

Flat Space Holography

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

Some of our papers on flat space holography



A. Bagchi, D. Grumiller and W. Merbis,
“Stress tensor correlators in three-dimensional gravity,”
arXiv:1507.05620. [see arXiv today]



A. Bagchi, R. Basu, D. Grumiller and M. Riegler,
“Entanglement entropy in Galilean conformal field theories and flat
holography,”
Phys. Rev. Lett. **114** (2015) 11, 111602 [arXiv:1410.4089].



H. Afshar, A. Bagchi, R. Fareghbal, D. Grumiller and J. Rosseel,
“Spin-3 Gravity in Three-Dimensional Flat Space,”
Phys. Rev. Lett. **111** (2013) 12, 121603 [arXiv:1307.4768].



A. Bagchi, S. Detournay, D. Grumiller and J. Simon,
“Cosmic Evolution from Phase Transition of Three-Dimensional Flat Space,”
Phys. Rev. Lett. **111** (2013) 18, 181301 [arXiv:1305.2919].



A. Bagchi, S. Detournay and D. Grumiller,
“Flat-Space Chiral Gravity,”
Phys. Rev. Lett. **109** (2012) 151301 [arXiv:1208.1658].

Outline

Motivations

Assumptions

Flat space holography basics

Recent results

Generalizations & open issues

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Holography beyond AdS/CFT?

This talk focuses on **holography**.



Holography beyond AdS/CFT?

This talk focuses on holography.



Main question: how general is holography?

How general is holography?

- ▶ Holographic principle realized in AdS/CFT correspondence
- ▶ Special case or generic lesson for quantum gravity?

AdS_{d+1} → CFT_d

- ▶ Use (classical) gravity to learn more about CFTs
- ▶ Strong coupling large N limit: classical gravity
- ▶ Useful tool to calculate correlation functions
- ▶ Useful tool to calculate entanglement entropy

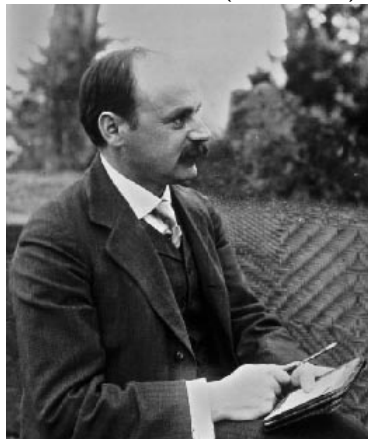
CFT_d → AdS_{d+1}

- ▶ Use CFTs to learn more about (quantum) gravity
- ▶ Gravity in ultra-quantum limit: simple CFT?
- ▶ Useful tool to address black hole microstates
- ▶ Useful tool for qu-gr puzzles (information paradox)

How general is holography?

Historical curiosity:

Karl Schwarzschild (1873-1916)



Simplest of all (classical) black holes:
Schwarzschild solution (22.12.1915)

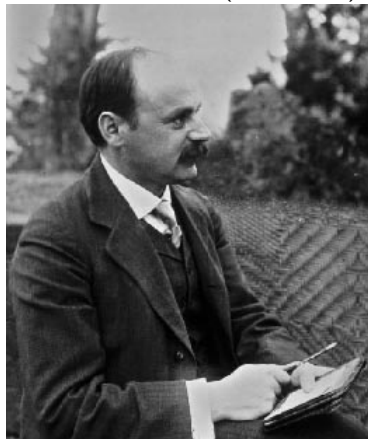
$$ds^2 = (1 - \gamma/R) dt^2 - \frac{dR^2}{1 - \gamma/R} - R^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2)$$

(Schwarzschild's conventions in letter to Einstein)

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(Schwarzschild's conventions in letter to Einstein)

- ▶ Quantum mechanically: among least understood black holes!
- ▶ Microstates?
- ▶ Log corrections to entropy?
- ▶ **Dual field theory??**

How general is holography?

- ▶ To what extent do (previous) lessons rely on the particular constructions used to date?
- ▶ Are they tied to stringy effects and to string theory in particular, or are they general lessons for quantum gravity?

see numerous talks at KITP workshop “Bits, Branes, Black Holes” 2012

and at ESI workshop “Higher Spin Gravity” 2012

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- ▶ originally holography motivated by unitarity
- ▶ plausible AdS/CFT-like correspondence could work non-unitarily
- ▶ AdS/log CFT first example of non-unitary holography DG, (Jackiw), Johansson '08; Skenderis, Taylor, van Rees '09; Henneaux, Martinez, Troncoso '09; Maloney, Song, Strominger '09; DG, Sachs/Hohm '09; Gaberdiel, DG, Vassilevich '10; ... DG, Riedler, Rosseel, Zojer '13
- ▶ recent proposal by Vafa '14

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- ▶ Can we establish a flat space holographic dictionary?

the answer appears to be yes — see my current talk and recent papers by Bagchi et al., Barnich et al., Strominger et al., '12-'15

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- ▶ Generic non-AdS holography/higher spin holography?

non-trivial hints that it might work at least in 2+1 dimensions

Gary, DG Rashkov '12; Afshar et al '12; Gutperle et al '14-'15; Gary, DG, Prohazka, Rey '14; ...

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- ▶ Address questions above in simple class of 3D toy models
- ▶ Exploit gauge theoretic Chern–Simons formulation
- ▶ Restrict to kinematic questions, like (asymptotic) symmetries

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Address these issues in 3D!



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- ▶ Define quantum gravity by its dual field theory

Interesting dichotomy:

- ▶ Either dual field theory exists \rightarrow useful toy model for quantum gravity
- ▶ Or gravitational theory needs UV completion (within string theory) \rightarrow indication of inevitability of string theory

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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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AdS₃ gravity

- ▶ Lowest dimension with black holes and (off-shell) gravitons

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- ▶ Simple checks of Ryu–Takayanagi proposal

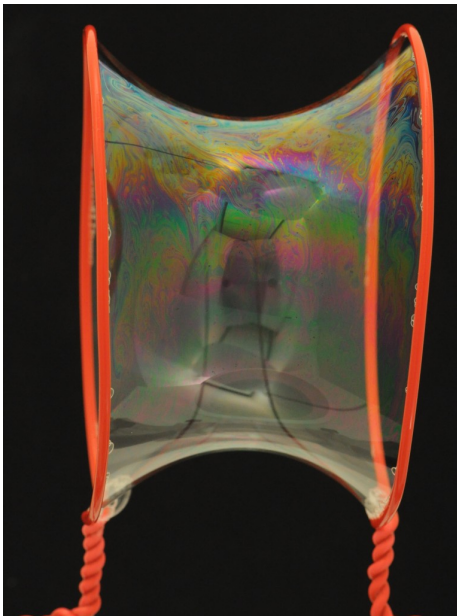
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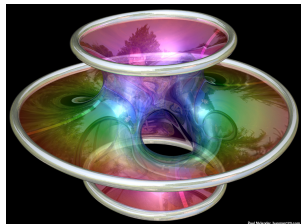
Caveat: while there are many string compactifications with AdS₃ factor, applying holography just to AdS₃ factor does not capture everything!

Picturesque analogy: soap films



Both soap films and Chern–Simons theories have

- ▶ essentially no bulk dynamics
- ▶ highly non-trivial boundary dynamics
- ▶ most of the physics determined by boundary conditions
- ▶ esthetic appeal (at least for me)



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Flat space holography (Barnich et al, Bagchi et al, Strominger et al, ...)

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

$$L_n = \mathcal{L}_n - \bar{\mathcal{L}}_{-n} \quad M_n = \frac{1}{\ell} (\mathcal{L}_n + \bar{\mathcal{L}}_{-n})$$

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

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

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

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- ▶ This is nothing but the BMS_3 algebra (or GCA_2 , $URCA_2$, CCA_2)!

Ashtekar, Bicak, Schmidt, '96; Barnich, Compere '06

L_n : diffeos of circle, M_n : supertranslations, $c_{L/M}$: central extensions

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Bagchi et al., Barnich et al.

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

Flat space Einstein gravity as $isl(2)$ Chern–Simons theory

For details, references and spin-3 generalization see [Gary, DG, Riegler, Rosseel '14](#)

See also talk by [Mirah Gary](#) two days ago (Junior plenary session)

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- ▶ AdS gravity in CS formulation: $sl(2) \oplus sl(2)$ gauge algebra

[Achucarro, Townsend '86](#); [Witten '88](#)

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- ▶ Flat space: $\mathfrak{isl}(2)$ gauge algebra

$$S_{\text{CS}}^{\text{flat}} = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int \langle \mathcal{A} \wedge d\mathcal{A} + \frac{2}{3} \mathcal{A} \wedge \mathcal{A} \wedge \mathcal{A} \rangle$$

with $\mathfrak{isl}(2)$ connection ($a = 0, \pm 1$)

$$\mathcal{A} = e^a M_a + \omega^a L_a$$

$\mathfrak{isl}(2)$ algebra (global part of BMS/GCA)

$$[L_a, L_b] = (a - b)L_{a+b}$$

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Note: e^a dreibein, ω^a (dualized) spin-connection

Bulk EOM: gauge flatness \rightarrow Einstein equations

$$\mathcal{F} = d\mathcal{A} + \mathcal{A} \wedge \mathcal{A} = 0$$

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- ▶ metric

$$g_{\mu\nu} \sim \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \langle \mathcal{A}_\mu \mathcal{A}_\nu \rangle \quad \rightarrow \quad ds^2 = M du^2 - 2 du dr + 2N du d\varphi + r^2 d\varphi^2$$

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- ▶ Does it work?
- ▶ What is the left hand side in a Galilean CFT?

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$$\langle T(z_1)T(z_2)\dots T(z_{42}) \rangle_{\text{CFT}} \sim \frac{\delta^{42}}{\delta g^{42}} \Gamma_{\text{EH-AdS}} \Big|_{\text{EOM}}$$

?

- ▶ Does it work?
- ▶ What is the left hand side in a Galilean CFT?
- ▶ Shortcut to right hand side other than varying EH-action 42 times?

AdS/CFT good tool for calculating correlators
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Start slowly with 0-point function

0-point function (on-shell action)

Not check of flat space holography but interesting in its own right

- ▶ Calculate the **full** on-shell action Γ

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- ▶ Calculate the **full** on-shell action Γ
- ▶ Variational principle?

$$\Gamma = -\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^3x \sqrt{g} R - \frac{1}{8\pi G_N} \int d^2x \sqrt{\gamma} K - I_{\text{counter-term}}$$

with $I_{\text{counter-term}}$ chosen such that

$$\delta\Gamma|_{\text{EOM}} = 0$$

for all δg that preserve flat space bc's

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Result (Detournay, DG, Schöller, Simon '14):

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

follows also as limit from AdS using Mora, Olea, Troncoso, Zanelli '04
independently confirmed by Barnich, Gonzalez, Maloney, Oblak '15

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- ▶ Phase transitions?

Standard procedure (Gibbons, Hawking '77; Hawking, Page '83)

Evaluate Euclidean partition function in semi-classical limit

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

path integral bc's specified by temperature T and angular velocity Ω

Two Euclidean saddle points in same ensemble if

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

Periodicities fixed:

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

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3D Euclidean Einstein gravity: for each T, Ω two saddle points:

- ▶ Hot flat space

$$ds^2 = d\tau_E^2 + dr^2 + r^2 d\varphi^2$$

- ▶ Flat space cosmology

$$ds^2 = r_+^2 \left(1 - \frac{r_0^2}{r^2}\right) d\tau_E^2 + \frac{r^2 dr^2}{r_+^2 (r^2 - r_0^2)} + r^2 \left(d\varphi - \frac{r_+ r_0}{r^2} d\tau_E\right)^2$$

shifted-boost orbifold, see [Cornalba, Costa '02](#)

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- ▶ Calculate the **full** on-shell action Γ
- ▶ Variational principle?
- ▶ Phase transitions?
- ▶ Plug two Euclidean saddles in on-shell action and compare free energies

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

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

- ▶ Result of this comparison
 - ▶ $r_+ > 1$: 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 $T > T_c$

Bagchi, Detournay, DG, Simon '13

1-point functions (conserved charges)

First check of entries in holographic dictionary: identification of sources and vevs

In AdS_3 :

$$\delta\Gamma|_{\text{EOM}} \sim \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} \text{vev} \times \delta \text{source} \sim \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} T_{\text{BY}}^{\mu\nu} \times \delta g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{NN}}$$

Note that $T_{\text{BY}}^{\mu\nu}$ follows from canonical analysis as well (conserved charges)

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- ▶ analogue of Brown–York stress tensor?
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everything works (Detournay, DG, Schöller, Simon, '14)

mass and angular momentum:

$$M = \frac{g_{tt}}{8G} \quad N = \frac{g_{t\varphi}}{4G}$$

full tower of canonical charges: see Barnich, Compere '06

2-point functions (anomalous terms)

First check sensitive to central charges in symmetry algebra

Galilean CFT on cylinder ($\varphi \sim \varphi + 2\pi$):

$$\langle M(u_1, \varphi_1) M(u_2, \varphi_2) \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle M(u_1, \varphi_1) N(u_2, \varphi_2) \rangle = \frac{c_M}{2s_{12}^4}$$

$$\langle N(u_1, \varphi_1) N(u_2, \varphi_2) \rangle = \frac{c_L - 2c_M\tau_{12}}{2s_{12}^4}$$

with $s_{ij} = 2 \sin[(\varphi_i - \varphi_j)/2]$, $\tau_{ij} = (u_i - u_j) \cot[(\varphi_i - \varphi_j)/2]$

Fourier modes of Galilean CFT stress tensor on cylinder:

$$M := \sum_n M_n e^{-in\varphi} - \frac{c_M}{24}$$

$$N := \sum_n (L_n - inuM_n) e^{-in\varphi} - \frac{c_L}{24}$$

Conservation equations: $\partial_u M = 0$, $\partial_u N = \partial_\varphi M$

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Summarize first how this works in the AdS case

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Illustrate shortcut in $\text{AdS}_3/\text{CFT}_2$ (restrict to one holomorphic sector)

- ▶ On CFT side deform free action S_0 by source term μ for stress tensor

$$S_\mu = S_0 + \int d^2z \mu(z, \bar{z}) T(z)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} A &= b^{-1}(d+a)b & b &= e^{\rho L_0} \\ a_z &= L_+ - \frac{\mathcal{L}}{k} L_- & a_{\bar{z}} &= \mu L_+ + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Drinfeld, Sokolov '84, Polyakov '87, H. Verlinde '90
Bañados, Caro '04

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- ▶ Generalize to cylinder

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Apply shortcut to flat space/Galilean CFT (Bagchi, DG, Merbis '15)

- ▶ Exploit results for flat space gravity in CS formulation in presence of chemical potentials (Gary, DG, Riegler, Rosseel '14)

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- ▶ Correct 2-point functions for Einstein gravity with $c_L = 0$, $c_M = 12k$

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First non-trivial check of consistency with symmetries of dual Galilean CFT

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- ▶ Iteratively solve EOM

$$\partial_u M = -k \partial_\varphi^3 \mu_L + \mu_L \partial_\varphi M + 2M \partial_\varphi \mu_L$$

$$\partial_u N = -k \partial_\varphi^3 \mu_M + (1 + \mu_M) \partial_\varphi M + 2M \partial_\varphi \mu_M + \mu_L \partial_\varphi N + 2N \partial_\varphi \mu_L$$

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- ▶ Result on gravity side matches precisely Galilean CFT results

$$\langle M^1 N^2 N^3 \rangle = \frac{c_M}{s_{12}^2 s_{13}^2 s_{23}^2} \quad \langle N^1 N^2 N^3 \rangle = \frac{c_L - c_M \tau_{123}}{s_{12}^2 s_{13}^2 s_{23}^2}$$

provided we choose again the Einstein values $c_L = 0$ and $c_M = 12k$

4-point functions (enter cross-ratios)

First correlators with non-universal function of cross-ratios

- ▶ Repeat this algorithm, localizing the sources at three points

4-point functions (enter cross-ratios)

First correlators with non-universal function of cross-ratios

- ▶ Repeat this algorithm, localizing the sources at three points
- ▶ Derive 4-point functions for Galilean CFTs (Bagchi, DG, Merbis '15)

$$\langle M^1 N^2 N^3 N^4 \rangle = \frac{2c_M g_4(\gamma)}{s_{14}^2 s_{23}^2 s_{12} s_{13} s_{24} s_{34}}$$

$$\langle N^1 N^2 N^3 N^4 \rangle = \frac{2c_L g_4(\gamma) + c_M \Delta_4}{s_{14}^2 s_{23}^2 s_{12} s_{13} s_{24} s_{34}}$$

with the cross-ratio function

$$g_4(\gamma) = \frac{\gamma^2 - \gamma + 1}{\gamma} \quad \gamma = \frac{s_{12} s_{34}}{s_{13} s_{24}}$$

and

$$\Delta_4 = 4g_4'(\gamma)\eta_{1234} - (\tau_{1234} + \tau_{14} + \tau_{23})g_4(\gamma)$$
$$\eta_{1234} = \sum (-1)^{1+i-j} (u_i - u_j) \sin(\varphi_k - \varphi_l) / (s_{13}^2 s_{24}^2)$$

4-point functions (enter cross-ratios)

First correlators with non-universal function of cross-ratios

- ▶ Repeat this algorithm, localizing the sources at three points
- ▶ Derive 4-point functions for Galilean CFTs (Bagchi, DG, Merbis '15)

$$\langle M^1 N^2 N^3 N^4 \rangle = \frac{2c_M g_4(\gamma)}{s_{14}^2 s_{23}^2 s_{12} s_{13} s_{24} s_{34}}$$
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- ▶ Gravity side yields precisely the same result!

5-point functions (further check of consistency of flat space holography)

Last new explicit correlators I am showing to you today (I promise)

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$$\langle M^1 N^2 N^3 N^4 N^5 \rangle = \frac{4c_M g_5(\gamma, \zeta)}{\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 5} s_{ij}}$$
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with the previous definitions and ($\zeta = \frac{s_{25} s_{34}}{s_{35} s_{24}}$)

$$g_5(\gamma, \zeta) = \frac{\gamma + \zeta}{2(\gamma - \zeta)} - \frac{(\gamma^2 - \gamma\zeta + \zeta^2)}{\gamma(\gamma - 1)\zeta(\zeta - 1)(\gamma - \zeta)} \times ([\gamma(\gamma - 1) + 1][\zeta(\zeta - 1) + 1] - \gamma\zeta)$$

$$\Delta_5 = 4\partial_\gamma g_5(\gamma, \zeta)\eta_{1234} + 4\partial_\zeta g_5(\gamma, \zeta)\eta_{2345} - 2g_5(\gamma, \zeta)\tau_{12345}$$

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n -point functions (holographic Ward identities and recursion relations)

Shortcut to 42 (Bagchi, DG, Merbis '15)

Smart check of all n -point functions?

- ▶ Idea: calculate n -point function from $(n - 1)$ -point function

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- ▶ Need Galilean CFT analogue of BPZ-recursion relation

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- ▶ We can also derive same recursion relations on gravity side!

n -point functions in flat space holography

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Fairly non-trivial check that 3D flat space holography can work!

Other selected recent results

Some further checks that dual field theory is Galilean CFT:

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Works! (Bagchi, Detournay, Fareghbal, Simon '13, Barnich '13)

$$S_{\text{gravity}} = S_{\text{BH}} = \frac{\text{Area}}{4G_N} = 2\pi h_L \sqrt{\frac{c_M}{2h_M}} = S_{\text{GCFT}}$$

Also as limit from Cardy formula (Riegler '14, Fareghbal, Naseh '14)

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

Calculation on gravity side confirms result above
(using Wilson lines in CS formulation)

Outline

Motivations

Assumptions

Flat space holography basics

Recent results

Generalizations & open issues

Generalizations & open issues

Recent generalizations:

- ▶ adding chemical potentials

Works! (Gary, DG, Riegler, Rosseel '14)

In CS formulation:

$$A_0 \rightarrow A_0 + \mu$$

See also talk by [Mirah Gary](#) two days ago (Junior plenary session)

Recent generalizations:

- ▶ adding chemical potentials
- ▶ 3-derivative theory: flat space chiral gravity (Bagchi, Detournay, DG '12)

Conformal CS gravity at level $k = 1$ with flat space boundary conditions conjectured to be dual to chiral half of monster CFT.

Action (gravity side):

$$I_{\text{CSG}} = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} \varepsilon^{\lambda\mu\nu} \Gamma^\rho_{\lambda\sigma} (\partial_\mu \Gamma^\sigma_{\nu\rho} + \frac{2}{3} \Gamma^\sigma_{\mu\tau} \Gamma^\tau_{\nu\rho})$$

Partition function (field theory side, see Witten '07):

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

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

Generalizations & open issues

Recent generalizations:

- ▶ adding chemical potentials
- ▶ 3-derivative theory: flat space chiral gravity (Bagchi, Detournay, DG '12)
- ▶ generalization to supergravity

Works! (Barnich, Donnay, Matulich, Troncoso '14)

Asymptotic symmetry algebra = super-BMS₃

Recent generalizations:

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- ▶ generalization to supergravity
- ▶ flat space higher spin gravity

Remarkably it exists! (Afshar, Bagchi, Fareghbal, DG, Rosseel '13; Gonzalez, Matulich, Pino, Troncoso '13)

New type of algebra: W-like BMS (“BMW”)

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

$$[U_n, V_m] = (n - m)(2n^2 + 2m^2 - nm - 8)M_{n+m} + \frac{96}{c_M}(n - m)\Theta_{n+m} \\ + \frac{c_M}{12}n(n^2 - 1)(n^2 - 4)\delta_{n+m,0}$$

$$[L, L], [L, M], [M, M] \text{ as in BMS}_3 \quad [L, U], [L, V], [M, U], [M, V] \text{ as in isl(3)}$$

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Some open issues:

- ▶ Further checks in 3D (n -point correlators, partition function, ...)

Barnich, Gonzalez, Maloney, Oblak '15: 1-loop partition function matches BMS_3 character

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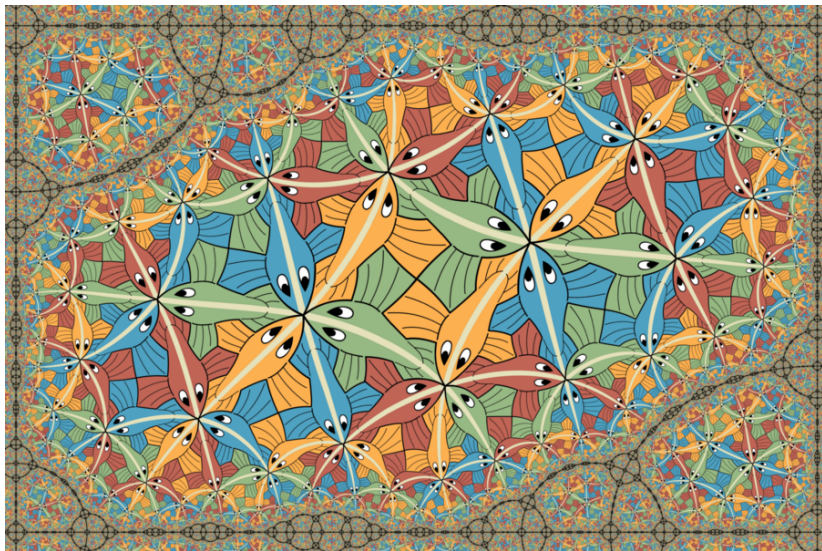
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- ▶ holography seems to work in flat space
- ▶ holography more general than AdS/CFT
- ▶ (when) does it work even more generally?

Thanks for your attention!



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