



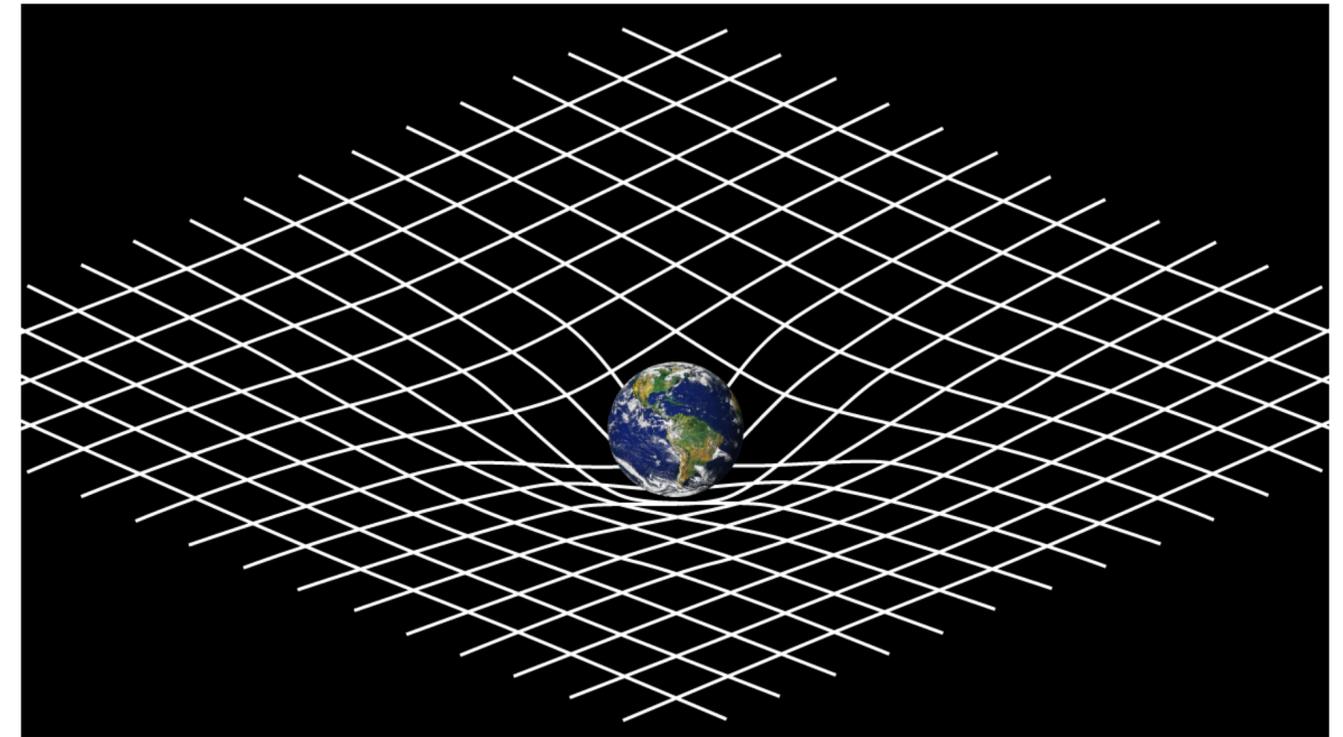
# **On the conservation of BMS-supertranslation through spatial infinity**

**Mariem Magdy, 13 Mar 2026**

# Asymptotics

- Conformal approach [R. Penrose (1960s)]
- Asymptotic flatness?

Definition: A spacetime  $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g})$  is **asymptotically simple** if it admits a conformal extension  $(M, g)$  ‘similar’ to Minkowski spacetime with  $\phi^*g = \Xi^2\tilde{g}$ ,  $\phi : \tilde{M} \rightarrow M$ , so that  $M$  has a null boundary  $\mathcal{I} \equiv \partial M$  on which  $\Xi = 0$  and  $d\Xi \neq 0$ .

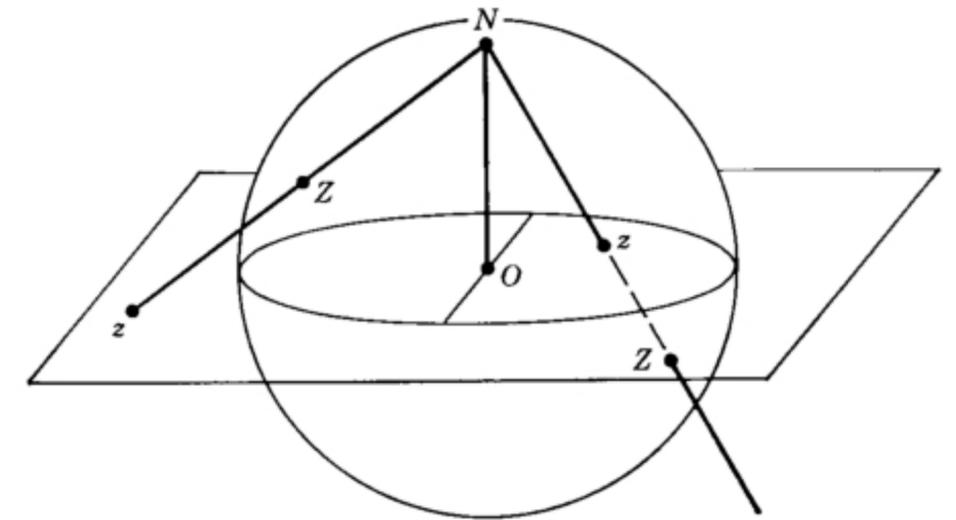
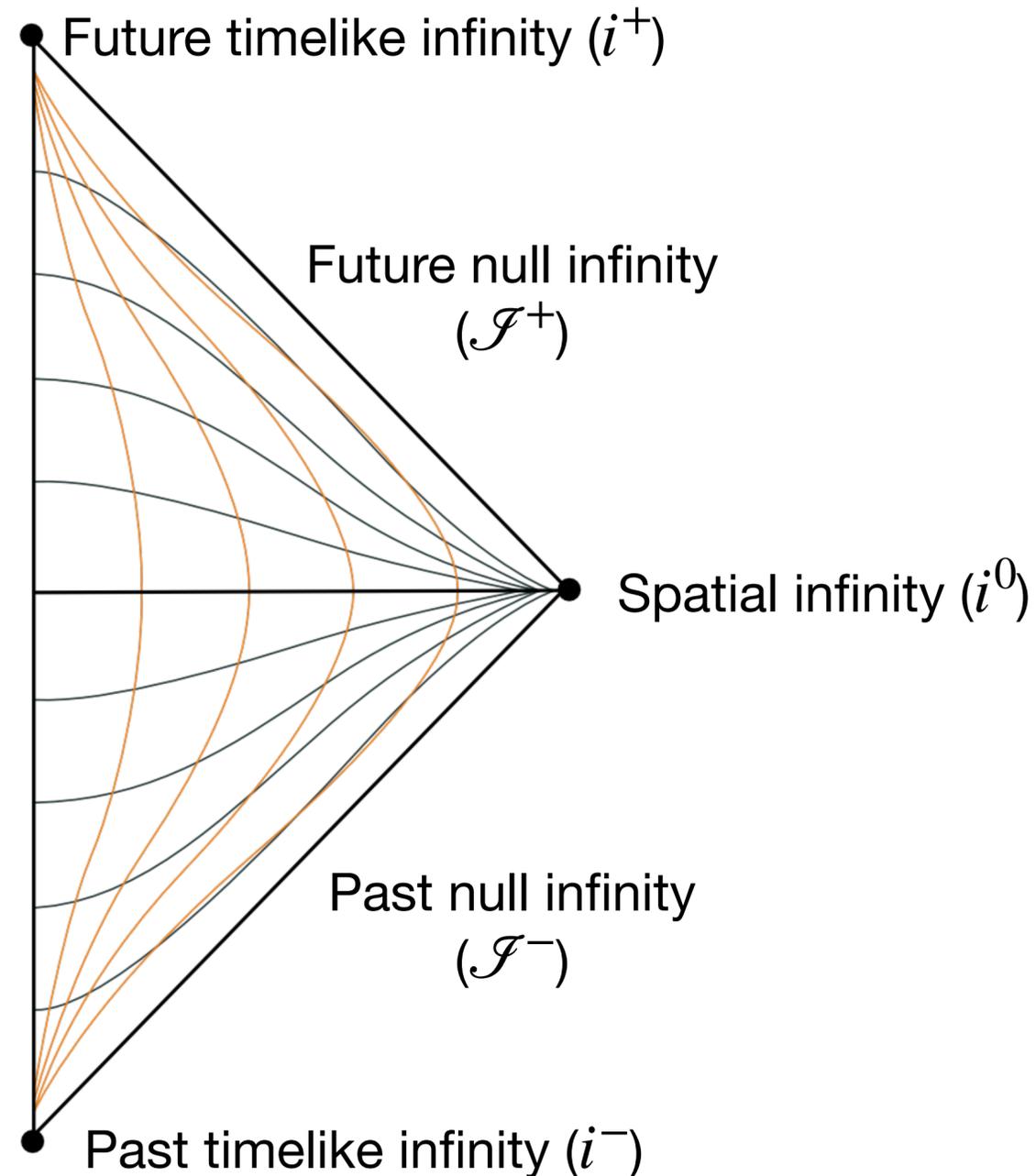
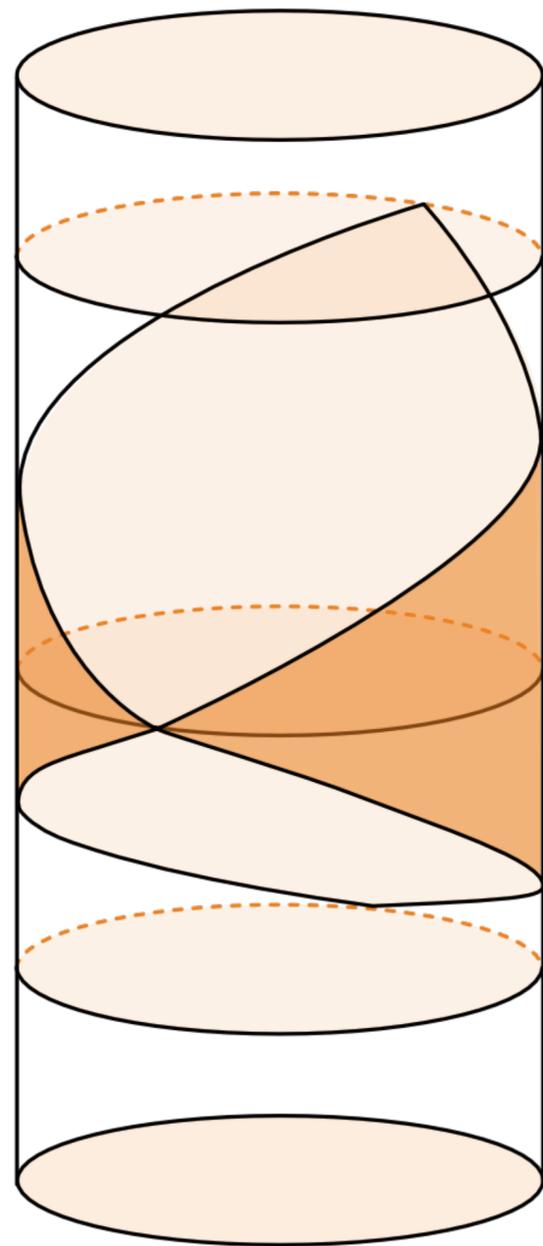


Asymptotics around an isolated object?

Credit: NASA

# Conformal diagram: Minkowski

Embedding of Minkowski  $\mathbb{R}^{1,3}$  spacetime into  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{S}^3$



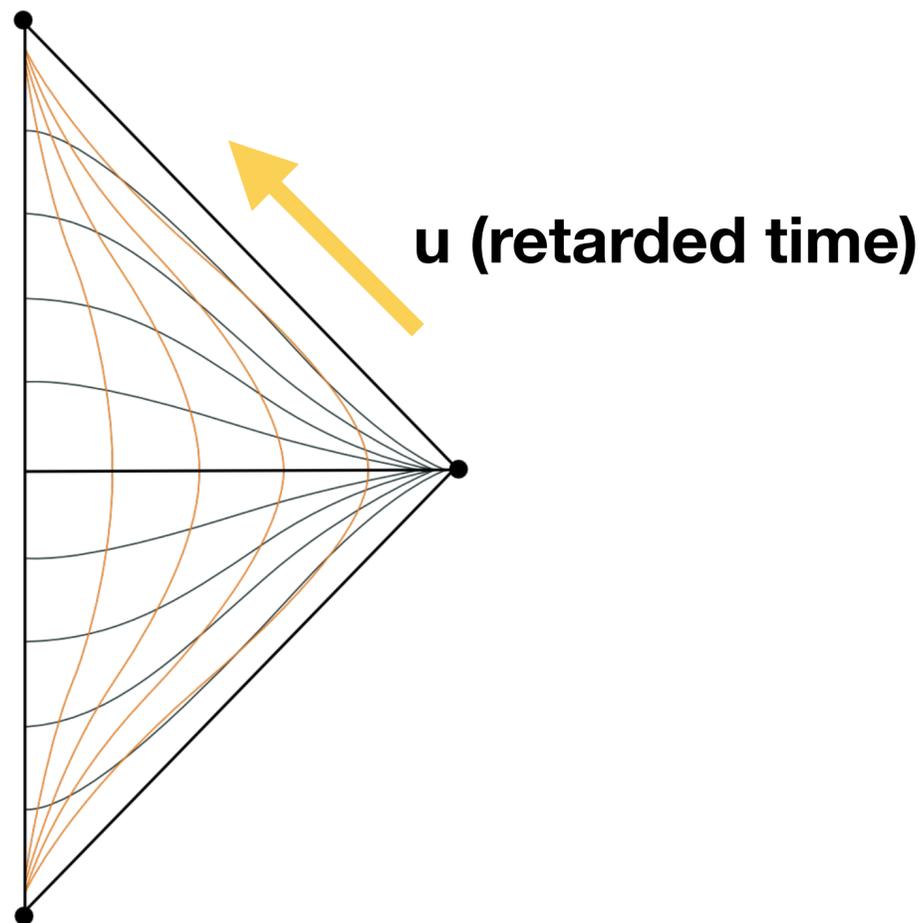
Conformal mapping  
between  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and  $\mathbb{S}^2$

Other notions of asymptotic flatness due to Ashtekar, Romano and Hansen (70's and 90's)

# More on conformal flatness

Asymptotically flat metric in Bondi coordinates

$$g = r^2 \gamma_{ij} dx^i dx^j + r C_{ij} dx^i dx^j + (-du^2 - 2dudr + D^j C_{ij} du dx^i) + \frac{2M}{r} du^2 + \frac{1}{r} (2N_i + \frac{1}{4} C_{ij} D_k C^{jk}) du dx^i \dots$$



# More on conformal flatness

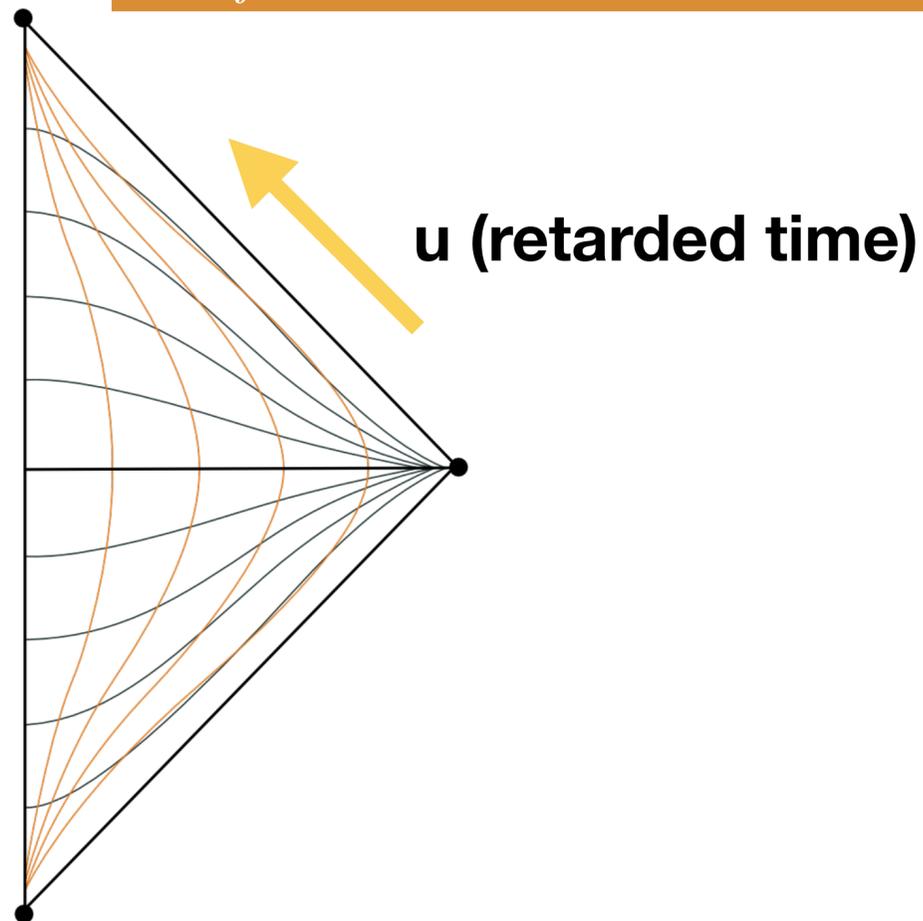
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$C_{ij}(u, x^k)$ : Asymptotic Shear

$M(u, x^i)$ : Bondi mass aspect

$N_i(u, x^i)$ : angular mom. aspect



What sort of transformations preserve this metric expansion?

Find  $\xi = \xi^u \partial_u + \xi^r \partial_r + \xi^i \partial_i$  that preserves leading order term and the conditions  $g_{rr} = 0, g_{ri} = 0, \det(g_{ij}) = r^2 \det(\gamma_{ij})$

# More on conformal flatness

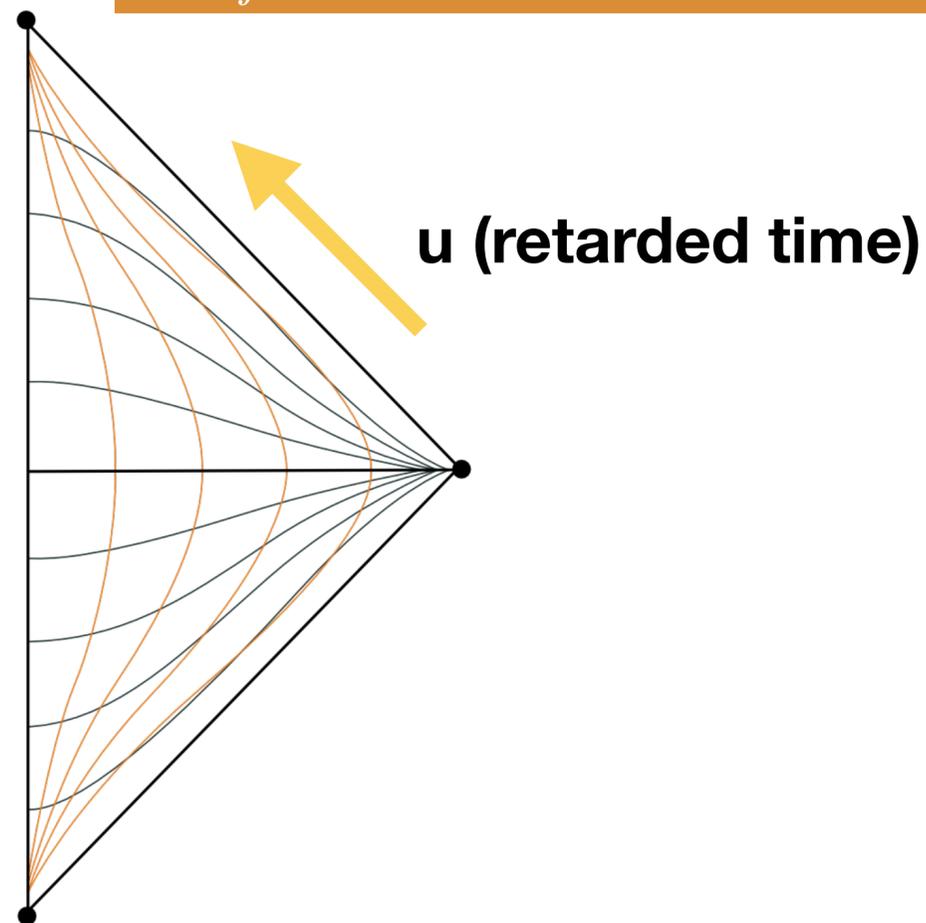
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What sort of transformations preserve this metric expansion?

On  $\mathcal{I}^+$ , the infinitesimal generator  $\xi$  can be written as

$$\xi = T \partial_u + \frac{u}{2} D_i Y^i \partial_u + Y^i \partial_i$$

$T(x^i)$ : supertranslation parameter

$Y^i(x^j)$ : Lorentz parameter

# More on conformal flatness

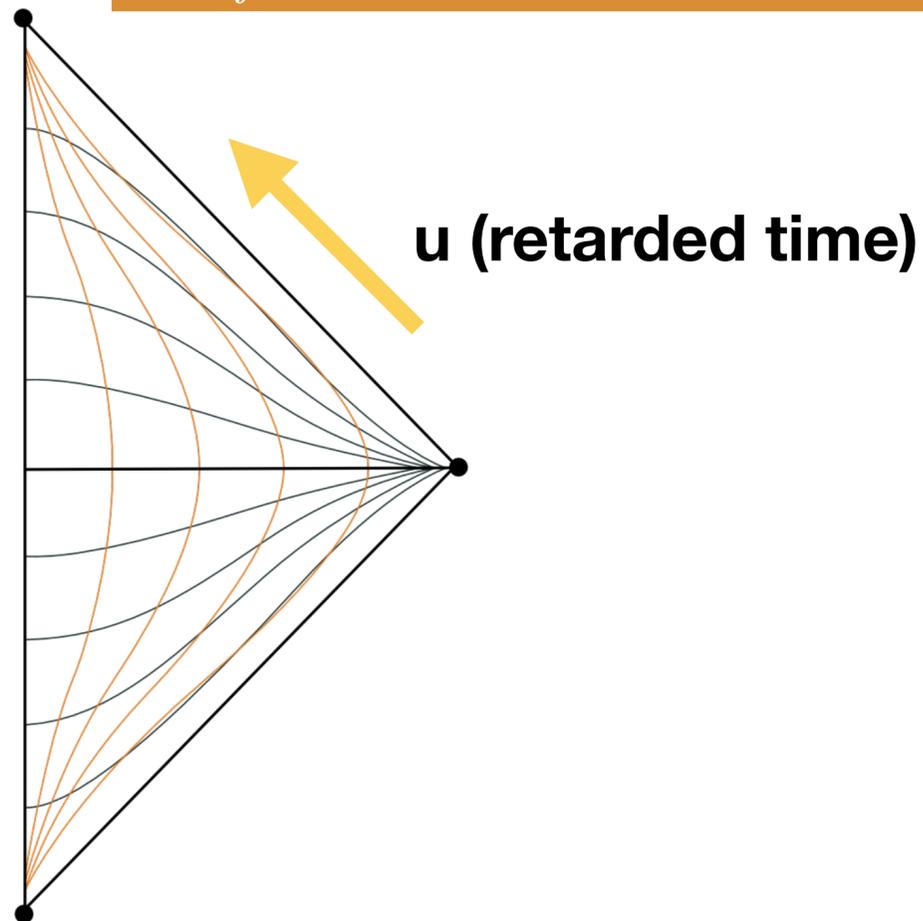
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What sort of transformations preserve this metric expansion?

A: The BMS group preserve this expansion and has the structure

$$\mathfrak{bms}_4 \simeq C^\infty(\mathbb{S}^2) \rtimes \mathfrak{so}(3,1)$$

# Definition of BMS asymptotic charges

- The Bondi 4-momentum on  $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathcal{I}^+$

$$P_{l,m} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} M Y_{l,m} \epsilon_2, \quad l = 0, 1, \quad -l \leq m \leq l$$

Represents total energy-momentum of the spacetime measured at null infinity

- Definition of BMS charges e.g. [Wald, Zoupas (2000)] [Barnich, Troessaert (2011)] [Grant, Prabhu, Shehzad (2022)]

$$Q[T, Y; \mathcal{C}] = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} \left[ -2M \beta + Y^i \left( 3N_i - \frac{1}{32} D_i(C_{jk} C^{jk}) - \frac{1}{2} C_i^j D^k C_{jk} \right) \right] \epsilon_2,$$

$$\beta := T + \frac{u}{2} D_i Y^i$$

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Supertranslation  
charges

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Lorentz  
charges

# The BMS-supertranslation charges

$$Q[T; \mathcal{C}] = \frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} M T \epsilon_2,$$

→  
To the NP-gauge

$$Q[T; \mathcal{C}] = \frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} (\mathcal{P} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^{ab} N_{ab}) T \epsilon_2,$$

$N_{ab}$ : the Bondi news

$\sigma^{ab}$ : Shear

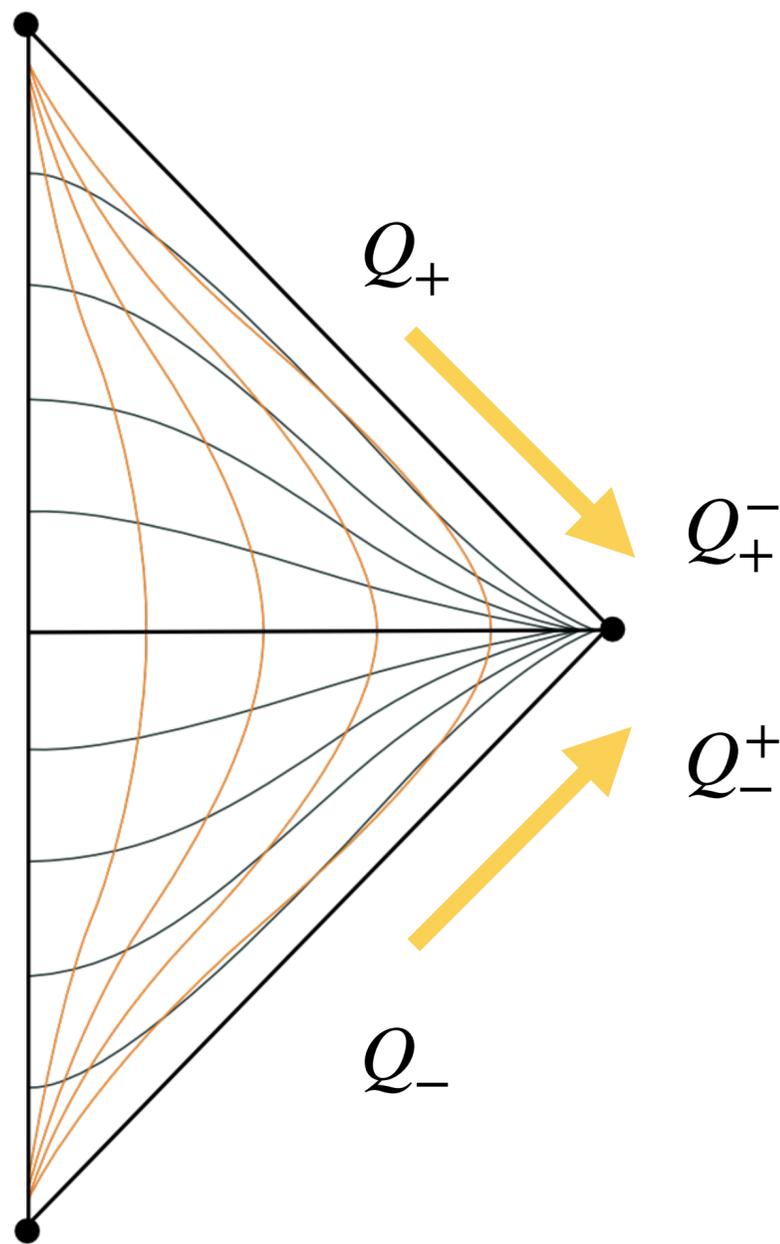
- The BMS-supertranslation charges depends on:

$\mathcal{P}$ : Coulomb part of the Weyl tensor  $\Psi_2 := -C_{abcd} l^a m^b \bar{m}^c n^d$

The contraction  $\sigma^{ab} N_{ab}$  which can be written at  $\mathcal{I}^+$  as

$$\sigma^{ab} N_{ab} = 2\delta(\sigma\bar{\sigma}) - \sigma\bar{\sigma}(3\mu + 3\bar{\mu} + \gamma + \bar{\gamma})$$

# The conservation of BMS-supertranslation



Key question: how the charges defined at past null infinity are related to the charges defined at future null infinity?

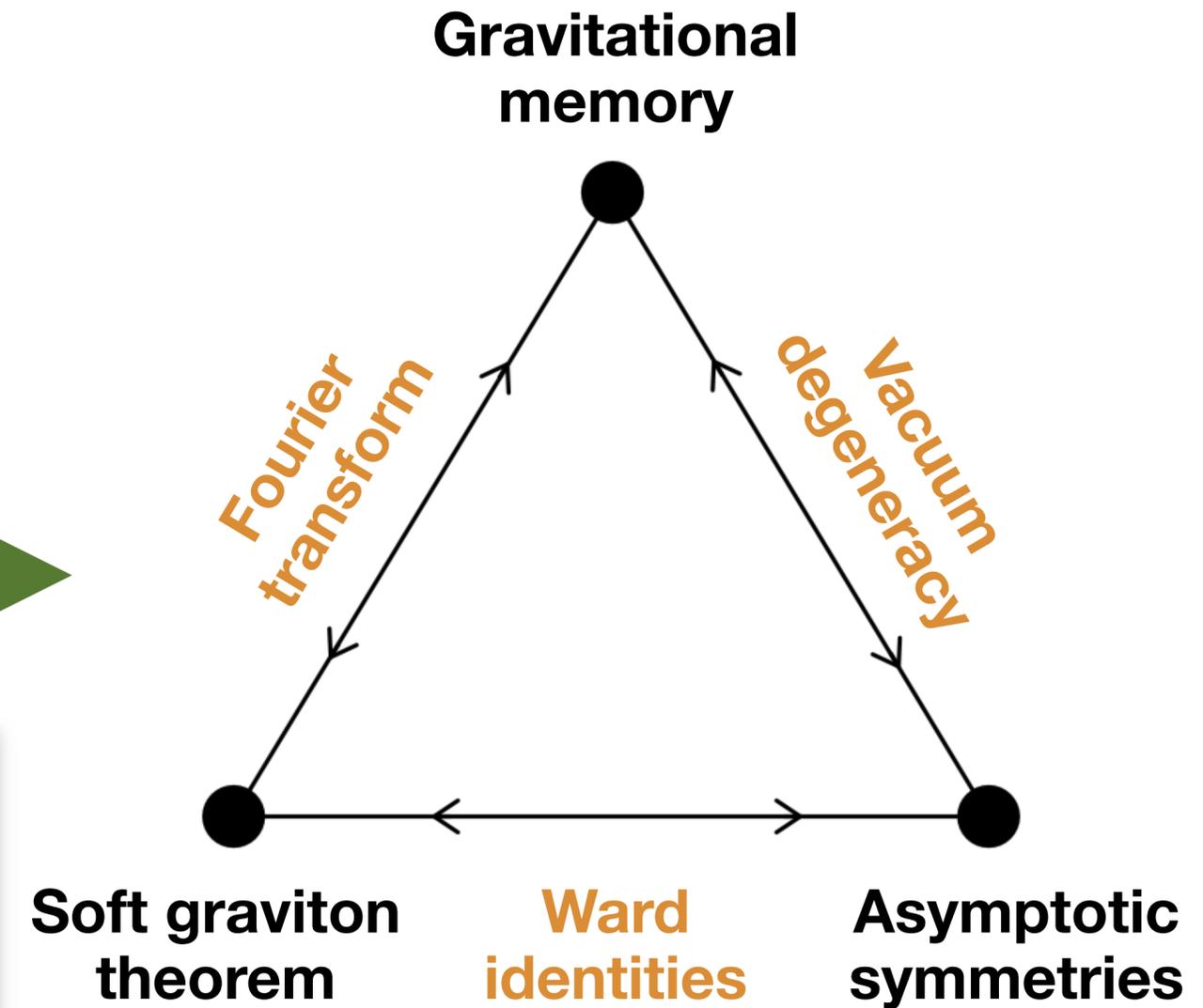
$$\text{If } Q_+^- \propto Q_-^+$$



ON BMS INVARIANCE OF GRAVITATIONAL SCATTERING

Andrew Strominger

Center for the Fundamental Laws of Nature, Harvard University,  
Cambridge, MA 02138, USA



# Some matching results

## Spin-1 and Spin-2

- [Campiglia, Eyheralde (2017)].
- [Henneaux, Troessaert (2018)].
- [Prabhu (2018)].
- [Troessaert (2018)].
- *[Magdy, Valiente-Kroon (2022)]*

## GR

- [Prabhu (2019)].
- *[Magdy, Prabhu, Valiente-Kroon (2024)]*

## Spin-0

- [Fuentealba, Henneaux (2024)]
- *[Gasperín, Magdy, Mena (2024)]*
- [Briceño, González, Henneaux, Pérez (2025)]

# Friedrich's approach to spatial infinity

Friedrich's approach

Blow-up of spatial infinity

To resolve singular behaviour at  $i^0$   
due to point compactification

Friedrich's conformal field eqs.

To introduce well-defined equations  
at the conformal boundary

- Take  $(\tilde{M}, \tilde{g})$  satisfying  $\tilde{R}_{ab} - \frac{1}{2}\tilde{R}\tilde{g}_{ab} = 0$  and  $g = \Xi^2\tilde{g}$

**Observation:** The conformal transformation of the Ricci tensor  $\tilde{R}_{ab} \rightarrow R_{ab}$  implies a singular equation for  $g_{ab}$  at  $\partial\mathcal{U} \equiv \{\Xi = 0\}$

# Friedrich's approach to spatial infinity

Friedrich's approach

Blow-up of spatial infinity

To resolve singular behaviour at  $i^0$  due to point compactification

Friedrich's conformal field eqs.

To introduce well-defined equations at the conformal boundary

- Use Friedrich's Extended conformal field equations (ECFE)

Background

$$[\mathbf{e}_b, \mathbf{e}_a] - (\hat{\Gamma}_a^c{}_b - \hat{\Gamma}_b^c{}_a)\mathbf{e}_c = 0$$

$$\hat{P}^c{}_{dab} - \hat{\rho}^c{}_{dab} = 0$$

$$\hat{\nabla}_c \hat{L}_{db} - \hat{\nabla}_d \hat{L}_{cb} - d_a d^a{}_{bcd} = 0$$

Gauge fixing

$$d_a - \Xi f_a - \hat{\nabla}_a \Xi = 0$$

$$\hat{L}_{ab} - \hat{\nabla}_a \beta_b - \frac{1}{2} S_{ab}{}^{cd} \beta_c \beta_d = 0$$

$$\hat{L}_{[ab]} - \hat{\nabla}_{[a} f_{b]} = 0$$

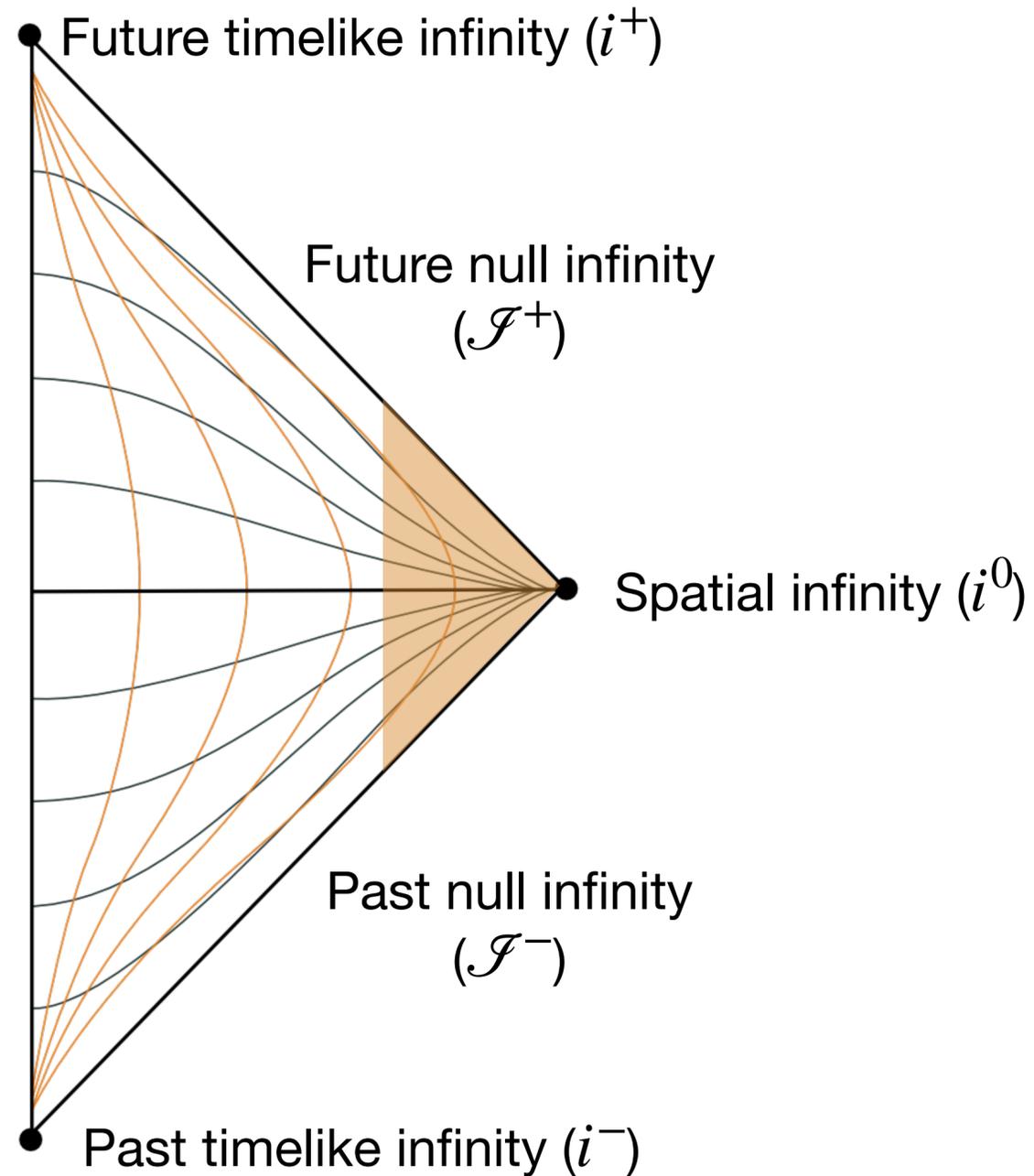
Gravitational field

$$\hat{\nabla}_a d^a{}_{bcd} - f_a d^a{}_{bcd} = 0$$

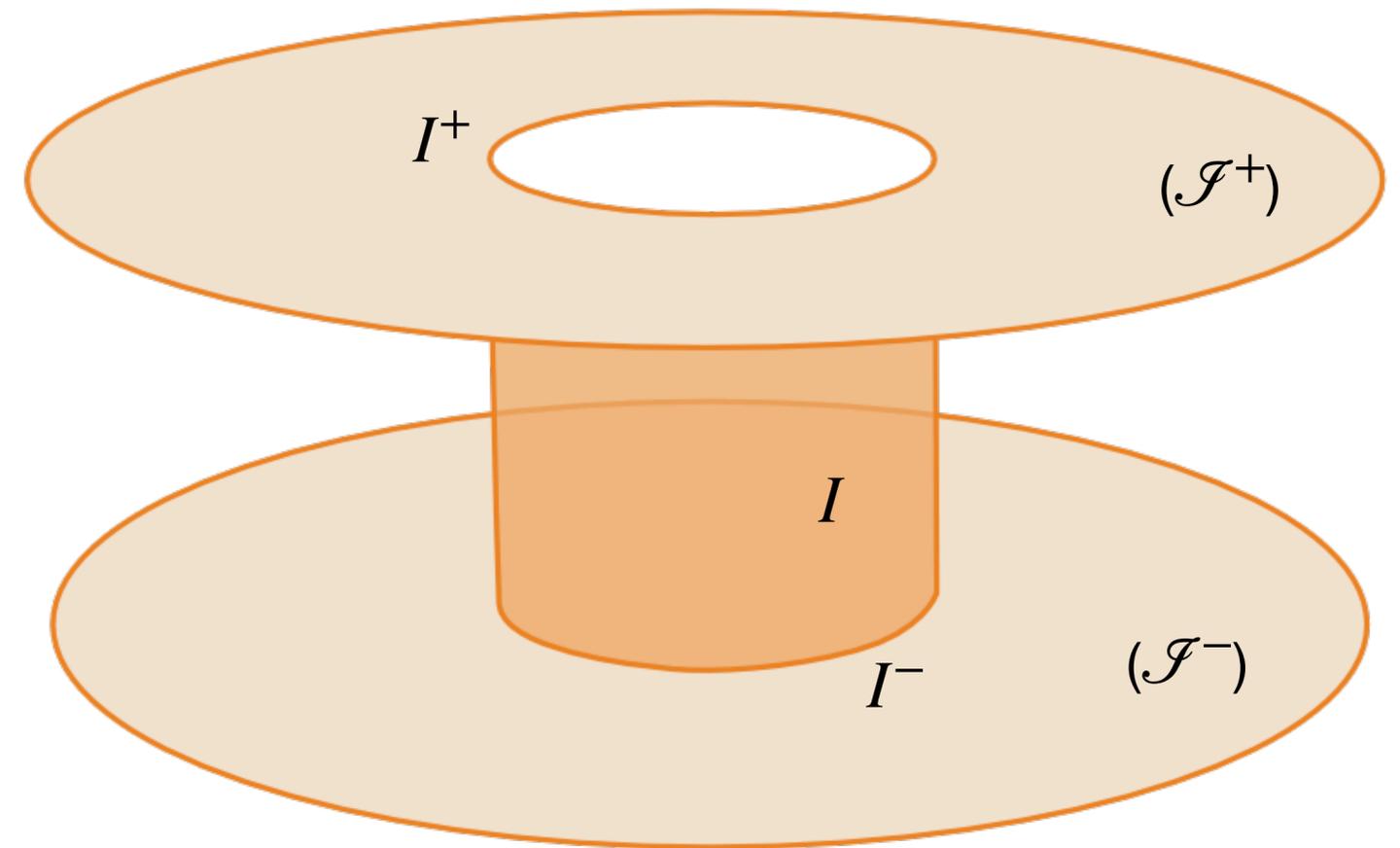
$\mathbf{e}_a$ : orthonormal frame

$\hat{\nabla}$ : Weyl connection  $\hat{\nabla}_a g_{bc} = -2f_a g_{bc}$

# Friedrich's blow up on Minkowski



Friedrich's cylinder at spatial infinity



# Friedrich's blow up on Minkowski

- Start with  $\tilde{\eta} = d\tilde{t} \otimes d\tilde{t} - d\tilde{r} \otimes d\tilde{r} - \tilde{r}^2 \sigma$
- Introduce coordinate transformation  $\tau = \frac{\tilde{t}}{\tilde{r}}, \quad \rho = -\frac{\tilde{r}}{\tilde{t}^2 - \tilde{r}^2},$
- And a conformal transformation  $(\mathbb{R}^{1,3}, \tilde{\eta}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{M}, \eta) :$   $\eta = \Theta^2 \tilde{\eta}, \quad \text{with } \Theta = \rho(1 - \tau^2)$

**Friedrich's  
conformal metric**

$$\eta = d\tau \otimes d\tau - \frac{(1 - \tau^2)}{\rho^2} d\rho \otimes d\rho + \frac{\tau}{\rho} (d\tau \otimes d\rho + d\rho \otimes d\tau) - \sigma$$

- Conformal boundary defined by  $\Theta = 0 \rightarrow \tau = \pm 1 \text{ or } \rho = 0$

$$\mathcal{I}^\pm \equiv \{p \in \mathcal{M} \mid \tau(p) = \pm 1\},$$

$$I^\pm \equiv \{p \in \mathcal{M} \mid \tau(p) = \pm 1, \rho(p) = 0\},$$

$$I \equiv \{p \in \mathcal{M} \mid \rho(p) = 0\},$$

Past/future null infinity

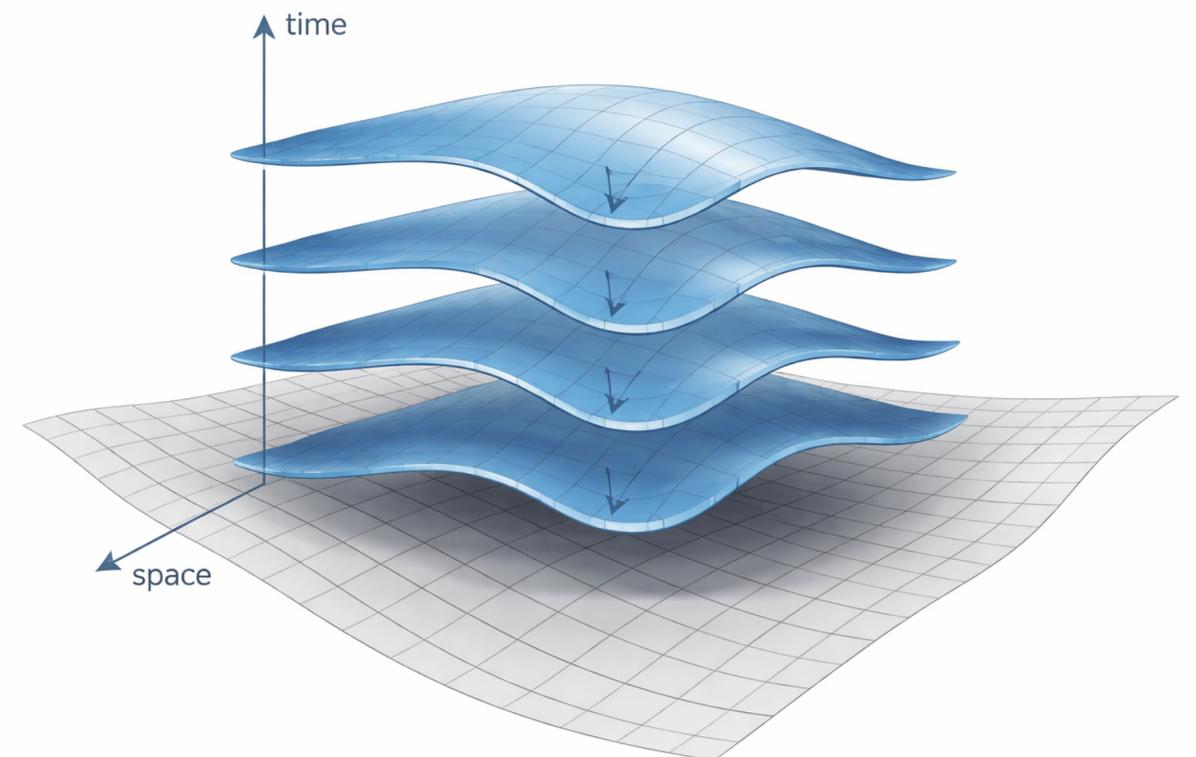
Critical sets of null infinity

Cylinder at spatial infinity

# Friedrich's blow up on asymptotically flat spacetimes

- Friedrich's formulation is an IVP formulation  **3+1 decomposition**
- Asymptotically flat spacetimes develops from 'asymptotically Euclidean data'

Definition (informal) [Geroch (1972)]: A 3-dimensional Riemannian manifold  $(\tilde{\mathcal{S}}, \tilde{h})$  is **asymptotically Euclidean and regular** if its geometry approaches that of flat Euclidean space far away from sources. In the conformal picture,  $\varepsilon_k \subset \tilde{\mathcal{S}} \rightarrow i_k$  (spatial infinity) at which the rescaled geometry satisfies specific regularity conditions.



Foliation of spacetime  
with spacelike slices  $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}$

# Friedrich's blow up on asymptotically flat spacetimes

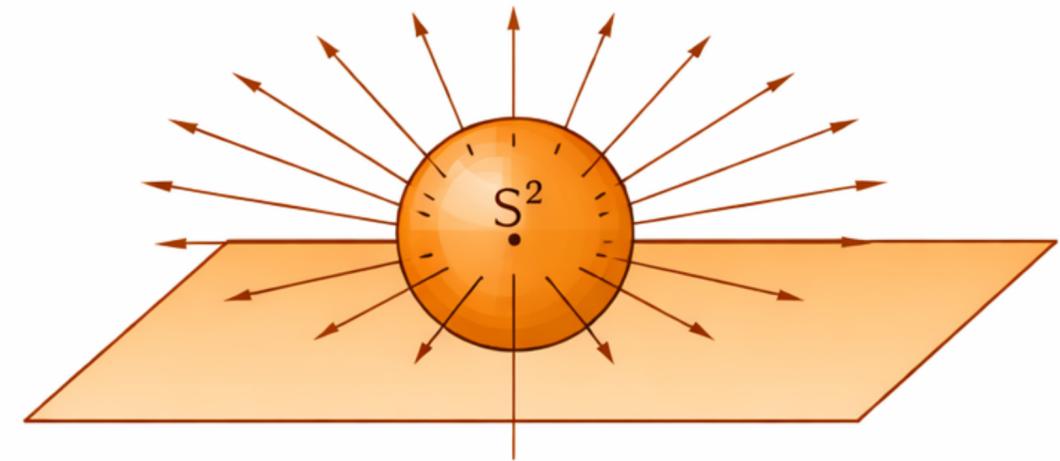
## Blow-up of spatial infinity

- Assume  $(\tilde{\mathcal{S}}, \tilde{h})$  with one asymptotic end  $\varepsilon \rightarrow i$
- Replace  $i$  with

Classical blow-up: space of direction at  $i$

Friedrich's blow-up: a subset of the bundle of normalised spin frames  $SU(\mathcal{S})$  with structure group  $SU(2, \mathbb{C})$

(Friedrich's blow-up): blow up of  $i \cong \mathbb{S}^3$  rather than the standard blow-up where  $i \cong \mathbb{S}^2$



Blow-up on initial hypersurface

Extra dimension reflects the freedom in the choice of the phase parameter of the spin frame

# Friedrich's blow up on asymptotically flat spacetimes

Ingredients for  
Friedrich's blow-up

$\{\epsilon_A\}$ : normalised spin frame  
at  $i$  satisfying  $\epsilon_A^A \epsilon^B_A = \delta_A^B$

$\tau^{AA'}$ : timelike vector field  
satisfying  $\tau_{AA'} \tau^{AA'} = 2$

$\mathbf{t} \in SU(2, \mathbb{C})$

$\rho, \tau \in \mathbb{R}$

Recipe for  
Friedrich's blow-up

- Take  $\mathbf{t} \in SU(2, \mathbb{C})$ , then  $\epsilon_A \rightarrow \epsilon_A(\mathbf{t}) = t_A^B \epsilon_B$
- Take open ball  $B_a(i)$ : Extend  $\epsilon_A(\mathbf{t})$  to  $B_a(i)$  by parallel propagation along geodesics  $\gamma_i(\rho)$ . So  $\epsilon_A(\mathbf{t}) \rightarrow \epsilon_A(\rho, \mathbf{t})$
- Extend  $\epsilon_A(\rho, \mathbf{t})$  off initial hypersurface: by parallel propagation along conformal geodesics  $(x(\tau), \beta_a(\tau))$ . So  $\epsilon_A(\rho, \mathbf{t}) \rightarrow \epsilon_A(\tau, \rho, \mathbf{t})$

Motivation: Transformations  $\mathbf{t} \in SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  preserve  $[[\xi, \lambda]] = \epsilon_{AB} \xi^A \lambda^B$  whereas  $\mathbf{t} \in SU(2, \mathbb{C}) \subset SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  also preserves Hermitian inner product  $\langle \xi, \lambda \rangle = \tau_{AA'} \bar{\xi}^{A'} \lambda^A$

# Friedrich's blow up on asymptotically flat spacetimes

- A choice of  $(\tau, \rho, \mathbf{t})$  allows us to propagate spin frames into the spacetime

$$\mathcal{M}_{a,\kappa} = \left\{ (\tau, \rho, \mathbf{t}) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times SU(2, \mathbb{C}) \mid 0 \leq \rho < a, -\frac{\omega}{\kappa} \leq \tau \leq \frac{\omega}{\kappa} \right\},$$

- Subsets of conformal boundary

$$\mathcal{F}_a^\pm = \left\{ (\tau, \rho, \mathbf{t}) \in \mathcal{M}_{a,\kappa} \mid 0 < \rho < a, \tau = \pm \frac{\omega}{\kappa} \right\},$$

$$I^\pm = \left\{ (\tau, \rho, \mathbf{t}) \in \mathcal{M}_{a,\kappa} \mid \rho = 0, \tau = \pm 1 \right\},$$

$$I = \left\{ (\tau, \rho, \mathbf{t}) \in \mathcal{M}_{a,\kappa} \mid \rho = 0, -1 < \tau < 1 \right\},$$

$\kappa$ : arbitrary smooth function satisfying  $\kappa = \mathcal{O}(\rho)$

$\omega$ : smooth function satisfying  $\omega/\kappa \rightarrow 1$  as  $\rho \rightarrow 0$

# Matching of BMS-supertranslation

- We consider the matching of

$$Q[T; \mathcal{C}] = \frac{1}{4\pi} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} \left( \mathcal{P} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^{ab} N_{ab} \right) T \epsilon_2,$$

- Start from asymptotically Euclidean and regular initial data [L. Huang (2010)]

$$h_{\alpha\beta} = - \left( 1 + \frac{A}{r} \right) \delta_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{\xi}{r} \left( \frac{x_\alpha x_\beta}{r^2} - \frac{1}{2} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \right) + O_2(r^{-2})$$

$$\pi_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\zeta}{r^2} \frac{x_\alpha x_\beta}{r^2} + \frac{1}{r^3} \left( -B_\alpha x_\beta - B_\beta x_\alpha + (B^\gamma x_\gamma) \delta_{\alpha\beta} \right) + O_1(r^{-3})$$

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$A, B_\alpha$ : Constants

$$\pi_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\zeta}{r^2} \frac{x_\alpha x_\beta}{r^2} + \frac{1}{r^3} \left( -B_\alpha x_\beta - B_\beta x_\alpha + (B^\gamma x_\gamma) \delta_{\alpha\beta} \right) + O_1(r^{-3})$$

$\xi, \zeta \in C^2(\mathbb{S}^2)$

# Matching of BMS-supertranslation

- Obtain solutions for background and gauge fields  $(\mathbf{e}_a, \hat{\Gamma}_a{}^b{}_c, \hat{L}_{ab}, f_a)$  and the gravitational field  $d^a{}_{bcd}$ .
- The rescaled Weyl tensor decomposes to  $(\phi_0, \phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3, \phi_4)$
- Transforming to NP-gauge

$$\lim_{\rho \rightarrow 0} \sigma^{ab} N_{ab} = 0 \quad \lim_{\rho \rightarrow 0} \Psi_2 = -\phi_2^0, \quad \text{where } \phi_2 = \phi_2^0 + \mathcal{O}(\rho)$$

Conclusion: The BMS-supertranslation charges at  $I^\pm$  depends only on  $T$  and  $\phi_2^0$

# Matching of BMS-supertranslation

Theorem: For Huang's initial data,  $Q$  are not well-defined at the critical sets  $I^\pm$  unless the initial data satisfy:

$$\xi_{2l,m+l} = 0, \quad \text{for odd } l \geq 2, \quad -l \geq m \geq l$$

If the initial data satisfy these conditions,  $Q|_{I^\pm}$  are fully determined by the initial data and their conservation follows directly from the regularity conditions, specifically we get:

$$Q_{l,m}|_{I^\pm} \begin{cases} = -21\xi_{0,0} + 6A, & \text{for } l = 0, m = 0, \\ = \mp 42\xi_{2,m+1}, & \text{for } l = 1, -1 \leq m \leq 1, \\ = 0, & \text{for odd } l \geq 2, -l \leq m \leq l, \\ \propto -2\xi_{2l,m+l}, & \text{for even } l \geq 2, -l \leq m \leq l, \end{cases}$$

Matching is not generically satisfied unless initial data are fine-tuned!

With fine tuning:  
 $Q_{l,m}|_{I^+} = (-1)^l Q_{l,m}|_{I^-}$

# Other matching results

Similar results for spin-1 and spin-2 fields on Minkowski background

Analysis on n-dimensional  
spacetime?

[Gasperín, Magdy, Mena (2024)]

- Take  $(\mathbb{R}^{1,n-1}, \tilde{\eta})$  and  $\tilde{\phi}$  satisfying  $\square \tilde{\phi} = 0$
- Introduce coordinate + conformal transformation  $(\mathbb{R}^{1,n-1}, \tilde{\eta}) \rightarrow (\mathcal{M}, \eta)$  :

$$\eta = \Theta^2 \tilde{\eta}, \quad \text{with } \Theta = \rho(1 - \tau^2)$$

n-dimensional  
conformal metric

$$\eta = d\tau \otimes d\tau - \frac{(1 - \tau^2)}{\rho^2} d\rho \otimes d\rho + \frac{\tau}{\rho} (d\tau \otimes d\rho + d\rho \otimes d\tau) - \sigma$$

$\sigma$  : metric on  $S^{n-2}$

# Conservation of spin-0 asymptotic charges

- On  $(\mathcal{M}, \eta)$  :  $\square \phi - \frac{n-2}{4(n-1)} R \phi = 0$ , with  $\phi = \Theta^{1-n/2} \tilde{\phi}$  and  $R = (n-4)(n-1)$
- Take

$$\phi(\tau, \rho, \theta^A) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_m \frac{1}{p!} a_{p;l,m}(\tau) Y_{l,m} \rho^p,$$

$Y_{l,m}$  : spherical  
harmonics on  $\mathbb{S}^{n-2}$

- Substitution

$$(1 - \tau^2) \ddot{a}_{p;l,m} + 2\tau(p-1) \dot{a}_{p;l,m} + \frac{1}{4} (2p+n+2l-4)(2l+n-2(1+p)) a_{p;l,m} = 0.$$

# Conservation of spin-0 asymptotic charges

- Take initial data

$$\phi|_{\mathcal{S}^*}(\rho, \theta^A) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_m \frac{1}{p!} a_{p;l,m}(0) Y_{l,m} \rho^p,$$

$$\dot{\phi}|_{\mathcal{S}^*}(\rho, \theta^A) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \sum_m \frac{1}{p!} \dot{a}_{p;l,m}(0) Y_{l,m} \rho^p,$$

**Observation:** the order  $\nu$  is integer iff  $n$  is even.

**Observation:** the regularity  $a_{p;l,m}(\tau)$  depends on whether  $\nu$  is integer or not.

Lemma: Given initial data  $\phi|_{\mathcal{S}^*}$  and  $\dot{\phi}|_{\mathcal{S}^*}$ , the solution to the associated Legendre equation is given by

$$a_{p;l,m}(\tau) = \left( C_{p;l,m} P_{\nu}^p(\tau) + D_{p;l,m} Q_{\nu}^p(\tau) \right) (1 - \tau^2)^{\frac{p}{2}},$$

where  $\nu = (1/2)(n - 2l - 4)$ ,  $C_{p;l,m}$  and  $D_{p;l,m}$  are constants related to  $a_{p;l,m}(0)$  and  $\dot{a}_{p;l,m}(0)$ .

$P_{\nu}^p$  : associated Legendre polynomial

$Q_{\nu}^p$  : associated Legendre function of the second kind

# Conservation of spin-0 asymptotic charges

- Behaviour of  $a_{0;l,m}(\tau)$  at  $\tau = \pm 1$  (null infinity)

Spacetime dimension	Legendre Polynomial	Legendre Function	Limit to null infinity of Solution
Even n	Polynomial	Polyhomogeneous	Singular behaviour at past and future null infinity removable by fine-tuning the initial data.
Odd n	Polyhomogeneous	Polyhomogeneous	Singularity at past/future null infinity. Fine tuning implies trivial solution.

## Definition of spin-0 asymptotic charges

[Nguyen & West(2022)], [Henneaux & Troessaert (2019)], [Campiglia & Freidel & Hopfmüller & Soni (2019)]

$$Q_n(f, \mathcal{C}) = \oint_{\mathcal{C}} f(x^i) \tilde{\phi}^{(n/2-1)} \epsilon_{n-2},$$

# Conservation of spin-0 asymptotic charges

Theorem: Taking initial data  $\phi|_{\mathcal{S}^*}$  and  $\dot{\phi}|_{\mathcal{S}^*}$ , the asymptotic charges  $Q_n(f, \mathcal{C})$  associated with  $\tilde{\phi}$  are generically not well-defined at  $I^\pm$  unless the initial data satisfy extra regularity conditions. Specifically,

1- For even  $n \leq 4$ ,  $l \leq 0$ , if initial data are chosen so that  $D_{p;l,m} = 0$ , then  $Q_n(f, \mathcal{C})|_{I^\pm}$  are fully written in terms of the initial data

$$Q_n(Y_{l,m}, \mathcal{I}^\pm) = \begin{cases} C_{0;l,m} & \text{for } \tau = 1, \\ (-1)^\ell C_{0;l,m} & \text{for } \tau = -1. \end{cases}$$

2- For odd  $n > 4$ , there exists no non-trivial charges with well-defined limits at  $I^\pm$ .

Matching is not generically satisfied.

For even  $n$ , fine tuning implies  $Q_{n;l}|_{I^+} = (-1)^l Q_{n;l}|_{I^-}$

# Conclusions

- Matching of BMS-supertranslation is not generic.
- Future direction: Understand the logarithmic matching of [Fuentealba,Henneaux (2024)] in the context of Friedrich's formulation.

**Thank you for listening!**