}_i, \sigma_i\}), \quad \Delta \in \mathbb{C}$$

[Banerjee 2017, Banerjee-Ghosh-Paul 2020]

Now defined in a 3d space with coordinates  $(u, z, \bar{z})$ . Transforms covariantly under BMS transformations

Used in Celestial holography since original Mellin transformation is not convergent due to bad UV behaviour of gravitation scattering amplitudes.

# 4d Scattering: Modified Mellin Transformation

**Define:**  $\phi_{h,\bar{h}}^\epsilon(u, z, \bar{z}) = \int_0^\infty d\omega \omega^{\Delta-1} e^{-i\epsilon\omega u} a(\epsilon\omega, z, \bar{z}, \sigma)$ .

where  $a(\epsilon\omega, z, \bar{z}, \sigma)$  is the momentum space (creation) annihilation operator of a massless particle with helicity  $\sigma$  when  $(\epsilon = -1)$   $\epsilon = 1$ . In terms of these fields we can write

$$\tilde{\mathcal{M}}(\{u_i, z_i, \bar{z}_i, h_i, \bar{h}_i, \epsilon_i\}) = \left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \phi_{h_i, \bar{h}_i}^{\epsilon_i}(u_i, z_i, \bar{z}_i) \right\rangle.$$

The field  $\phi_{h,\bar{h}}^\epsilon(u, z, \bar{z})$  transforms under BMS transformations as:

**Supertranslation:**  $\phi_{h,\bar{h}}^\epsilon(u, z, \bar{z}) \rightarrow \phi_{h,\bar{h}}^\epsilon(u + f(z, \bar{z}), z, \bar{z})$

**Superrotation:**  $\phi_{h,\bar{h}}^\epsilon(u, z, \bar{z}) \rightarrow \left(\frac{dw}{dz}\right)^h \left(\frac{d\bar{w}}{d\bar{z}}\right)^{\bar{h}} \phi_{h,\bar{h}}^\epsilon(u', z', \bar{z}')$

These are exactly the same as the Carrollian CFT primaries that were defined earlier.

This is a central observation of what is to follow.

# Proposal: Scattering Amplitude = Carroll CFT Correlator

It is natural to identify the time-dependent correlation functions of primary fields in a Carrollian CFT with the modified Mellin transformation:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{M}}(\{u_i, z_i, \bar{z}_i, h_i, \bar{h}_i, \epsilon_i\}) = \prod_i \langle \phi_{h_i, \bar{h}_i}^{\epsilon_i}(u_i, z_i, \bar{z}_i) \rangle.$$

The time-dependent correlators of a 3d Carroll CFT compute the 4d scattering amplitudes in the Mellin basis.

# What have we learnt so far?

- \* Carrollian physics emerges in the vanishing speed of light limit of Lorentzian physics.
- \* Carrollian CFTs are natural holographic duals of flat spacetimes as they inherit the asymptotic symmetries of the bulk theory.
- \* Over the years, a lot of evidence has been gathered about especially the duality between 3d flatspace and 2d Carroll CFTs.
- \* In particular, a BMS-Cardy formula in a 2d Carroll CFT reproduces the entropy of the cosmological horizon of Flatspace Cosmologies, providing one of the most important checks of the holographic analysis in flatspace.
- \* A stumbling block was the formulation of scattering in Carroll CFTs.

# What have we learnt so far?

- \* The S-matrix is the most important observable for Quantum gravity in flatspace.
- \* Carroll CFT correlation functions have two branches. One of them is time-independent and gives correlations of a 2d CFT. The other one gives spatial delta functions and depends on the null time direction.
- \* Using modified Mellin transformations, can show this delta-function branch has the correct properties for reproducing scattering amplitudes in the bulk.
- \* So scattering amplitudes are connected to Carroll CFT correlations in a rather non-trivial and non-obvious way.



# Open questions: Flat Holography

- \* Why is the “electric” leg important for scattering?
- \* Going beyond 2 and 3 point functions. 4 point? Can we construct an interacting theory and make the connection concrete? Input from gravity?
- \* Limit from AdS/CFT for flatspace scattering? Does not seem to work at first sight.
- \* Bootstrap for Carroll CFT for  $d > 2$ . [Bootstrap for  $d=2$  (AB, Gary, Zodinmawia 2016)]
- \* Connection to the picture of Laura, Romain, Adrien.  
Celestial Holography as a “restriction” of Carrollian Holography?
- \* Addressing the question of  $S=A/4G$  for  $d=4$ .
- \* Vacuum degeneracy and memory in Carroll CFTs.

# Tensionless Strings

# Null Strings?! What? Why?

- \* Massless point particles move on null geodesics. Worldlines are null.
- \* Null strings: extended analogues of massless point particles. Massless point particles  $\Rightarrow$  Tensionless strings.
- \* Tensionless or null strings: studied since **Schild** in 1970's.
- \* Tension  $T = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'}$   $\rightarrow 0$ : point particle limit of string theory  $\Rightarrow$  Classical gravity.
- \* Tensionless regime:  $T = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'}$   $\rightarrow \infty$ : **ultra-high energy, ultra-quantum gravity!**

Null strings are vital for:

- A. Strings at **very high temperatures**: Hagedorn Phase.
- B. Strings near **spacetime singularities**: Strings near Black holes, near the Big Bang.
- C. Connections to **higher spin theory**.

# Summary of Results

- \* **2d Conformal Carrollian (or BMS<sub>3</sub>)** and its supersymmetric cousins arise on the **worldsheet of the tensionless string** replacing the two copies of the (super) Virasoro algebra.
- \* **Classical tensionless strings:** properties can be derived intrinsically or as a limit of usual tensile strings.
- \* **Quantum tensionless strings:** many surprising new results.

# Classical Tensionless Strings

Isberg, Lindstrom, Sundborg, Theodoridis 1993

AB 2013; AB, Chakraborty, Parekh 2015.

# Going tensionless

Isberg, Lindstrom, Sundborg, Theodoridis 1993

Start with Nambu-Goto action:

$$S = -T \int d^2 \xi \sqrt{-\det \gamma_{\alpha\beta}}. \quad (1)$$

To take the tensionless limit, first switch to Hamiltonian framework.

- ▶ **Generalised momenta:**  $P_m = T \sqrt{-\gamma} \gamma^{0\alpha} \partial_\alpha X_m$ .
- ▶ **Constraints:**  $P^2 + T^2 \gamma \gamma^{00} = 0$ ,  $P_m \partial_\sigma X^m = 0$ .
- ▶ **Hamiltonian:**  $\mathcal{H}_T = \mathcal{H}_C + \rho^i (\text{constraints})_i = \lambda (P^2 + T^2 \gamma \gamma^{00}) + \rho P_m \partial_\sigma X^m$ .

Action after integrating out momenta:

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^2 \xi \frac{1}{2\lambda} \left[ \dot{X}^2 - 2\rho \dot{X}^m \partial_\sigma X_m + \rho^2 \partial_\sigma X^m \partial_\sigma X_m - 4\lambda^2 T^2 \gamma \gamma^{00} \right] \quad (2)$$

Identifying

$$g^{\alpha\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & \\ \rho & -\rho^2 + 4\lambda^2 T^2 \end{pmatrix},$$

action takes the familiar Weyl-invariant form

$$S = -\frac{T}{2} \int d^2 \xi \sqrt{-g} g^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha X^m \partial_\beta X^n \eta_{mn}. \quad (3)$$

# Going Tensionless ...

Isberg, Lindstrom, Sundborg, Theodoridis 1993

- ▶ Tensionless limit can now be taken systematically.

- ▶  $T \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow$

$$g^{\alpha\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & \rho \\ \rho & -\rho^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- ▶ Metric is degenerate.  $\det g = 0$ .

- ▶ Replace degenerate metric density  $T \sqrt{-g} g^{\alpha\beta}$  by a rank-1 matrix  $V^\alpha V^\beta$  where  $V^\alpha$  is a vector density

$$V^\alpha \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\lambda}} (1, \rho) \quad (4)$$

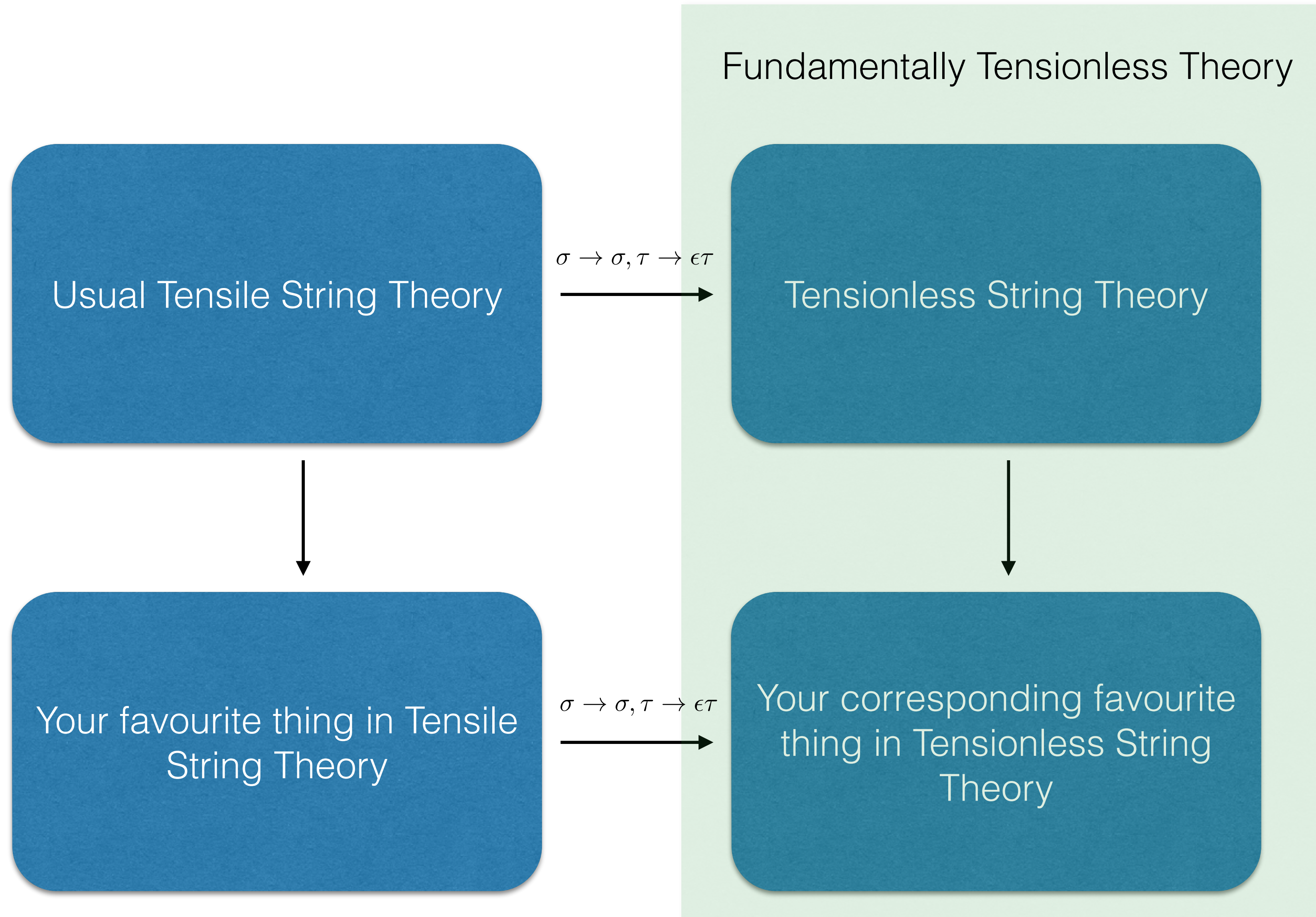
- ▶ Action in  $T \rightarrow 0$  limit

$$S = \int d^2\xi V^\alpha V^\beta \partial_\alpha X^m \partial_\beta X^n \eta_{mn}. \quad (5)$$

- ▶ Starting point of tensionless strings.

- ▶ Need not refer to any parent theory. Treat this as action of fundamental objects.

# Completing the square?





# Gauge and Residual Gauge Symmetries

Tensionless action is invariant under world-sheet diffeomorphisms.

**Fixing gauge:** “Conformal” gauge:  $V^\alpha = (v, 0)$  ( $v$ : constant).

**Tensile:** Residual symmetry after fixing conformal gauge =  $\text{Vir} \otimes \text{Vir}$ . Central to understanding string theory.

**Tensionless:** Similar residual symmetry left over after gauge fixing.

For world-sheet diffeomorphism:  $\xi^\alpha \rightarrow \xi^\alpha + \varepsilon^\alpha$ , change in vector density:  $\delta_\varepsilon V^\alpha = -V \cdot \partial \varepsilon^\alpha + \varepsilon \cdot \partial V^\alpha + \frac{1}{2}(\partial \cdot \varepsilon)V^\alpha$

Tensionless residual symmetries: for  $V^\alpha = (v, 0)$ ,  $\varepsilon^\alpha = \{f'(\sigma)\tau + g(\sigma), f(\sigma)\}$

Define:  $L(f) = f'(\sigma)\tau\partial_\tau + f(\sigma)\partial_\sigma$ ,  $M(g) = g(\sigma)\partial_\tau$ . Expand:  $f = \sum a_n e^{in\sigma}$ ,  $g = \sum b_n e^{in\sigma}$

$$L(f) = \sum_n a_n e^{in\sigma} (\partial_\sigma + in\tau\partial_\tau) = \sum_n a_n L_n, \quad M(g) = \sum_n b_n e^{in\sigma} \partial_\tau = \sum_n b_n M_n.$$

$$\begin{aligned} [L_m, L_n] &= (m-n)L_{m+n} + \frac{c_L}{12}(m^3 - m)\delta_{m+n,0}, & [M_m, M_n] &= 0. \\ [L_m, M_n] &= (m-n)M_{m+n} + \frac{c_M}{12}(m^3 - m)\delta_{m+n,0}. \end{aligned}$$

# Tensionless Limit from the Worldsheet

A Bagchi 2013

- **Tensile string:** Residual symmetry in conformal gauge  $g_{\alpha\beta} = e^\phi \eta_{\alpha\beta}$ :

$$[\mathcal{L}_m, \mathcal{L}_n] = (m - n)\mathcal{L}_{m+n} + \frac{c}{12}m(m^2 - 1)\delta_{m+n,0}$$

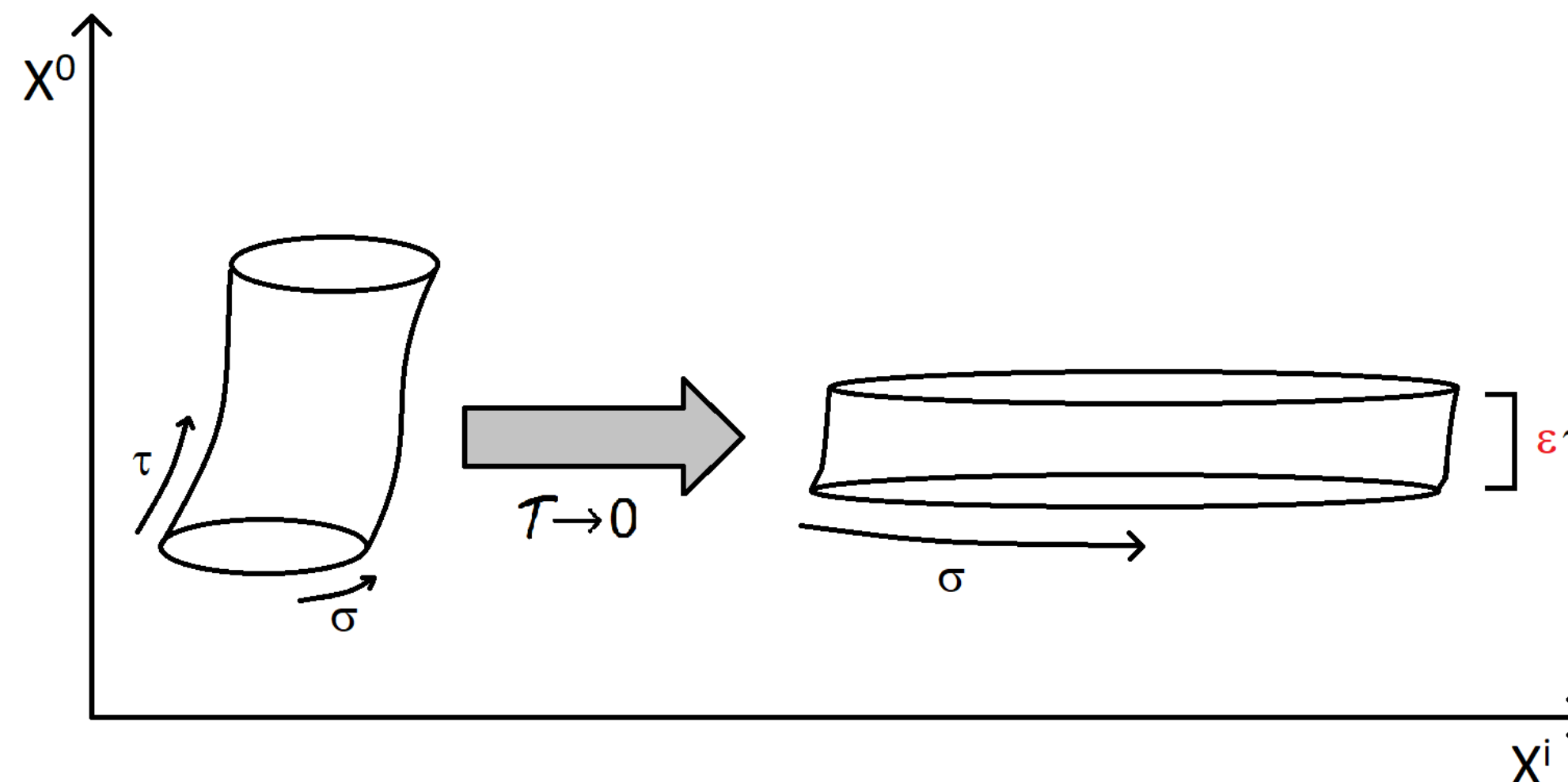
$$[\mathcal{L}_m, \bar{\mathcal{L}}_n] = 0, \quad [\bar{\mathcal{L}}_m, \bar{\mathcal{L}}_n] = (m - n)\bar{\mathcal{L}}_{m+n} + \frac{\bar{c}}{12}m(m^2 - 1)\delta_{m+n,0}$$

- World-sheet is a cylinder. Symmetry best expressed as 2d conformal generators on the cylinder.

$$\mathcal{L}_n = ie^{in\omega} \partial_\omega, \quad \bar{\mathcal{L}}_n = ie^{in\bar{\omega}} \partial_{\bar{\omega}}$$

where  $\omega, \bar{\omega} = \tau \pm \sigma$ . Vector fields generate centre-less Virasoros.

- **Tensionless limit**  $\Rightarrow$  length of string becomes infinite ( $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$ ).
- Ends of closed string identified  $\Rightarrow$  limit best viewed as ( $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma, \tau \rightarrow \epsilon\tau, \epsilon \rightarrow 0$ ).



# Tensionless Limit from the Worldsheet

A Bagchi 2013

- ▶ Define

$$L_n = \mathcal{L}_n - \bar{\mathcal{L}}_{-n}, \quad M_n = \epsilon(\mathcal{L}_n + \bar{\mathcal{L}}_{-n}).$$

- ▶ New vector fields  $(L_n, M_n)$  well-defined in limit and given by:

$$L_n = ie^{in\sigma} (\partial_\sigma + in\tau \partial_\tau), \quad M_n = ie^{in\sigma} \partial_\tau.$$

- ▶ These are *exactly the generators defined previously*. Close to form  $\text{BMS}_3$ .

$$[L_m, L_n] = (m - n)L_{m+n} \quad [L_m, M_n] = (m - n)M_{m+n} \quad [M_m, M_n] = 0.$$

- ▶ Tensionless limit on the worldsheet:  $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma, \tau \rightarrow \epsilon\tau, \epsilon \rightarrow 0$
- ▶ Worldsheet velocities  $v = \frac{\sigma}{\tau} \rightarrow \infty$ . Effectively,  $\frac{v}{c} \rightarrow \infty$
- ▶ Hence worldsheet speed of light  $\rightarrow 0$ . Carrollian limit.
- ▶ Degenerate worldsheet metric.
- ▶ Riemannian tensile worldsheet  $\rightarrow$  Carrollian tensionless worldsheet.

# Tensionless EM Tensor and constraints

A Bagchi 2013

Spectrum of tensile string theory (in conformal gauge in flat space)

- ▶ **Quantise** worldsheet theory as a theory free scalar fields.
- ▶ **Constraint**: vanishing of EOM of metric (which is fixed to be flat).
- ▶ **Op form**: Physical states vanish under action of modes of E-M tensor.

EM tensor for 2d CFT on cylinder: 
$$T_{cyl} = z^2 T_{plane} - \frac{c}{24} = \sum_n \mathcal{L}_n e^{in\omega} - \frac{c}{24}; \quad \bar{T}_{cyl} = \sum_n \bar{\mathcal{L}}_n e^{in\bar{\omega}} - \frac{\bar{c}}{24}$$

$$T_{(1)} = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \left( T_{cyl} - \bar{T}_{cyl} \right) = \sum_n (L_n - in\tau M_n) e^{in\sigma} - \frac{c_L}{24}$$

Ultra-relativistic EM tensor

$$T_{(2)} = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon \left( T_{cyl} + \bar{T}_{cyl} \right) = \sum_n M_n e^{in\sigma} - \frac{c_M}{24}$$

- ▶ **Classical constraint** on the tensionless string:  $T_{(1)} = 0, \quad T_{(2)} = 0.$
- ▶ Quantum version: **physical spectrum of tensionless strings** restricted by

$$\langle \text{phys} | T_{(1)} | \text{phys}' \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \text{phys} | T_{(2)} | \text{phys}' \rangle = 0.$$

# Intrinsic Analysis: EOM and Mode Expansions

AB, Chakraborty, Parekh 2015

- ▶ Equation of motion in  $V^a = (v, 0)$  gauge:  $\ddot{X}^\mu = 0$ .
- ▶ Solution:  $X^\mu(\sigma, \tau) = x^\mu + \sqrt{2c'}A_0^\mu\sigma + \sqrt{2c'}B_0^\mu\tau + i\sqrt{2c'}\sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{1}{n} (A_n^\mu - in\tau B_n^\mu) e^{in\sigma}$
- ▶ Closed string b.c.:  $X^\mu(\sigma, \tau) = X^\mu(\sigma + 2\pi, \tau) \Rightarrow A_0^\mu = 0$ .
- ▶ Constraints:  $\dot{X}^2 = 2c' \sum_{m,n} B_{-m} \cdot B_{m+n} e^{in\sigma} = 0$ ,  $\dot{X} \cdot X' = 2c' \sum_{m,n} (A_{-m} - in\tau B_{-m}) \cdot B_{m+n} e^{in\sigma} = 0$
- ▶ Define:  $L_n = \sum_m A_{-m} \cdot B_{m+n}$ ,  $M_n = \sum_m B_{-m} \cdot B_{m+n}$
- ▶ Classical constraints in terms of modes:  $\sum_n (L_n - in\tau M_n) e^{in\sigma} = 0 = T_{(1)}$ ,  $\sum_n M_n e^{in\sigma} = 0 = T_{(2)}$ .

Familiar form obtained earlier from purely algebraic considerations.

- ▶ The algebra of the modes  $\{A_m^\mu, A_n^\nu\} = 0$ ,  $\{B_m^\mu, B_n^\nu\} = 0$ ,  $\{A_m^\mu, B_n^\nu\} = -im\delta_{m+n,0} \eta^{\mu\nu}$ .
- ▶ The worldsheet symmetry algebra of tensionless strings, now constructed from the quadratics of the modes:

$$\{L_m, L_n\} = -i(m-n)L_{m+n}, \quad \{L_m, M_n\} = -i(m-n)M_{m+n}, \quad \{M_m, M_n\} = 0.$$

Quantization:  $\{, \}_{PB} \rightarrow -\frac{i}{\hbar} [, ]$  leads to the BMS<sub>3</sub> Algebra.

# Limiting Analysis: EOM and Mode Expansions

AB, Chakraborty, Parekh 2015

► Tensile string mode expansion:  $X^\mu(\sigma, \tau) = x^\mu + 2\sqrt{2\alpha'}\alpha_0^\mu\tau + i\sqrt{2\alpha'}\sum_{n\neq 0}\frac{1}{n}[\tilde{\alpha}_n^\mu e^{-in(\tau+\sigma)} + \alpha_n^\mu e^{-in(\tau-\sigma)}]$ .

► The limiting procedure:  $\tau \rightarrow \epsilon\tau$ ,  $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma$ ,  $\alpha' = c'/\epsilon$  with  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$

$$X^\mu(\sigma, \tau) = x^\mu + 2\sqrt{\frac{2c'}{\epsilon}}\alpha_0^\mu\epsilon\tau + i\sqrt{\frac{2c'}{\epsilon}}\sum_{n\neq 0}\frac{1}{n}[\tilde{\alpha}_n^\mu e^{-in\sigma}(1 - in\epsilon\tau) + \alpha_n^\mu e^{in\sigma}(1 - in\epsilon\tau)],$$

$$= x^\mu + 2\sqrt{2c'}(\sqrt{\epsilon})\alpha_0^\mu\tau + i\sqrt{2c'}\sum_{n\neq 0}\frac{1}{n}\left[\frac{\alpha_n^\mu - \tilde{\alpha}_{-n}^\mu}{\sqrt{\epsilon}} - in\tau\sqrt{\epsilon}(\alpha_n^\mu + \tilde{\alpha}_{-n}^\mu)\right]e^{in\sigma}.$$

► Thus we get a relation between the tensionless and tensile modes:

$$A_n^\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon}}(\alpha_n^\mu - \tilde{\alpha}_{-n}^\mu), \quad B_n^\mu = \sqrt{\epsilon}(\alpha_n^\mu + \tilde{\alpha}_{-n}^\mu).$$

► The equivalent of the Virasoro constraints

$$L_n = \mathcal{L}_n - \bar{\mathcal{L}}_{-n}, \quad M_n = \epsilon[\mathcal{L}_n + \bar{\mathcal{L}}_{-n}]$$

# Quantum Tensionless Strings

# A summary of quantum results

- \* Novel closed to open string transition as the tension goes to zero.  
[AB, Banerjee, Parekh (PRL) 2019]
- \* Careful canonical quantisation leads to not one, but three different vacua which give rise to different quantum mechanical theories arising out of the same classical theory.  
[AB, Banerjee, Chakraborty, Dutta, Parekh 2020]
- \* Lightcone analysis: spacetime Lorentz algebra closes for two theories for  $D=26$ . No restriction on the other theory. All acceptable limits of quantum tensile strings.  
[AB, Mandlik, Sharma 2021]
- \* Interpretation in terms of Rindler physics on the worldsheet.  
[AB, Banerjee, Chakraborty (PRL) 2021]
- \* Carroll limit on spacetime induces tensionless limit on worldsheet. Strings become tensionless near blackhole event horizons. [AB, Banerjee, Chakraborty, Chatterjee 2021]



# A Tale of Three

AB, Banerjee, Chakraborty, Dutta, Parekh. 2001.00354

❖ From a single classical theory, several inequivalent quantum theories may emerge. This happens when we consider canonical quantisation of tensionless string theories.

❖ As we saw earlier **Classical constraint** on the tensionless string:  $T_{(1)} = 0$ ,  $T_{(2)} = 0$ .

Quantum version: **physical spectrum of tensionless strings** restricted by  $\langle phys|T_{(1)}|phys' \rangle = 0$ ,  $\langle phys|T_{(2)}|phys' \rangle = 0$ .

❖ This amounts to  $\langle phys|L_n|phys' \rangle = 0$ ,  $\langle phys|M_n|phys' \rangle = 0$ .

❖ For each type of oscillator  $F$  obeying  $\langle phys|F_n|phys' \rangle = 0$ , there can be three types of solutions.

1.  $F_n|phys\rangle = 0$  ( $n > 0$ ),
2.  $F_n|phys\rangle = 0$  ( $n \neq 0$ ),
3.  $F_n|phys\rangle \neq 0$ , but  $\langle phys'|F_n|phys\rangle = 0$ .

# A Tale of Three

AB, Banerjee, Chakrabortty, Dutta, Parekh. 2001.00354

❖ Here  $F_n = (L_n, M_n)$ . Hence seemingly nine conditions:

$$L_m|phys\rangle = 0, (m > 0), \left\{ \begin{array}{l} M_n|phys\rangle = 0, (n > 0) \\ M_n|phys\rangle = 0, (n \neq 0) \\ M_n|phys\rangle \neq 0, (\forall n) \end{array} \right\}; L_m|phys\rangle = 0, (m \neq 0), \left\{ \begin{array}{l} M_n|phys\rangle = 0, (n > 0) \\ M_n|phys\rangle = 0, (n \neq 0) \\ M_n|phys\rangle \neq 0, (\forall n) \end{array} \right\}; L_m|phys\rangle \neq 0, (\forall m), \left\{ \begin{array}{l} M_n|phys\rangle = 0, (n > 0) \\ M_n|phys\rangle = 0, (n \neq 0) \\ M_n|phys\rangle \neq 0, (\forall n) \end{array} \right\}$$

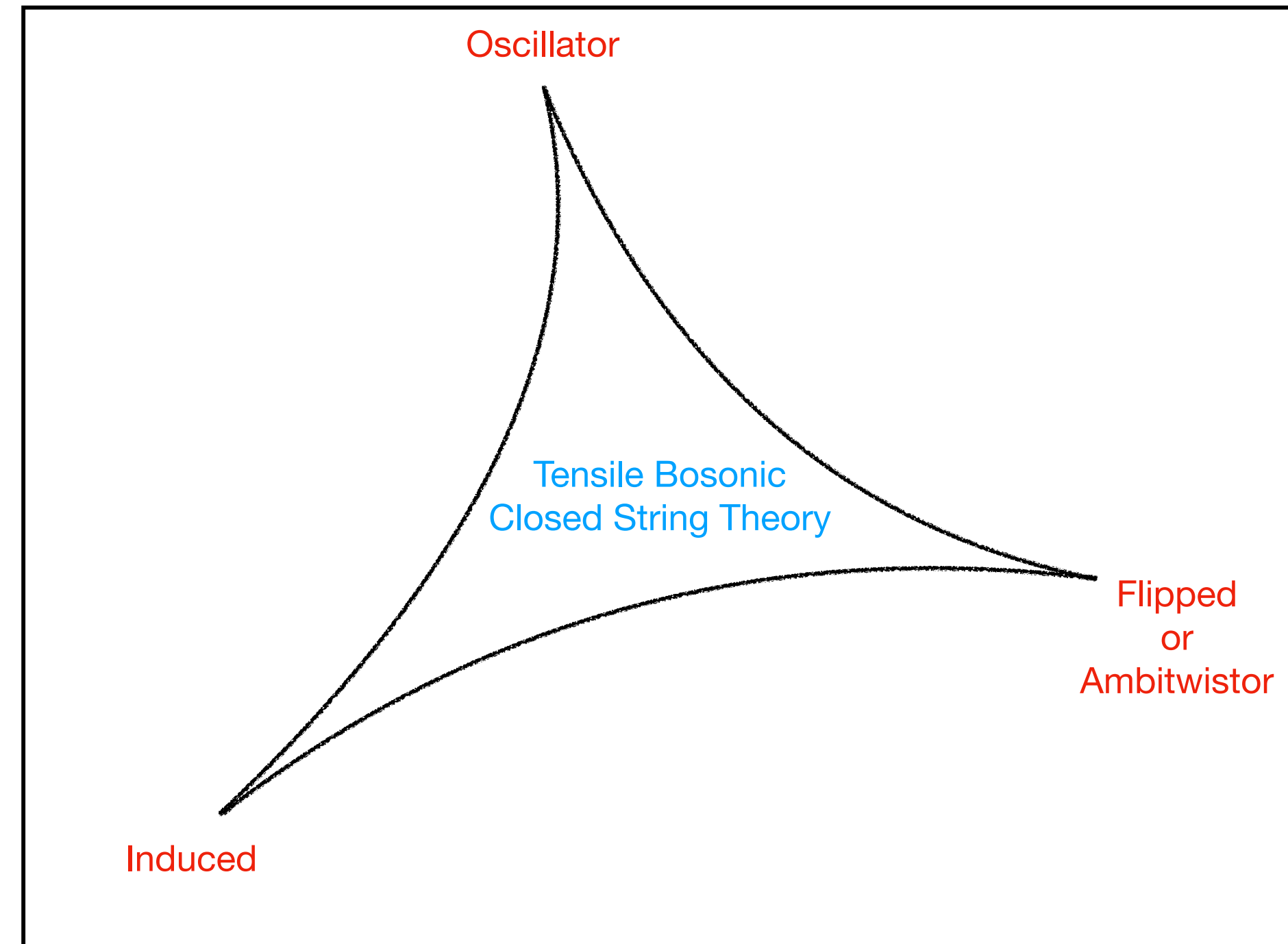
❖ But the underlying BMS algebra also has to be satisfied. It turns out that only three of the nine choices lead to consistent solutions.

❖ These are three inequivalent vacua, leading to three inequivalent quantum theories.

- **Induced vacuum:** Theory obtained from the limit of usual tensile strings.
- **Flipped vacuum:** Leads to ambitwistor strings. (See e.g. Casali, Tourkine, (Herfray) 2016-17)
- **Oscillator vacuum:** Interesting new vacuum. Contains hints of huge underlying gauge symmetry.

# Critical Dimensions

AB, Mandlik, Sharma. 2105.09682



Tensionless corners of Quantum Tensile String Theory

# Other results

- \* Tensionless superstrings: Two varieties depending on the underlying Superconformal Carrollian algebra.
- \* **Homogeneous Tensionless Superstrings:** Fermions scale in same way.  
Previous construction: Lindstrom, Sundborg, Theodoridis 1991.  
Limiting point of view: AB, Chakraborty, Parekh 2016.
- \* **Inhomogeneous Tensionless Superstrings:** Fermions scale differently.  
New tensionless string! AB, Banerjee, Chakraborty, Parekh 2017-18.
- \* Possible counting of BTZ microstates with winding null strings on the horizon. AB, Grumiller, Sheikh-Jabbari (in progress)

# Open questions: Tensionless Strings

- \* Analogous calculation of beta-function=0. Consistent backgrounds?
- \* Linking up to Gross-Mende high energy string scattering from worldsheet symmetries.
- \* Attacking the Hagedorn transition from the Carroll perspective. Emergent degrees of freedom?
- \* Strings near black holes, strings falling into black holes?
- \* Extend "Tale of Three" to superstrings. Different superstring theories?
- \* Intricate web of tensionless superstring dualities?

**What else is cooking?**

# Carroll Fermions

**AB, Basu, Islam, Mondal ( $d > 2$ , work in progress)**

**AB, Banerjee, Dutta, Mondal ( $d = 2$ , work in progress)**

# Carroll Clifford algebra

\* Two metrics for (flat) Carrollian theories:  $\eta_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \tilde{h}_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & I_{d-1} \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $-c^2\eta^{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \Theta^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0_{d-1} \end{pmatrix}$

\* Two different Clifford algebra?

$$\{\tilde{\gamma}_\mu, \tilde{\gamma}_\nu\} = 2\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}, \quad \{\tilde{\gamma}^\mu, \tilde{\gamma}^\nu\} = 2\Theta^{\mu\nu}$$

\* Both consistent?

\*  $\tilde{\Sigma}_{ab} \equiv \frac{1}{4}[\tilde{\gamma}_a, \tilde{\gamma}_b]$ : should obey the equivalent of the Lorentz algebra, i.e.

the algebra of Carroll boosts and rotations.

\* Lower gammas do this.

\* For upper gammas: rotation matrices are identically zero. Not a faithful representation of the algebra.

# Theory with Lower Gammas

- \* Can build higher dimensional gammas from lower dimensional ones.
- \* Adjoint of a Carroll spinor:  $\bar{\Psi} = \Psi^\dagger \Lambda$ , where  $\Lambda = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & I \\ I & 0 \end{pmatrix}$
- \* Defined  $\Lambda$  such that  $\bar{\Psi}\Psi$  is a Carroll scalar.
- \* An action with lower gammas:  $S_{\text{lower}} = \int dt d^3x (\bar{\Psi} \tilde{\gamma}_0 \partial_t \Psi - m \bar{\Psi} \Psi)$
- \* Carroll symmetry manifest.
- \* Massless case: Conformal Carroll. Has infinite dimensional supertranslations as well. (Carroll version of Coriolis algebra)
- \* Possible applications to magic superconductivity in 2+1 dimensional graphene.



# Theory with Upper Gammas

- \* Also can construct higher dimensional gammas from lower dimensional ones.
- \* One can use Upper Gammas to construct theories for  $d=2$ , since we don't have rotations here.
- \* **Action:** 
$$S_{\text{upper}}^{2d} = \int dt dx (\bar{\Psi} \tilde{\gamma}^0 \partial_t \Psi + \bar{\Psi} \tilde{\gamma}^1 \partial_x \Psi)$$
- \* Relations to earlier actions for the tensionless superstrings.
- \* **BMS3** arises as symmetries.

# Confusions with Fermions

- \* Why do the upper gammas not make sense for  $d > 2$ ?
- \* Carroll Clifford algebras look like “electric” and “magnetic” ones arising from the original Clifford algebra.

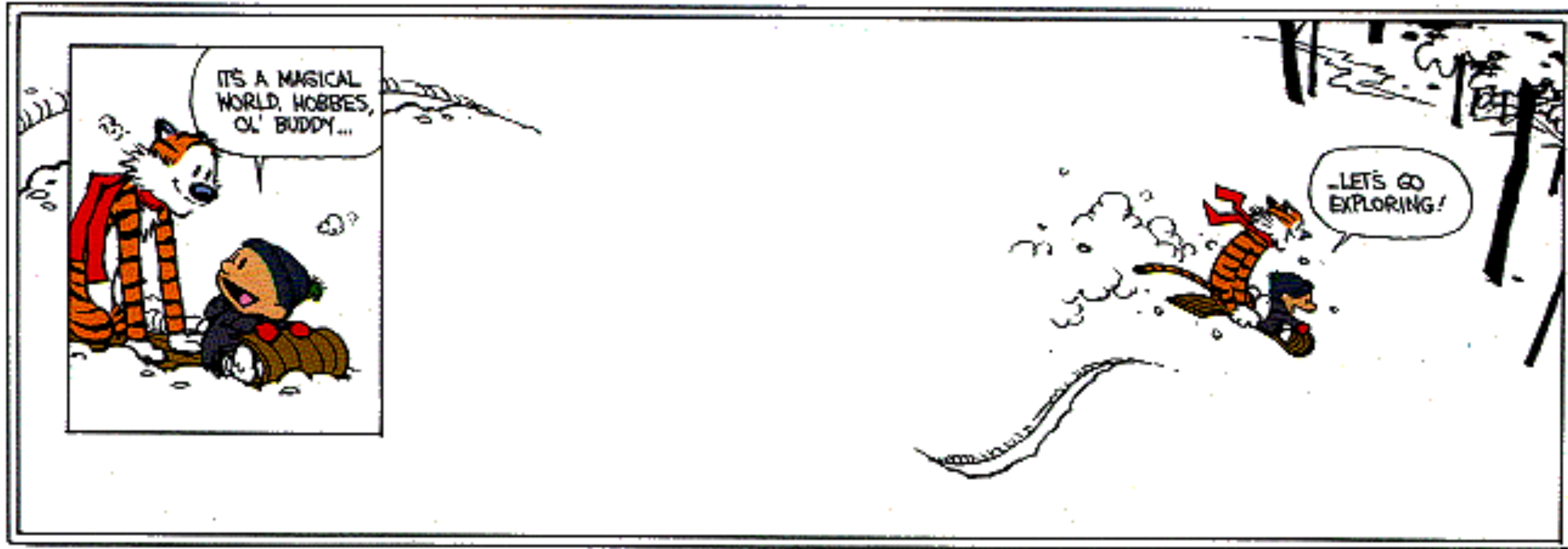
$$\Gamma = \gamma_{lower} + c\gamma_{upper} + \dots$$

- \* The naive limit  $c \rightarrow 0$  does not seem to make sense.

$$\{\Gamma, \Gamma\} = 2g = 2(g^0 + c^2 g^1 + \dots) \Rightarrow \{\gamma_{lower}, \gamma_{upper}\} = 0$$

But this does not work in the explicit representations we have.

- \* Clearly a lot to understand about Carroll fermions.



Thank you!