

Supertranslations and superrotations

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Credits

- “Vacua of the gravitational field”,
G.C., J. Long, arXiv :1601.04958
- “Classical static final state of collapse with
supertranslation memory,
G.C., J. Long, arXiv :1602.05197

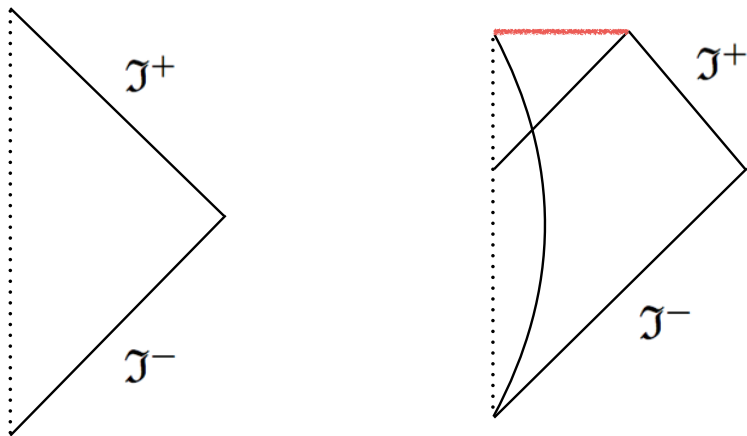
with inspiration from

- “Aspects of the BMS/CFT correspondence”,
G. Barnich, C. Troessaert, arXiv :1001.1541
- “Gravitational Memory, BMS Supertranslations and Soft
Theorems, A. Strominger, A. Zhiboedov, arXiv :1411.5745

On this talk :

- Fascinating properties and algebra of symmetries of asymptotically flat spacetimes
- $4d \Rightarrow 3d \Rightarrow 4d$. Many lessons can be drawn from $3d$ to help understand $4d$ physics.
- Interplay between various concepts : asymptotic symmetries, gravitational memory, holography, black holes
- Tackle classical problems : gravitational collapse, cosmic censorship, black hole information paradox

Asymptotically flat spacetimes



No black hole in 3d Einstein-positive matter theory. [Ida, 2000]

Preamble : the BMS_3 and BMS_4 groups

The space of solutions to Einstein gravity with “reasonable” asymptotically flat boundary conditions can be expanded close to null infinity in a fixed gauge.

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= -du^2 - 2dudr + r^2 d^2\Omega + \dots \\ &= -dv^2 + 2dvdr + r^2 d^2\Omega_{antipodal} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

The group of diffeomorphisms which

- preserve the form of the asymptotic metric, mapping one metric to another but preserving the gauge,
- are associated with finite and non-trivial canonical charges

is the asymptotic symmetry group.

Using “reasonable” boundary conditions, the asymptotic symmetry group was found to be the BMS_4 group in $4d$ [Bondi, van der Burg, Metzner, 1962] [Sachs, 1962] and the BMS_3 group in $3d$ [Ashtekar, Bicak, Schmidt, 1996]

What reasonable boundary conditions may mean ?

- 4d
- Admit Kerr, gravitational waves and electromagnetic fields
 - Positive energy
 - Allow to describe memory effects [Zeldovich, Polnarev, 1974] [Christodoulou, 1991]
 - Allow to describe a semi-classical S-matrix which obeys all known theorems [Weinberg, 1965] [Cachazo, Strominger, 2014]
 - Allow for small perturbations to decay (non-linear stability) [Christodoulou, Klainerman, 1993]
- 3d
- Admit “appropriate” matter fields
 - Positive energy
 - Flat region can be embedded in AdS_3

A translation in Minkowski spacetime

- (t, x, y, z)

$$\partial_z$$

- (t, r, θ, ϕ)

$$\cos \theta \partial_r - \frac{1}{r} \sin \theta \partial_\theta$$

- (u, r, θ, ϕ) , retarded time $u = t - r$

$$-\cos \theta \partial_u + \cos \theta \partial_r - \frac{1}{r} \sin \theta \partial_\theta$$

The bms_4 algebra

$$bms_4 \simeq so(3, 1) \oplus \text{Supertranslations}$$

Supertranslations are either translations or pure supertranslations. Pure supertranslations are (abelian) “higher harmonic angle-dependent translations”

$$T(\theta, \phi) \partial_u + \frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 T \partial_r - \frac{1}{r} (\partial_\theta T \partial_\theta + \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta} \partial_\phi T \partial_\phi) + \dots$$

The solutions to $\nabla^2(\nabla^2 + 2)T = 0$ are the translations. Those are the $\ell = 0$ and $\ell = 1$ spherical harmonics, $T = 1$, $T = \cos \theta$, $T = \sin \theta \cos \phi$, $T = \sin \theta \sin \phi$.

What are supertranslations in the bulk?

The extended bms_4 algebra

[Barnich, Troessaert, 2010]

$$bms_4 \simeq \text{Superrotations}^* \oplus \text{Supertranslations}^*$$

where

$$\text{Superrotations}^* \simeq \text{Vir}^* \oplus \text{Vir}^*,$$

$$\text{Supertranslations}^* \simeq \text{Regular supert.} \oplus \text{Meromorphic supert.}$$

The Lorentz subalgebra

$$so(3, 1) \simeq sl(2, \mathbb{R}) \oplus sl(2, \mathbb{R}) \subset \text{Vir}^* \oplus \text{Vir}^*$$

is generated by global conformal transformations on the sphere. The rest of the algebra has generators which contain meromorphic functions, with poles on S^2 .

The extended bms_4 algebra : comments

The algebra is not realized as asymptotic symmetry algebra, at least in the standard sense :

- The Kerr black hole has infinite meromorphic supertranslation momenta. [Barnich, Troessaert, 2010]
- Minkowski acted upon with a finite superrotation diffeomorphism has negative energy. [G.C., Long, 2016]

The superrotations still have a role to play :

- Superrotation charges are finite and can be non-trivial [Barnich, Troessaert, 2011] [Flanagan, Nichols, 2015] [G.C., Long, 2016]
- The subleading soft graviton theorem has been related to the Ward identity of the superrotation algebra [Kapec, Lysov, Pasterski, Strominger, 2014] [Campiglia, Laddha, 2015]

The bms_3 algebra

In $3d$: Poincaré $\simeq so(2, 1) \oplus \mathbb{R}^3$. The Poincaré algebra is

$$\begin{aligned}i[R_m, R_n] &= (m - n)R_{m+n}, \\i[R_m, T_n] &= (m - n)T_{m+n}, \\i[T_m, T_n] &= 0, \quad m, n = -1, 0, 1.\end{aligned}$$

1+2 Translations $T_0 = \partial_t$; $T_1 + T_{-1} = \partial_x$, $i(T_1 - T_{-1}) = \partial_y$

1+2 Lorentz transformations $R_0 = \partial_\phi$; $R_1 + R_{-1}$, $i(R_1 - R_{-1})$

The algebra can be promoted as an asymptotic symmetry algebra of asymptotically flat spacetimes, for $n \in \mathbb{Z}$:

$$\begin{aligned}bms_3 &\simeq \text{Superrotations } (R_n) \oplus \text{Supertranslations } (T_n) \\&\simeq \text{Virasoro} \oplus \widehat{u(1)}\end{aligned}$$

[Ashtekar, Bicak, Schmidt, 1996] [Barnich, G.C., 2007]

The BMS_3 group is $\text{Diff}(S^1) \ltimes \text{Vect}(S^1)$ [Barnich, Oblak, 2014].

The bms_3 algebra : comments

Limit from Brown-Henneaux In large $\ell \rightarrow \infty$ limit, $AdS_3 \rightarrow Mink_3$. The exact symmetries are contracted as $so(2,2) \rightarrow iso(2,1)$. The asymptotic symmetries with Brown-Henneaux/Dirichlet boundary conditions are contracted as

$$Vir \oplus Vir \rightarrow Superrotations \oplus Supertranslations$$

[Barnich, G.C., 2007]

Isomorphism The bms_3 algebra is also isomorphic to the infinite-dimensional extension of the $2d$ Galilean conformal algebra. [Bagchi, Gopakumar, 2009]

4d supertranslations and memories

After the passage of either gravitational waves or null matter between two detectors placed in the asymptotic null region, the detectors generically acquire a finite relative displacement and a finite time shift.

This is the *memory effect*. Historically, it is referred to as the linear memory effect for null matter [Zeldovich, Polnarev, 1974] and the non-linear memory or Christodoulou effect for gravitational waves [Christodoulou, 1991].

Memory effects follow from the existence of the supertranslation field $C(\theta, \phi)$ which is effectively shifted by a supertranslation after the passage of radiation as [Geroch, Winicour, 1981]

$$\delta_T C(\theta, \phi) = T(\theta, \phi).$$

Memory effects are a 2.5PN General Relativity effect. [Damour, Blanchet, 1988]

Memory effects cannot be detected by LIGO.

More precisely, supertranslation memories follow from an angle-dependent energy conservation law deduced from Einstein's equations integrated over a finite retarded time interval of \mathfrak{I}^+ : [\[Strominger, Zhiboedov, 2014\]](#)

$$-\frac{1}{4}\nabla^2(\nabla^2 + 2)(C|_{u_2} - C|_{u_1}) = m|_{u_2} - m|_{u_1} + \int_{u_2}^{u_1} du T_{uu},$$

$$T_{uu} \equiv \frac{1}{4}N_{zz}N^{zz} + 4\pi G \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} [r^2 T_{uu}^{matter}].$$

The supertranslation shift can be constructed from the radiation flux history. It allows to compute the shift of the geodesic deviation vector s^A , $A = \theta, \phi$

$$s^A|_{u_2} - s^A|_{u_1} \sim \frac{1}{r} \partial^A \partial_B (C|_{u_2} - C|_{u_1}) s^B$$

This is a classical effect of Einstein gravity, $O(\hbar^0)$.

What is the supertranslation field in the bulk?

In $3d$, part of the answer is the phase space of analytic solutions to vacuum Einstein gravity with Dirichlet boundary conditions : [Barnich, Troessaert, 2010]

$$ds^2 = \Theta(\phi)du^2 - 2dudr + 2\left(\Xi(\phi) + \frac{u}{2}\partial_\phi\Theta(\phi)\right)dud\phi + r^2d\phi^2.$$

The transformation laws of $\Theta(\phi)$ under bms_3 is

$$\delta_{T,R}\Theta = R\partial_\phi\Theta + 2\partial_\phi R\Theta - 2\partial_\phi^3 R$$

This is the coadjoint representation of the Virasoro algebra.

We deduce that $\Theta(\phi)$ is the superrotation field itself plus a zero mode. The zero mode is the mass (a conical defect). In order to concentrate on the supertranslation field, we set

$$\Theta = -1 \quad (\text{no conical defect}).$$

This sets to the supertranslation charge to 0 (rest frame).

The transformation law of $\Xi(\phi)$ under a supertranslation is then

$$\delta_T \Xi = -\partial_\phi T - \partial_\phi^3 T.$$

We deduce that $\Xi(\phi)$ is a composite field in terms of the supertranslation field $C(\phi)$ plus a zero mode

$$\Xi(\phi) = 4GJ - \partial_\phi(1 + \partial_\phi^2)C, \quad \delta_T C = T.$$

The zero mode is attributed to the spin of a massless particle. It creates a dislocation responsible for closed timelike curves. So we set $J = 0$. The metric becomes

$$ds^2 = -du^2 - 2dud(r + C(\phi) + \partial_\phi^2 C(\phi)) + r^2 d\phi^2.$$

$$ds^2 = -du^2 - 2dud(r + C(\phi) + \partial_\phi^2 C(\phi)) + r^2 d\phi^2.$$

We switch to static coordinates $\rho = r + \partial_\phi^2 C(\phi) + C(\phi) - C_{(0)}$,
 $t = u + \rho$.

The shift of C by its zero mode ensures that the space coordinate ρ is not affected by time shifts.

The metric becomes [\[G.C., Long, 2016\]](#)

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + d\rho^2 + (\rho - \rho_{SH}(\phi))^2 d\phi^2.$$

In the rest frame, supertranslations only act spatially, except the zero mode which is a time translation.

Coordinates break down at the *supertranslation horizon*

$$\rho = \rho_{SH}(C) \equiv \partial_\phi^2 C(\phi) + C(\phi) - C_{(0)}.$$

The metric describes Poincaré vacua

The BMS_3 conserved charges are

$$\mathcal{Q}_T = 0 \quad (\text{No momenta})$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{Q}_R &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi R(\phi) \partial_\phi \rho_{SH} \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi R(\phi) \partial_\phi \left(\partial_\phi^2 C(\phi) + C(\phi) - C_{(0)} \right) \\ &= - \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi C(\phi) (\partial_\phi^2 + 1) \partial_\phi R(\phi) \quad (\text{No Lorentz charges}).\end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow All Poincaré charges are zero.

Superrotation charges are non-zero and characterize the supertranslation field 1-to-1.

\Rightarrow Obstruction at shrinking circle. Existence of a defect.

Finite supertranslation diffeomorphism

The solution with supertranslation field is diffeomorphic to Minkowski spacetime.

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + dx_s^2 + dy_s^2 = -dt^2 + d\rho^2 + (\rho - \rho_{SH}(\phi))^2 d\phi^2$$

The finite diffeomorphism is

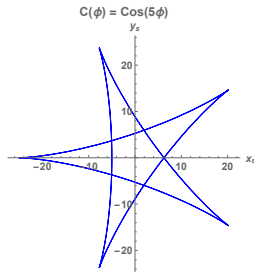
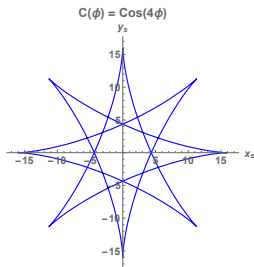
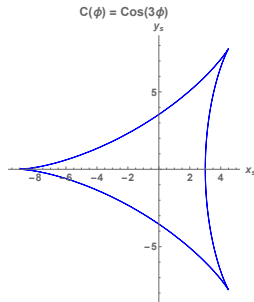
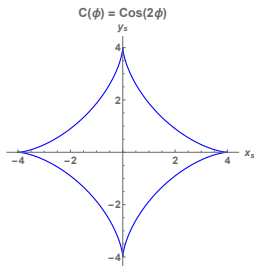
$$\begin{aligned}x_s &= \rho \cos \phi - C(\phi) \cos \phi + C'(\phi) \sin \phi, \\y_s &= \rho \sin \phi - C(\phi) \sin \phi - C'(\phi) \cos \phi.\end{aligned}$$

It is invertible outside of the supertranslation horizon

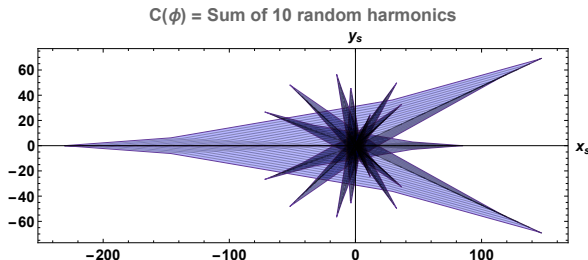
$$\rho > \rho_{SH}(\phi) = C''(\phi) + C(\phi)$$

It generates superrotation charges $Q_R = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi R'(\phi) \rho_{SH}(\phi)$.

Supertranslation horizon



Supertranslation horizon



The static gauge for the vacua breaks down at the supertranslation horizon.

The defect which sources superrotation charges lies in the interior region.

Finite supertranslation diffeomorphism

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + d\rho_s^2 + \rho_s^2 d\phi^2 = -dt^2 + d\rho^2 + (\rho - \rho_{SH}(\phi))^2 d\phi^2$$

The finite diffeomorphism is

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_s^2 &= (\rho - C)^2 + (C')^2, \\ \tan \phi_s &= \frac{(\rho - C) \sin \phi - C' \cos \phi}{(\rho - C) \cos \phi + C' \sin \phi}.\end{aligned}$$

For $C = a_x \cos \phi + b_x \sin \phi$, it is exactly the coordinate change from polar coordinates around the origin to polar coordinates around a translated origin by (a_x, b_x) . The metric is preserved ($\rho_{SH} = 0$).

Supertranslation diffeomorphisms are generalizations of “changing the origin of coordinates”.

Limit from AdS_3

The general metric of Einstein gravity with Brown-Henneaux boundary conditions is

$$ds^2 = \ell^2 \frac{dr^2}{r^2} - \left(r dx^+ - \ell^2 \frac{L_-(x^-) dx^-}{r} \right) \left(r dx^- - \ell^2 \frac{L_+(x^+) dx^+}{r} \right)$$

[Bañados, 1998] It represents $AdS_3/BTZ/\dots$ with holographic gravitons generated by the holographic stress-tensor $T_{++} = L_+(x^+)$, $T_{+-} = 0$, $T_{--} = L_-(x^-)$ of a dual CFT_2 .

The flat limit $\ell \rightarrow \infty$ is well-defined in Null Gaussian coordinates [Barnich, Gomberoff, Gonzalez, 2012]. After canceling the superrotation field and angular momentum ($L_+ = L_-$) and taking $\ell \rightarrow \infty$, $L_+(\phi) \simeq \partial_\phi \rho_{SH}(\phi)$ and we find the vacua

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + d\rho^2 + (\rho - \rho_{SH}(\phi))^2 d\phi^2$$

with zero Poincaré charges as a limiting solution of AdS_3 .

The finite 4d vacuum supertranslation

We can generalize to 4d. [G.C., Long, 2016]

After a long analysis, the finite BMS supertranslation diffeomorphism of Minkowski spacetime is found to be

$$\begin{aligned}t_s &= t + C_{(0,0)}, \\x_s &= (\rho - C + C_{(0,0)}) \sin \theta \cos \phi + \csc \theta \sin \phi \partial_\phi C - \cos \theta \cos \phi \partial_\theta C, \\y_s &= (\rho - C + C_{(0,0)}) \sin \theta \sin \phi - \csc \theta \cos \phi \partial_\phi C - \cos \theta \sin \phi \partial_\theta C, \\z_s &= (\rho - C + C_{(0,0)}) \cos \theta + \sin \theta \partial_\theta C.\end{aligned}$$

At past or future null infinity, the infinitesimal version matches with BMS supertranslations after using the mapping rule

$$\xi_T^{(BMS_\pm)} = \xi_T^{(stat)} - \delta_T x_{(BMS_\pm)}^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial x_{(BMS_\pm)}^\mu}$$

The Poincaré vacua of Einstein gravity

The resulting metric is

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + dx_s^2 + dy_s^2 + dz_s^2 = -dt^2 + d\rho^2 + g_{AB}d\theta^A d\theta^B,$$

where $\theta^A = \theta, \phi$ and

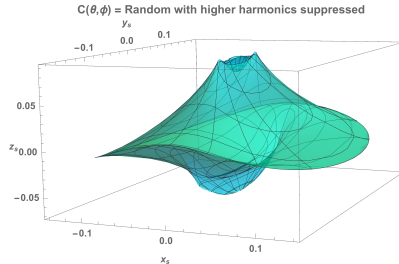
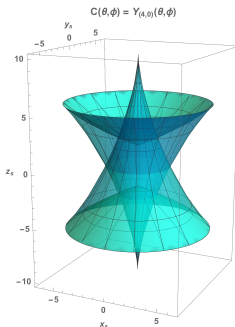
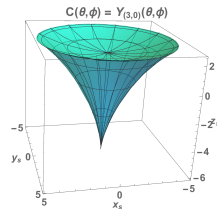
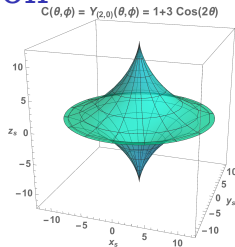
$$\begin{aligned} g_{AB} &= (\rho - C)^2 \gamma_{AB} - 2(\rho - C) D_A D_B C + D_A D_E C D_B D^E C, \\ &= (\rho \gamma_{AC} - D_A D_C C - \gamma_{AC} C) \gamma^{CD} (\rho \gamma_{DB} - D_D D_B C - \gamma_{DB} C) \end{aligned}$$

We checked that the 10 Poincaré charges are zero. The superrotation charges are finite and non-trivial.

The metric models the degenerate Poincaré vacuum which encodes memory effects in Einstein gravity.

Maybe our universe is patched with such vacua, originating from a pregeometric phase.

Isometric embedding of the supertranslation horizon



Memories from 4d Gravitational Collapse

The final static ($J = 0$) metric after spherical gravitational collapse, if analytic, is diffeomorphic to the Schwarzschild metric. [No hair theorems]

[Carter, Hawking, Robinson, 1971-1975] [Chrusciel, Costa, 2008] [Alexakis, Ionescu, Klainerman, 2009]

But memory effects accumulate before and during collapse, so the final metric is in a different BMS vacuum than the global vacuum.

Two questions :

- What is the final state of collapse $g_{\mu\nu}(M, C(\theta, \phi))$?
- How does the supertranslation field $C(\theta, \phi)$ compare to the final mass M ?

The Schwarzschild metric

It admits Weyl conformally flat sections. This is manifest in isotropic coordinates $(t, \rho_s, \theta_s, \phi_s)$:

$$ds^2 = -\frac{\left(1 - \frac{M}{2\rho_s}\right)^2}{\left(1 + \frac{M}{2\rho_s}\right)^2} dt^2 + \left(1 + \frac{M}{2\rho_s}\right)^4 \left(d\rho_s^2 + \gamma_{AB} d\theta^A d\theta^B\right)$$

where

$$\gamma_{AB} d\theta^A d\theta^B = d\theta_s^2 + \sin^2 \theta_s d\phi_s^2,$$

$$\rho_s = \infty \text{ at spatial infinity}$$

$$\rho_s = \frac{M}{2} \text{ at the event horizon}$$

The Schwarzschild metric embedded in the BMS supertranslation vacuum

$$ds^2 = -\frac{\left(1 - \frac{M}{2\rho_s}\right)^2}{\left(1 + \frac{M}{2\rho_s}\right)^2} dt^2 + \left(1 + \frac{M}{2\rho_s}\right)^4 \left(d\rho^2 + g_{AB}d\theta^A d\theta^B\right)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} g_{AB} &= (\rho\gamma_{AC} - D_A D_C C - \gamma_{AC} C)\gamma^{CD}(\rho\gamma_{DB} - D_D D_B C - \gamma_{DB} C) \\ \rho_s^2 &= (\rho - C)^2 + D_A C D^A C \end{aligned}$$

Remarks :

- When $C = 0$, this is Schwarzschild
- Obtained by finite supertranslation diffeomorphism
- The non-trivial Poincaré charges are just the energy M
- There are superrotation charges quadratic in C

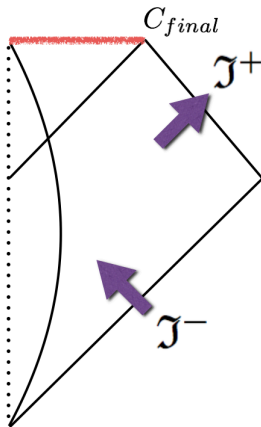
The Schwarzschild metric with BMS hair

In comparison with [“Soft hair on black holes”, Hawking, Perry, Strominger, 2016]

- Agree : The hair is soft (zero energy). Supermomenta commute with the Hamiltonian.
- $O(\hbar^0)$, not $O(\hbar^1)$. The classical nature of the BMS hair is rooted in the classical memory effect. The metric are angles/distances which are classically observable (on the contrary electromagnetic hair is encoded in phases measurable only by a quantum apparatus). $O(\hbar^0)$ correction is compatible with quantum theory arguments allowing for a resolution of Hawking’s paradox [Mathur, 2009]
- I don’t see how linear/small diffeomorphisms could capture the hair. A linearized diffeomorphism would give only the linearized metric, valid close to \mathfrak{I}^+ or \mathfrak{I}^- . But non-linear effects in the bulk follow from Einstein’s equations.

How much supertranslation hair?

What is the final value of $C(\theta, \phi)$?



It depends upon the fluxes and Bondi mass at \mathfrak{I}^+ and \mathfrak{I}^- .

How much supertranslation hair?

Assuming junction conditions joining \mathfrak{I}_-^+ and \mathfrak{I}_+^- [Strominger, 2013] and boundary conditions on radiation [Christodoulou, Klainerman, 1993], Einstein's equations give

$$\begin{aligned} & -\frac{1}{4}\nabla^2(\nabla^2 + 2)(C|_{final}(\theta, \phi) - C|_{in}(\pi - \theta, \phi + \pi)) \\ & = m|_{final} - m|_{in} + \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} du T_{uu}(\theta, \phi) - \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dv T_{vv}(\pi - \theta, \phi + \pi) \end{aligned}$$

This is the global angle-dependent energy conservation law for asymptotically flat spacetimes. [Geroch, Winicour, 1980] [Strominger, Zhiboedov, 2014] [G.C., Long, 2016]

Spherically symmetric collapse of a null shell
 $\Rightarrow C|_{final} = 0$ (metric described by Vaidya metric).

How much supertranslation hair ?

Non-spherically symmetric collapse of a null shell is constrained by the null energy condition

$$T_{vv}(\theta, \phi) \geq 0.$$

Assuming all matter arrives at $v = 0$,

$$T_{vv} = \left(\frac{M + M \sum P_{l,m} Y_{l,m}(\theta, \phi)}{4\pi r^2} + O(r^{-3}) \right) \delta(v)$$

we get the complicated constraint

$$\sum P_{l,m} Y_{l,m}(\theta, \phi) \geq -1.$$

How much supertranslation hair?

In the ideal case (no outgoing radiation, no initial mass, only ingoing collapsing radiation), the solution to the global energy conservation law is

$$C(\theta, \phi) = M \sum_{\ell \geq 2, m} \frac{4(-1)^\ell}{(\ell-1)\ell(\ell+1)(\ell+2)} P_{\ell, m} Y_{\ell, m}(\theta, \phi)$$

with the constraint

$$\sum P_{\ell, m} Y_{\ell, m}(\theta, \phi) \geq -1.$$

which bounds C from above and below (from compactness). So, for a general non-spherically symmetric collapse we expect (think binary black hole merger or accretion)

$$|C(\theta, \phi)| \simeq M \quad (\text{leading order classical effect})$$

Competition between supertranslation horizon and infinite redshift surface

$$ds^2 = -\frac{\left(1 - \frac{M}{2\rho_s}\right)^2}{\left(1 + \frac{M}{2\rho_s}\right)^2} dt^2 + \left(1 + \frac{M}{2\rho_s}\right)^4 \left(d\rho^2 + g_{AB}d\theta^A d\theta^B\right)$$

where $\rho_s^2 = (\rho - C)^2 + D_A C D^A C$. The infinite redshift surface is located at $\rho = \rho_H(\theta, \phi)$ solution to

$$\frac{M^2}{4} = (\rho_H - C)^2 + D_A C D^A C.$$

- When $C \ll M$, this is a black hole with event horizon
- When $D_A C D^A C > \frac{M^2}{4}$, there is no infinite redshift surface.
 \Rightarrow Probable violation of the weak cosmic censorship
- But it turns out that for all cases studied, $D_A C D^A C \leq \frac{M^2}{4}$ from the weak energy condition bound!
 \Rightarrow New test of the weak cosmic censorship

Supertranslation and Killing horizons

Simplest axisymmetric $\ell = 2$ case :

$$-\frac{M}{12}(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1) \leq C(\theta, \phi) \leq \frac{M}{6}(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1)$$

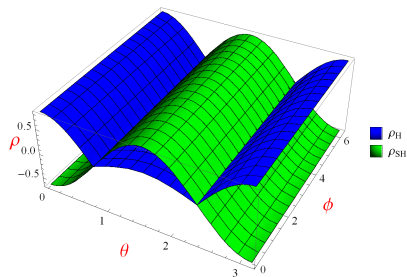


Figure: Upper bound :
 $C(\theta, \phi) = \frac{M}{6}(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1)$.

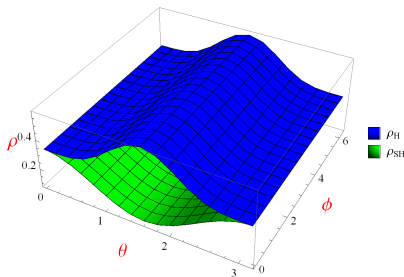


Figure: Lower bound :
 $C(\theta, \phi) = -\frac{M}{12}(3 \cos^2 \theta - 1)$.

The Killing horizon ρ_H can be partly hidden behind the supertranslation horizon ρ_{SH} .

On the 4d Superrotation field

What about the vacua with supertranslation and superrotation fields ?

We need to apply a finite combined supertranslation and superrotation diffeomorphism to Minkowski :

$$g_{\mu\nu}(\gamma_{z\bar{z}}, C(z, \bar{z}), G(z), u, r) = \frac{\partial x_s^\alpha}{\partial x^\mu} \eta_{\alpha\beta}(\gamma_{z\bar{z}}, r) \frac{\partial x_s^\beta}{\partial x^\nu}.$$

with

$$u = \sqrt{\partial_z G \partial_{\bar{z}} \bar{G}} \left(u + C(z, \bar{z}) \right) + O\left(\frac{1}{r}\right)$$

$$r = O(r)$$

$$z = G(z) + O\left(\frac{1}{r}\right)$$

$$\bar{z} = \bar{G}(\bar{z}) + O\left(\frac{1}{r}\right)$$

The diffeomorphism can be resumed after using 2 tricks

- Use Weyl rescalings [Barnich, Troessaert, 2010]
- Use map to Minkowski foliated by null planes so that $\gamma_{z\bar{z}}$ is taken care of by the Weyl rescaling

The final metric is [G.C, Long, 2016]

$$g_{\mu\nu}(\gamma_{z\bar{z}}, C(z, \bar{z}), G(z), u, r) = g_{\mu\nu}(\gamma_{z\bar{z}}, C_{zz}(u, z, \bar{z}), r)$$

where

$$C_{zz} = -2D_z \partial_z C - (u + C) \left(\frac{\partial_z^3 G}{\partial_z G} - \frac{3(\partial_z^2 G)^2}{2(\partial_z G)^2} \right), \quad C_{z\bar{z}} = 0.$$

The Schwarzian derivative term naturally arises as in 3d examples. [Balog, Feher, Palla, 1997] It is the stress-tensor of a free boson $\partial_z G = e^{\psi(z)}$,

$$T_{zz} = -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial_z^3 G}{\partial_z G} - \frac{3(\partial_z^2 G)^2}{2(\partial_z G)^2} \right) = \frac{1}{4} (\partial_z \psi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \partial_z \partial_z \psi, \quad T_{\bar{z}\bar{z}} = 0.$$

The Bondi mass decreases with retarded time u ,

$$\partial_u M = -\frac{1}{2} T^{AB} T_{AB}.$$

⇒ Unbounded negative energy. Discard by imposing the Dirichlet boundary condition $T_{zz} = 0$.

The symplectic structure at \mathfrak{I}^+ is

$$\Omega_{\mathfrak{I}^+}[\delta C, \delta\psi; \delta C, \delta\psi] \equiv -\frac{1}{4G} \int_{\mathfrak{I}^+} du d^2\Omega \delta C_{AB} \wedge \delta T^{AB}.$$

⇒ The superrotation field is a source conjugated to the supertranslation field.

Conserved superrotation charges for the physical vacua exist, $Q_R \simeq \int_S \partial_z^2 C \partial_z^2 C$. Similar to *AdS* prescription [Witten, 1998] : “Turning on a source to compute a vev”.

Summary of the results

- The metrics for the Poincaré vacua with supertranslation field in $3d$ and $4d$ gravity have been derived. It is unclear whether or not the $4d$ vacua are physical.
- In the center-of-mass frame, supertranslations are spatial, except the zero mode (time shift).
- Memory effects lead to a different final state of collapse : the Schwarzschild black hole with supertranslation hair. The hair is a large non-linear $O(\hbar^0)$ and $O(M)$ effect which is computable from past history of evolution and collapse.
- Much physics and maths remains to be understood.