

A 3D flat-space holography inspired by AdS3/CFT2 duality

Nabamita Banerjee
IISER, Bhopal

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Motivation : Why 3D ?

- Gravity in three space time dimensions is special, there is no dynamical graviton !
- But a large variety of gravitational solutions exists whenever global topological structures, such as the holonomy of the manifold are considered.
- 3D gravity is renormalizable, thus a perfect toy model to study some quantum aspects of gravity.
- Holography is well understood in the context of AdS3 gravity.
- 3D gravity can also be alternately viewed as a pure gauge theory, known as Chern-Simons theory.

We shall use the Chern-Simons formulation to look for a holographic dual of 3D Flat (super)gravity theories.

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Lessons from AdS₃/CFT₂ correspondence :

3D gravity in asymptotically AdS space is dual to a CFT₂, one of the most well understood holographic duality.

Witten, Maldacena-Ooguri, Brown-Henneaux, Strominger, Giveon-Kutasov-Seiberg.

- Asymptotic symmetry of AdS₃ gravity is centrally extended Virasoro symmetry $\equiv$ symmetry of dual CFT₂.
- There exist a BTZ Black Hole solution which is globally different from AdS₃. Its entropy is related to the central charge of the Virasoro algebra.
- The dual CFT can be constructed as a Liouville theory.
- Supersymmetric extensions gave further clarifications.
- The nontrivial global dofs of 3D gravity can be identified in string theory on AdS₃ as holomorphic (or anti-holomorphic) vertex operators integrated over contours on the worldsheet.

Lessons from AdS3/CFT2 correspondence :

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GOAL

We are in search of a similar duality for asymptotically flat 3D gravity !

Plan of The talk

- Why 3D ?
- Lessons From AdS3/CFT2
- BMS from Chern-Simons Formulation of 3D gravity
- Supersymmetric extensions of BMS₃ :
 - Asymptotic symmetry analysis of 3dimensional supergravity theories
 - Bosonic solutions with non trivial topologies
 - Outlook so far
- 2D field theories dual to 3D Flat gravity
 - WZW like theories
 - Flat limit of Liouville Theories
- Outlook and Open questions

What is BMS ?

- The symmetry algebra at null infinity ($\mathcal{I}_+$ or $\mathcal{I}_-$) for gravity theories with flat-space asymptotics is known as Bondi-van der Burg-Metzner-Sachs (BMS) algebra.
- In three and four space time dimensions, BMS algebra is infinite dimensional and transformation generators are known as supertranslation and superrotation generators.
- In higher (> 4) even space time dimensions, with a relaxed boundary condition on metric, one gets supertranslation and Lorentz transformations as the asymptotic symmetry generators .

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For flat space, it is most elegantly described using Penrose compactification of null infinity . Assumption of an asymptotic series expansion in $1/r$ becomes a smoothness condition at $\mathcal{I}_+$.

- 3D gravity : $S = \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} R$
- Consider a metric $g_{\mu\nu}(x)$ with proper fall off that describes a geometry of an asymptotically flat manifold $g_{\mu\nu}(x) \xrightarrow{r \sim \infty} \eta_{\mu\nu}$
- Next we look for the isometries ξ that they leave the asymptotic form of the metric invariant,
 $\mathcal{L}_\xi g_{\mu\nu}(x) \xrightarrow{r \sim \infty} g_{\mu\nu}(x)$.
- These killing fields ξ^a are the generators of the asymptotic symmetry algebra.

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Background : Chern-Simons Theory in 3D

Pure Chern-Simons theory is given as,

$$S_{CS} = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int_M \langle A, dA + \frac{2}{3} A^2 \rangle$$

- k is level of the theory, M is the spacetime manifold.
- A is a Lie-algebra-valued one form : $A = A_\mu^a T_a dx^\mu$.
- $\langle, \rangle$ represents a non-degenerate invariant bilinear form taking values on the Lie algebra space.
- The Equation of motion is: $F \equiv dA + [A, A] = 0$.
- The solutions are pure gauge $A = G^{-1}dG$ where G is a Lie group element.

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Chern-Simons Theory in 3D :

- Onshell CS theory does not have any bulk dynamical dof and hence it is a topological field theory.
- For gauge-fixing condition $\partial_\phi A_r = 0$, the solution looks like

$$A = b^{-1}(a + d)b, \quad A_r(r) = b(r)^{-1}\partial_r b(r),$$

- Here $a(\phi, u)$ represents the residual part of the gauge field that can not be fixed by eoms.
- Conserved charges that correspond to the residual global part of the gauge symmetry will produce a centrally extended symmetry algebra at the boundary. *Brown Heanneaux.*

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Pure 3D gravity as a CS Theory :

- 3D pure gravity is also a topological theory. The symmetry group here is non-compact group $ISO(2,1)$.
- The non-zero commutators of the Lie-algebra are:

$$[J_a, J_b] = \epsilon_{abc} J^c, \quad [J_a, P_b] = \epsilon_{abc} P^c.$$

- Expanding the CS gauge field as $A_\mu = e_\mu^a P_a + \omega_\mu^a J_a$, the CS action boils down to

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int 2e^a R_a, \quad R^a = d\omega^a + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^a_{bc} \omega^b \omega^c,$$

- $k = \frac{1}{4G}$, and $M = \Sigma \times R$.
- Classical equivalence !

Pure 3D gravity as a CS Theory : Further similarities

Classical symmetries are also identical.

- A generic gauge transformation in CS Theory by parameter $\Lambda = \zeta^a P_a + \Upsilon^a J_a$ would be

$$\delta A_\mu = \partial_\mu \Lambda + [A_\mu, \Lambda].$$

- This gauge transformation of Chern Simons theory is identical to local Lorentz and diffeomorphism transformation of 3D Gravity **On-shell**.
- Thus the residual boundary symmetry of CS theory must identically imply the same for the corresponding gravity theory.
- The algebra of the corresponding global charges at null infinity is identified with **BMS₃**.

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Asymptotic symmetry of Gravity theory Using CS formulation :

We denote the three manifold at null infinity by (u, r, ϕ) .

- The falloff of the residual gauge field at null infinity is :

$$a = [\sqrt{2}J_1 + \frac{\pi}{k}\mathcal{P}J_0 + \frac{\pi}{k}\mathcal{J}P_0]d\phi + [\sqrt{2}P_1 + \frac{\pi}{k}\mathcal{P}P_0]du,$$

- This gives Bondi metric :

$$ds^2 = \mathcal{P}du^2 - 2dudr - \mathcal{J}dud\phi + r^2d\phi^2$$

- The gauge symmetry transformation parameter has the form ,

$$\Lambda = \zeta^a P_a + \Upsilon^a J_a,$$

- $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{J}, \zeta, \Upsilon$ are functions of (u, ϕ) and are constrained by,

$$da + \frac{1}{2}[a, a] = 0, \delta a = d\Lambda + [a, \Lambda].$$

- The global charges in this gauge theory are defined as ,

$$\delta Q(\Lambda) = -\frac{\kappa}{4\pi} \int \langle \Lambda, \delta A_\phi \rangle d\phi.$$

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Asymptotic symmetry of Gravity theory Using CS formulation :

- Integrating the above relation one gets the conserved charges that generate the asymptotic symmetry algebra as :

$$\{Q[\lambda_1], Q[\lambda_2]\}_{PB} = \delta_{\lambda_1} Q[\lambda_2] ,$$

- Defining modes for various independent components of the residual gauge fields, one finally gets the infinite dimensional symmetry algebra of the conserved charges.

$$\begin{aligned} [J_m, J_n] &= (m - n) J_{m+n}, & [P_m, P_n] &= 0 \\ [J_m, P_n] &= (m - n) P_{m+n} + \frac{c_2}{12} m^3 \delta_{m+n,0}. \end{aligned}$$

- This is BMS_3 algebra. Here J_m are supertranslation generators and P_m are superrotation generators.

3D Flat Gravity theory From CS formulation :

- Thus CS formulation of 3D gravity has been a very useful tool to understand various properties of gravity.
- This was first established by Witten and later rigorously used by Henneaux mostly in the context of asymptotically AdS gravity theories.
- In the past decade, Barnich et.al. started using the same tool for understanding asymptotic properties of pure Gravity as centrally extended BMS_3 symmetry.
- The technique is highly successful by now and all possible supersymmetric and higher-spin extension of BMS_3 are known. [Barnich et.al](#), [Troncoso et.al](#), [Grumiller et.al](#), [Banerjee et.al](#)

Alternate way to get BMS₃ algebra :

- Alternately, BMS₃ algebra can be obtained as a flat limit of AdS₃ asymptotic algebra, namely the Virasoro algebra

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

- Redefine generators and central charges as

$$P_m = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon (L_m^+ + L_{-m}^-), \quad J_m = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} (L_m^+ - L_{-m}^-)$$

$$c_1 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} (c^+ - c^-), \quad c_2 = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon (c^+ + c^-)$$

- The contracted algebra looks like,

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Supersymmetric extensions of BMS_3 algebra

- In [JHEP 1606 \(2016\) 024](#) and [JHEP 1611 \(2016\) 059](#) we presented all possible supersymmetric extensions of BMS_3 algebra along with their [free field realisations](#) , using the contraction technique.
- There are distinct ways of taking the limit and all corresponds to valid two dimensional algebras.
- Imposing unitarity constraints puts certain restrictions to its validity, but still one gets multiple infinite algebras corresponding to a fixed number of supercharges.
- Thus a direct asymptotic symmetry analysis of the corresponding supergravity theory (using CS formulation) is required to uniquely identify the symmetry algebra.
- In [JHEP 1911 \(2019\) 122](#), [Phys.Rev. D96 \(2017\) no.6, 066029](#), [JHEP 1901 \(2019\) 115](#) we have presented the proper analysis to identify the right super BMS_3 algebras.

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- Thus a direct asymptotic symmetry analysis of the corresponding supergravity theory (using CS formulation) is required to uniquely identify the symmetry algebra.
- In [JHEP 1911 \(2019\) 122](#), [Phys.Rev. D96 \(2017\) no.6, 066029](#), [JHEP 1901 \(2019\) 115](#) we have presented the proper analysis to identify the right super BMS_3 algebras.

Asymptotic symmetry of $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$ SUGRA :

Let us consider $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$ Super-Poincaré algebra as the gauge algebra for CS theory:

$$\begin{aligned} [J_a, J_b] &= \epsilon_{abc} J^c & [J_a, P_b] &= \epsilon_{abc} P^c \\ [J_a, Q_\alpha^i] &= \frac{1}{2} (\Gamma^a)_\alpha^\beta Q_\beta^i & [Q_\alpha^i, T] &= \epsilon^{ij} Q_\alpha^j \\ \{Q_\alpha^i, Q_\beta^j\} &= -\frac{1}{2} \delta^{ij} (C\Gamma^a)_{\alpha\beta} P_a + C_{\alpha\beta} \epsilon^{ij} Z. \end{aligned}$$

- The non-degenerate invariant bilinears are :

$$\langle J_a, P_b \rangle = \eta_{ab}, \langle J_a, J_b \rangle = \mu \eta_{ab}, \langle Q_\alpha^i, Q_\beta^j \rangle = \delta^{ij} C_{\alpha\beta},$$

$$\langle T, Z \rangle = -1, \langle T, T \rangle = \bar{\mu}.$$

- The lie algebra valued gauge field :

$$A = e^a P_a + \hat{\omega}^a J_a + \psi_i^\alpha Q_\alpha^i + BT + CZ$$

- With this identification, the CS action reduces to

$$I[A] = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int [2e^a \hat{R}_a + \mu L(\hat{\omega}_a) - \bar{\psi}_\beta^i \nabla \psi_i^\beta - 2BdC + \bar{\mu} BdB]$$

- The three manifold at null infinity has coordinates (u, r, ϕ) .
- The asymptotic falloff of the residual gauge field :

$$a = \sqrt{2} \left[J_1 + \frac{\pi}{k} \left(\mathcal{P} - \frac{4\pi}{k} \mathcal{Z}^2 \right) J_0 + \frac{\pi}{k} \left(\mathcal{J} + \frac{2\pi}{k} \tau \mathcal{Z} \right) P_0 - \frac{\pi}{k} \psi_i Q_+^i \right. \\ \left. - \frac{2\pi}{k} \mathcal{Z} T - \frac{2\pi}{k} \tau Z \right] d\phi + \left[\sqrt{2} P_1 + \frac{8\pi}{k} \mathcal{Z} Z + \frac{\pi}{k} \left(\mathcal{P} - \frac{4\pi}{k} \mathcal{Z}^2 \right) P_0 \right] du,$$

- The gauge symmetry transformation parameter has the form ,

$$\Lambda = \zeta^n P_n + \Upsilon^n J_n + \lambda T + \tilde{\lambda} Z + \zeta_+^i Q_+^i + \zeta_-^i Q_-^i ,$$

- $\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{J}, \mathcal{Z}, \tau, \psi_i, \zeta, \Upsilon, \lambda, \tilde{\lambda}, \zeta_{\pm}^i$ are functions of (u, ϕ) .

For $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$ asymptotically flat Supergravity theory, the asymptotic symmetry algebra looks as :

$$\begin{aligned}[P_n, J_m] &= (n - m)P_{n+m} + n^3 k \delta_{n+m,0}, & [J_n, J_m] &= (n - m)J_{n+m} + n^3 \mu k \delta_{n+m,0} \\ [P_n, R_m] &= -4mS_{n+m}, & [J_n, R_m] &= -mR_{n+m}, & [J_n, S_m] &= -mS_{n+m} \\ [R_n, S_m] &= n k \delta_{n+m,0}, & [R_n, R_m] &= n \bar{\mu} k \delta_{n+m,0} \\ [J_n, \mathcal{G}_m^i] &= \left(\frac{n}{2} - m\right) \mathcal{G}_{n+m}^i, & (i = 1, 2) \\ [R_n, \mathcal{G}_m^1] &= \mathcal{G}_{n+m}^1, & [R_n, \mathcal{G}_m^2] &= -\mathcal{G}_{n+m}^2 \\ \{\mathcal{G}_n^1, \mathcal{G}_m^2\} &= P_{n+m} + 2kn^2 \delta_{n+m,0} + (n - m)S_{n+m}\end{aligned}$$

This is the most generic $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$ BMS₃ algebra.

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Nontrivial Bosonic solutions and their Thermodynamic properties : JHEP 1901

Can there be generic asymptotically flat bosonic solutions ? YES !

- Since asymptotic symmetry is fixed, we keep a_ϕ unchanged.
- Time evolution of a_ϕ is similar to gauge transformation, thus a_u must have similar form as gauge transformation parameter.
- Incorporate the chemical potentials into the system to give vacuum expectation value to the time component of the gauge field a_u .
- Finally one fixes the chemical potentials by demanding regularity of the solution.

The stationary circular symmetric metric takes the form

$$ds^2 = (\mathcal{P}' + r^2 \mu_J^2) du^2 - 2\mu_P du dr - (\mathcal{J}' + 2r^2 \mu_J^2) du d\phi + r^2 d\phi^2.$$

Cosmological solutions, with a cosmological horizon and entropy.

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Outlook so far and Open Questions

So far we have understood :

- CS formulation of 3D gravity can be used to understand the asymptotic symmetry structure of space time at null infinity.
- New bosonic solutions can be obtained that has a different topology than the minkowski space-time.
- The dynamics of these solutions lies in the boundary of the 3D manifold M .

Can we find the boundary theory ? Will it be dual to 3D gravity ?

- We shall exploit the equivalence of CS theory and the Wess-Zumino-Witten models.

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A WZW model is a 2D non-linear sigma model with a 3D term:

$$S_{WZW} = \frac{1}{4a^2} \int_{\partial\Sigma} d^2x \text{Tr}[\partial^\mu g \partial_\mu g^{-1}] + \kappa \int_{\Sigma} \text{Tr}[(G^{-1}dG)^3]$$

- a, κ are constants. g is dynamical matrix valued field on $\partial\Sigma$.
- G is the extension of g to the volume Σ .
- It posses Conserved Currents $J(z) = -\kappa \partial_z g g^{-1} = \sum_a \mathcal{J}^a T_a$ which gives rise to Current Algebra.
- Bilinears of these currents gives energy-momentum tensor through Sugawara Construction.

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- CS theory on a manifold with boundary generically imposes boundary conditions on the gauge field.
- Boundary conditions of $A \mapsto$ Constraints in Phase space
- With Identification $A = G^{-1}dG$ along with the constraints, it can be shown that onshell:

$$S_{CS} + S_{bdy} = S_{WZW}$$

- The asymptotic gauge field of the corresponding CS theory is highly constrained at the boundary:

$$e_u^a = \omega_\phi^a, \quad \omega_u^a = 0, \quad \psi_{lu}^\pm = 0, \quad B_u = 0, \quad -4B_\phi = C_u.$$

- These requires the action to be improved by a boundary term:

$$S_{imp} = S_{CS} - \frac{k}{4\pi} \int_{\partial M} du d\phi [\omega_\phi^a \omega_{a\phi} + 4B_\phi^2]$$

- Next we evaluate the above action on a general solutions of EOM for the component fields.

- A generic gauge fixed solution looks as,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Lambda &= \lambda(u, \phi) \zeta(u, r) \\
 \tilde{B} &= a(u, \phi) + \tilde{a}(u, r), \quad \tilde{C} = c(u, \phi) + \tilde{c}(u, r) + \bar{d}_2 \lambda \tilde{d}_1 - \bar{d}_1 \lambda \tilde{d}_2 \\
 \eta_1 &= e^{ia}(\lambda \tilde{d}_1(u, r) + d_1(u, \phi)), \quad \eta_2 = e^{-ia}(\lambda \tilde{d}_2(u, r) + d_2(u, \phi)) \\
 b &= \lambda E(u, r) \lambda^{-1} - \frac{1}{2}(d_1 \tilde{d}_2 \lambda^{-1} - d_1 \tilde{d}_2 \lambda^{-1} \mathbf{I}) - \frac{1}{2}(d_2 \tilde{d}_1 \lambda^{-1} - d_2 \tilde{d}_1 \lambda^{-1} \mathbf{I}) + F(u, \phi),
 \end{aligned}$$

- Putting this in the improved action, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 I = \frac{k}{4\pi} \{ & \int dud\phi \text{Tr}[-4\dot{\lambda}\lambda^{-1}\beta' - 2(\lambda^{-1}\lambda')^2 + 2\mu\lambda^{-1}\lambda'\lambda^{-1}\dot{\lambda} \\
 & - 2(\bar{d}_1' d_2 + \bar{d}_2' d_1) - 2ia'(\bar{d}_{1\alpha} \dot{d}_2 - \bar{d}_{2\alpha} \dot{d}_1 + \dot{\lambda}\lambda^{-1}(d_2 \bar{d}_1 - d_1 \bar{d}_2)) - 4(a')^2 \\
 & - 4\dot{\lambda}\lambda^{-1}(\frac{1}{2}(d_1 \bar{d}_2' - d_1 \bar{d}_2' \mathbf{I}) + \frac{1}{2}(d_2 \bar{d}_1' - d_2 \bar{d}_1' \mathbf{I})) \\
 & + 2ia\bar{C}' + \bar{\mu}a'\dot{a}] + \frac{2\mu}{3} \int \text{Tr}[(d\Lambda\Lambda^{-1})^3] \}
 \end{aligned}$$

- The above action describes a chiral WZW model with gauge group supersymmetric $ISO(2, 1)$.

Some properties of the dual Chiral WZW Model :

- The gauge and global symmetries of the above Chiral WZW model can be obtained.
- In particular the global symmetry corresponds to a current algebra.
- With proper modified Sugawara construction, the corresponding Stress tensor can be obtained.
- It can further be shown that the properly constructed current bilinears actually forms the $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)BMS_3$ algebra that we obtained earlier.
- To construct these bilinears, one has to further use the intricate details of the boundary gauge fields.

Equivalent form of the Dual Theory : Phys.Rev. D100 (2019)

- The dual WZW model needs to be gauged to get the correct $\mathcal{N} = (2,0)BMS_3$ isometry.
- Thus the phase space and the dynamics get reduced .
- With proper phase reduction, the gauged WZW model reduces to a flat limit of a (super)Liouville like theory.

Outlook and Open questions :

Outlook: Thus, we have constructed a two dimensional theory, sitting at the null infinity of 3D space time that has

- exactly the same isometries as the asymptotic symmetry of the bulk.
- describes the same classical solutions as that of the residual dofs of 3D gravity.
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Hence, we conclude that the Liouville like theories as constructed above are the 3D gravity duals.

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- can String theory help ? can Vortex operators in string theory in flat space time be identified with the global dofs ?
- equivalence of string S-matrix with correlations functions on Liouville like field theory ?

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