Asymptotic Symmetries Logarithmic Soft Theorems

2403.13053 & 2406.XXXXX WITH SANGMIN CHOI & ALOK LADDHA

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SIMONS COLLABORATION ON CELESTIAL HOLOGRAPHY

What are the symmetries of Nature?

here: approximate our world by $\Lambda pprox 0$

Symmetries in the infrared

Gauge theory and gravity in D = 4 spacetime dimensions: rich infrared structure of ∞ -dimensional symmetries underlying dynamical processes.

Infrared divergences in conventional S-matrix elements: violation of the conservation laws associated with these symmetries.

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Can we identify all infrared = large-distance / low-energy symmetries?

Cornerstone for holographic principle!



Celestial holography



Symmetry & observables

symmetry:

Lorentz group in D=d+2 dimensions

 \simeq

Euclidean conformal group in d dimensions



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Lorentz group in D=d+2 dimensions

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Euclidean conformal group in d dimensions

basic observables in flat space:





energy basis

 $|p_i\rangle = |\omega_i, x_i\rangle$

Standard amplitudes

$$\langle p_n^{\text{out}} \dots | \mathcal{S} | \dots p_1^{\text{in}} \rangle$$

translation symmetry

Symmetry & observables

symmetry:

Lorentz group in D=d+2 dimensions \simeq

Euclidean conformal group in d dimensions

 S^d

 (\bigcirc)

 \otimes

 $|p_i\rangle = |\omega_i, x_i\rangle$

energy basis

Standard amplitudes

 $\langle p_n^{\text{out}} \dots | \mathcal{S} | \dots p_1^{\text{in}} \rangle$

translation symmetry

basic observables in flat space:

S-matrix

 \mathcal{M} ellin

 $\int d\omega \omega^{\Delta-1}$

boost-weight basis

 $(\mathbf{0})$

Celestial amplitudes

 \bigotimes

 $|\Delta_i, x_i\rangle$

 $\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_1}^-(x_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_n}^+(x_n) \rangle$

Lorentz symmetry

global conformal symmetry

Asymptotic symmetries



"Large" gauge/diffeo transformations that preserve the boundary conditions of the fields, i.e. their large-distance fall-offs.

Asymptotic symmetries



"Large" gauge/diffeo transformations that preserve the boundary conditions of the fields, i.e. their large-distance fall-offs.

gravity:

$$ds^2 = -(1 + \dots)du^2 - (2 + \dots)dudr$$

angular momentum

mass

$$+(\dots)dudx^A \qquad A,B=z,\bar{z}$$

$$+(r^2\gamma_{AB}+rC_{AB}+\ldots)dx^Adx^B$$

shear: gravitational waves

 \Rightarrow Bondi news $N_{AB} = \partial_u C_{AB}$

Asymptotic symmetries



"Large" gauge/diffeo transformations that preserve the boundary conditions of the fields, i.e. their large-distance fall-offs.

gravity:

Find
$$\xi$$
 such that $\mathscr{L}_{\xi}g_{\mu\nu} \approx "0"$ as $r \to \infty$
 \downarrow
 $O(1/r^{\#})$

Unlike gauge redundancies, asymptotic symmetries act non-trivially on the physical data → non-zero charges.

[He,Lysov,Mitra,Strominger'14]

[Strominger, Zhiboedov'14]





soft theorem

- ω^{-1} leading soft graviton,
- ω^0 subleading soft graviton, ...

[Cachazo,Strominger'14]

memory effect

displacement,

spin, ... [Pasterski,Strominger,Zhiboedov'15]



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superphaserotation, ... asymptotic symmetry

 ω^{-1} leading soft photon, ...

electromagnetic kick, ...

(for projected S-matrix)

 S^2

gravity: $\mathcal{O}_{\Delta}(x)$ with $\Delta = 1,0$ generate extended BMS symmetries! supertranslations superrotations: shadow of $\mathcal{O}_{\Delta=0}$ is CCFT₂ stress tensor [Kapec,Mitra,Raclariu,Strominger'16] [Donnay,AP,Strominger'16]

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Classification of all celestial symmetries in $CCFT_{d>2}$.

 $\begin{array}{ll} & [\mathsf{Pasterski},\mathsf{AP},\mathsf{Trevisani'21}] & d=2 \\ & [\mathsf{Pano},\mathsf{AP},\mathsf{Trevisani'23}] & d>2 \end{array} \end{array}$

 S^2

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[Kapec,Mitra,Raclariu,Strominger'16] [Donnay,AP,Strominger'18] [Donnay,Pasterski,AP'20]

 S^2

Classification of all celestial symmetries in $CCFT_{d>2}$.

[Pasterski,AP,Trevisani'21]d = 2[Pano,AP,Trevisani'23]d > 2

 $d = 2: \mathcal{O}_{\Delta}(x)$ with $\Delta = 1, 0, -1, ...$ satisfy ∞ dimensional algebra! [Guevara, Himwich, Pate, Strominger'21]

gravity: $w_{1+\infty}$

Arises in Penrose's twistor construction!

[Strominger'21]

IR triangle @ tree !

IR triangle @loop?

 ∞ -dimensional symmetry algebra asymptotic symmetry ⊃ local conformal symmetry on S^2 ? some progress in [He,Kapec,Raclariu,Strominger'17] [Donnay,Nguyen,Ruzziconi'23] based on 1-loop result [Bern, Davis, Nohle'14]

soft theorem

log *w* subleading soft

[Laddha,Sen'18] [Sahoo,Sen'18] [Saha,Sahoo,Sen'19]

Power-law soft theorems

Tree-level amplitudes in (scalar) QED and gravity admit a soft expansion:

[Low'58] [Weinberg'65] [Cachazo,Strominger'14] [Hamada'18] [Li'18]

hard momenta helicity

$$\mathcal{M}_{N+1}(p_1, \dots, p_N; (\omega, q, \ell)) = \sum_{n=-1}^{\infty} \omega^n S_n(\{p_i\}, (q, \ell)) \mathcal{M}_N(p_1, \dots, p_N) + \dots$$
soft momentum

$$p^{\mu} = \omega q^{\mu}(z, \bar{z})$$

$$n = -1 \qquad S_{-1} \qquad \text{Weinberg (leading) soft factor}$$

$$n = 0 \qquad S_0 \qquad \text{subleading tree soft factor}$$

$$n > 0 \qquad S_{n>0} \qquad \text{subleading tree soft factors}$$

Logarithmic Soft Theorems

Long-range effects yield **novel soft theorems**:

[Sahoo,Sen'18] [Saha,Sahoo,Sen'19]

hard momenta
hard momenta

$$\mathcal{M}_{N+1}(p_1, \dots, p_N; (\omega, q, t')) = \sum_{n=-1}^{\infty} \omega^n (\ln \omega)^{n+1} S_n^{(\ln \omega)} (\{p_i\}, (q, t')) \mathcal{M}_N(p_1, \dots, p_N) + \dots$$
soft momentum

$$p^{\mu} = \omega q^{\mu}(z, \bar{z})$$

$$n = -1$$

$$S_{-1}^{(\ln \omega)} \equiv S_{-1}$$
Weinberg (leading) soft factor tree exact
 α universal

$$n = 0$$

$$S_0^{(\ln \omega)} \neq S_0$$
leading log soft factor

$$n > 0$$

$$S_{n>0}^{(\ln \omega)} \neq S_{n>0}$$
subⁿ leading log soft factor

Is the **universality** of the loop exact logarithmic soft theorems a consequence of **asymptotic symmetries of the S-matrix** ?

Asymptotic symmetries for logarithmic soft theorems

Charge conservation law

To establish a symmetry interpretation for a soft theorem from first principles: for asymptotic symmetry transformations δ compute charges Q^{\pm} from the symplectic structure

 $\Omega_{i^\pm\cup\mathcal{I}^\pm}(\delta,\delta')=\delta'Q^\pm$

in the covariant phase space formalism and show that the charge conservation law

$$Q^+ = Q^-$$

corresponds to the **soft theorem**.

Structure at ∞

i⁻

Structure at ∞

Log symmetry for gravity

Effective quantum theory of linear metric perturbations

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \kappa h_{\mu\nu} \qquad \kappa = \sqrt{32\pi G_N}$$

+ minimally coupled massive real scalar field φ

Leading soft factor
$$\sim \frac{1}{\omega}$$
: $S_{-1} = \frac{\kappa}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^{\mu} p_i^{\nu}}{q \cdot p_i}$

 p_i^{μ} ... hard momenta $p^{\mu} = \omega q^{\mu}$... soft momentum $\varepsilon^{\mu\nu}$...soft graviton polarization

[Weinberg'65]

[Cachazo,Strominger'14]

Subleading soft factor $\sim \omega^0$:

$$S_0 = -\frac{i\kappa}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^{\mu} q_{\lambda} J_i^{\lambda\nu}}{q \cdot p_i}$$

ambiguous if longrange IR effects

[Weinberg'65] [Sahoo,Sen'18] [Saha,Sahoo,Sen'19]

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Subleading soft factor $\sim \ln \omega$:

$$S_0^{(\ln \omega)} = S_{0,\text{classical}}^{(\ln \omega)} + S_{0,\text{quantum}}^{(\ln \omega)}$$

classical:

late time gravitational radiation from particle acceleration via long-range gravitational interaction

$$S_{0,\text{classical}}^{(\ln\omega)} = \frac{i(\frac{\kappa}{2})^3}{8\pi} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} p_i^{\nu} q_{\rho}}{q \cdot p_i} \sum_{j \neq i, \eta_i \eta_j = 1}^{(\mu_i \cdot p_j)} \frac{(p_i \cdot p_j) \left[p_i^{\mu} p_j^{\rho} - p_j^{\mu} p_i^{\rho} \right] \left[2(p_j \cdot p_j)^2 - 3p_i^2 p_j^2 \right]}{\left[(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2 \right]^{3/2}}$$

quantum:
$$\omega_{\text{soft}} \ll \omega_{\text{loop}} \ll \omega_{\text{hard}}$$

(1-loop)
$$S_{0,\text{quantum}}^{(\ln\omega)} = -\frac{\left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^3}{16\pi^2} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\rho} p_i^{\rho} q_{\nu}}{q \cdot p_i} \left(p_i^{\mu} \partial_{p_i}^{\nu} - p_i^{\nu} \partial_{p_i}^{\mu} \right) \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{2(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}{\sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}} \ln\left(\frac{p_i \cdot p_j + \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}}{p_i \cdot p_j - \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}} \right)$$

[Weinberg'65] [Sahoo,Sen'18] [Saha,Sahoo,Sen'19]

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$$\begin{array}{l}
\left(1-\text{loop}\right) \\
S_{0,\text{quantum}}^{(\ln\omega)} = -\frac{\left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^3}{16\pi^2} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\varepsilon_{\mu\rho} p_i^{\rho} q_{\nu}}{q \cdot p_i} \left(p_i^{\mu} \partial_{p_i}^{\nu} - p_i^{\nu} \partial_{p_i}^{\mu}\right) \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{2(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}{\sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}} \ln\left(\frac{p_i \cdot p_j + \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}}{p_i \cdot p_j - \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)^2 - p_i^2 p_j^2}}\right) + \text{drag}$$

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Symmetry @ $i^+ \cup \mathscr{I}^+$

 $x^A \in S^2$ $y^{\alpha} = (\rho, x^A) \in \mathcal{H}$

Superrotation vector field extends smoothly across $i^+ \cup \mathscr{I}^+$.

Phase space @ $i^+ \cup \mathscr{I}^+$

 $x^A \in S^2$ $y^{\alpha} = (\rho, x^A) \in \mathcal{H}$

Tails and logs from long-range interactions.

[Choi,Laddha,AP'24]

 $\Omega_{i^+\cup\mathcal{I}^+}=\Omega_{i^+}+\Omega_{\mathcal{I}^+}$ $Q = Q_H + Q_S$

superrotation

hard charge

soft charge

[Choi,Laddha,AP'24]

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{diverges} & \longrightarrow & \Omega_{i^{+}\cup\mathcal{I}^{+}} = \Omega_{i^{+}} + \Omega_{\mathcal{I}^{+}} \\ \text{logarithmically as} & & \downarrow & \downarrow & \Omega_{i^{\pm}\cup\mathcal{I}^{\pm}}(\delta,\delta') = \delta'Q_{\pm} \\ \tau \to \infty, u \to \infty & & \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ Q = Q_{H} + Q_{S} & \text{superrotation} \end{array}$

hard charge soft

soft charge

[Choi,Laddha,AP'24]

superrotation

cutoff Λ^{-1}

[Choi,Laddha,AP'24]

Regularized Noether charge:

$$Q^{\Lambda} = \ln \Lambda^{-1} \left(Q_{H}^{(\ln)} + Q_{S}^{(\ln)} \right) + \left(Q_{H}^{(0)} + Q_{S}^{(0)} \right) + \dots$$

 D_A is the covariant derivative on S^2

Finite charge $Q^{\Lambda} = \ln \Lambda^{-1} \left(Q_{H}^{(\ln)} + Q_{S}^{(\ln)} \right) + \left(Q_{H}^{(0)} + Q_{S}^{(0)} \right) + \dots$ Conservation law:

 $Q_{+}^{(0)} = Q_{-}^{(0)}$

Upon identifying the fields and gauge parameter antipodally:

Finite charge

$$Q^{\Lambda} = \ln \Lambda^{-1} \left(Q_{H}^{(\ln)} + Q_{S}^{(\ln)} \right) + \left(Q_{H}^{(0)} + Q_{S}^{(0)} \right) + \dots \\ = Q^{(0)} \\ \downarrow^{*} = Q_{-}^{(0)} \\ \downarrow^{*} = Q_{-}^{(0)} \\ \downarrow^{*} \\ \downarrow^{*} = Q_{-}^{(0)} \\ \downarrow^{*} \\ \downarrow^{*}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{N+1} = \left(\omega^{-1}S_{-1} + \omega^0 S_0\right) \mathcal{M}_N + \dots$$

tree-level soft expansion [Cachazo,Strominger'14]

i⁻

$$\mathcal{M}_{N+1} = \left(\omega^{-1}S_{-1} + \omega^0 S_0\right) \mathcal{M}_N + \dots$$

tree-level soft expansion [Cachazo,Strominger'14]

Recall: IR effects render subleading soft theorem at tree-level ambiguous.

$$Q^{\Lambda} = \ln \Lambda^{-1} \left(Q_{H}^{(\ln)} + Q_{S}^{(\ln)} \right) + \left(Q_{H}^{(0)} + Q_{S}^{(0)} \right) + \dots$$
Conservation law:

 $Q_+^{(\ln)} = Q_-^{(\ln)}$

Upon identifying the fields and gauge parameter antipodally:

This establishes the symmetry interpretation of the classical logarithmic soft graviton theorem. [Choi,Laddha,AP'24] [Choi,Laddha,AP - to appear]

Comment on projectors

Comparing logarithmic and subleading tree-level soft charges:

subleading tree:
$$Q_{S}^{(0)}[Y] = -\frac{2}{\kappa} \int_{\mathcal{F}^{+}} du \, d^{2}x \, D_{z}^{3} Y^{z} \, u \partial_{u} C^{zz} + \text{h.c.}$$
$$\log: \quad Q_{S}^{(\ln)}[Y] = -\frac{2}{\kappa} \int_{\mathcal{F}^{+}} du \, d^{2}x \, D_{z}^{3} Y^{z} \, \partial_{u} u^{2} \partial_{u} C^{zz} + \text{h.c.}$$

Different projectors acting on soft insertion!

In the Ward identity $\langle out | Q_S^+S - SQ_S^- | in \rangle = - \langle out | Q_H^+S - SQ_H^- | in \rangle$ the projectors in Q_S pick out the tree-level $O(\omega^0)$ vs IR corrected $O(\ln \omega)$ soft terms, while the the action of Q_H on the hard particles gives the soft factors.

Same as tree-level subleading symmetry operators!

Gravity is a drag

Extra term in soft graviton factor from gravitational drag on the soft graviton due to the other finite energy particles:

$$\Delta_{\rm drag} S_{0,{\rm classical}}^{(\ln\omega)} = \frac{i}{4\pi} (\log\omega^{-1} + \log r^{-1}) \sum_{j,\eta_j = -1} (q \cdot p_j) S_{-1}$$
 [Saha, Sahoo, Sen'19]

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The resulting time delay to reach a detector at distance *r* can be captured by defining the retarded time at the detector:

$$u = t - r + \log r \times f_{\text{matter}} \qquad f_{\text{matter}} = 2G \sum_{j=1}^{N} p_j \cdot n$$

effect of the long range gravitational force on the gravitational
wave as it travels from the scattering center to the detector

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In our covariant phase space approach the drag is captured by an infrared divergence in the radiative symplectic structure via (\star) which cannot be regularized away since it depends on the matter content at i^+ .

Gauge field \mathscr{A}_{μ} + minimally coupled complex massive scalar field ϕ

$$\delta \mathscr{A}_{\mu} = \partial_{\mu} \varepsilon^{\mathscr{I}^{+}} \qquad \qquad \delta \phi = i e \varepsilon^{i^{+}} \phi$$

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$$\delta \mathcal{A}_{\mu} = \partial_{\mu} e^{\mathcal{J}^{+}} \qquad \delta \phi = iee^{i^{+}} \phi$$
divergent
superphaserotation:
$$\downarrow^{re(x) + \frac{u}{2}(2 + \Delta)e(x) + \dots} \qquad \downarrow^{\overline{c}(y) + \dots} \qquad \downarrow^{\overline{c}(y) = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{2}} d^{2}\hat{x} G(y; x)e(x)}$$
linear and log divergence
as $\tau \to \infty, u \to \infty$

$$\downarrow^{re(x) + \dots} \qquad \downarrow^{re(x) + \dots} \qquad \downarrow^{\overline{c}(y) = \int_{\mathbb{S}^{2}} d^{2}\hat{x} G(y; x)e(x)}$$
subtract corner term &
regulate via late-time
cutoff Λ^{-1}

$$Q^{(1)}_{H} + Q^{(1)}_{S} + Q^{(1)}_{H} + Q^{(0)}_{S} + \dots$$

$$Q^{(1)}_{H} = Q^{(1)}_{-} \qquad Q^{(0)}_{+} = Q^{(0)}_{-}$$
[Choi,Laddha,AP'24]
matches logarithmic
soft photon theorem
matches subleading tree-
level soft photon theorem

[Sahoo,Sen'18] [Saha,Sahoo,Sen'19]

[Low'58]

Log Soft \rightarrow Symmetry !

Noether charge from long-range IR effects:

$$Q^{\Lambda} = \ln \Lambda^{-1} \left(Q_{H}^{(\ln)} + Q_{S}^{(\ln)} \right) + \left(Q_{H}^{(0)} + Q_{S}^{(0)} \right) + \dots$$

physical IR scale

Our covariant phase space approach achieves:

- \blacktriangleright first principles derivation of the conserved charge Q
- clear split between tree-level and logarithmic charges
- ▶ regulator Λ^{-1} arises from the relevant infrared scale: large $|\tau| \& |u|$
- ▶ Λ can be removed in the end since $Q_{\pm}^{(\ln)}$ are finite.

Symmetry interpretation for classical log soft theorem.

Summary

 Asymptotic / soft symmetries encode universal large-distance /low-energy physics.

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Celestial boost basis makes some aspects of symmetries manifest.

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Celestial boost basis makes some aspects of symmetries manifest.

Identifying the symmetries is key for a holographic principle in asymptotically flat space. We have established the celestial conformal symmetry in the presence of long-range IR effects.

Outlook: ∞ log towers

We expect the methods we developed to be applicable to the infinite tower of subleading logarithmic soft theorems.

$$\frac{\mathcal{M}_{N+1}(p_1,\ldots,p_N;(\omega,q,\ell))}{\mathcal{M}_N(p_1,\ldots,p_N)} = \sum_{n=-1}^{\infty} \omega^n (\ln \omega)^{n+1} S_n^{(\ln \omega)}(\{p_i\},(q,\ell)) + \dots$$

How many universal all-loop exact log symmetries?

Thank you!