

Gravity in lower dimensions

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Outline

Why lower-dimensional gravity?

Which 2D theory?

Which 3D theory?

How to quantize 3D gravity?

What next?

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- ▶ Experimental signatures? Data?

Gravity in lower dimensions

Riemann-tensor $\frac{D^2(D^2-1)}{12}$ components in D dimensions:

- ▶ 11D: 1210 (1144 Weyl and 66 Ricci)
- ▶ 10D: 825 (770 Weyl and 55 Ricci)
- ▶ 5D: 50 (35 Weyl and 15 Ricci)
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Attempt 1: Einstein–Hilbert in and near two dimensions

Let us start with the simplest attempt. Einstein–Hilbert action in 2 dimensions:

$$I_{\text{EH}} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^2x \sqrt{|g|} R = \frac{1}{2G} (1 - \gamma)$$

- ▶ Action is topological
- ▶ No equations of motion
- ▶ Formal counting of number of gravitons: -1

Attempt 1: Einstein–Hilbert in and near two dimensions

Let us continue with the next simplest attempt. Einstein–Hilbert action in $2+\epsilon$ dimensions:

$$I_{\text{EH}}^\epsilon = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^{2+\epsilon}x \sqrt{|g|} R$$

- ▶ Weinberg: theory is asymptotically safe
- ▶ Mann: limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ should be possible and lead to 2D dilaton gravity
- ▶ DG, Jackiw: limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ yields Liouville gravity

$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} I_{\text{EH}}^\epsilon = \frac{1}{16\pi G_2} \int d^2x \sqrt{|g|} [XR - (\nabla X)^2 + \lambda e^{-2X}]$$

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Result of attempt 1:

A specific 2D dilaton gravity model

Attempt 2: Gravity as a gauge theory and the Jackiw-Teitelboim model

Jackiw, Teitelboim (Bunster): (A)dS₂ gauge theory

$$[P_a, P_b] = \Lambda \epsilon_{ab} J \quad [P_a, J] = \epsilon_a^b P_b$$

describes constant curvature gravity in 2D. Algorithm:

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$$I = \int X_A F^A = \int \left[X_a (de^a + \epsilon^a{}_b \omega \wedge e^b) + X d\omega + \epsilon_{ab} e^a \wedge e^b \Lambda X \right]$$

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- ▶ Eliminate X_a (Torsion constraint) and ω (Levi-Civita connection)
- ▶ Obtain the second order action

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Result of attempt 2:

A specific 2D dilaton gravity model

Attempt 3: Dimensional reduction

For example: spherical reduction from D dimensions

Line element adapted to spherical symmetry:

$$ds^2 = \underbrace{g_{\mu\nu}^{(D)}}_{\text{full metric}} dx^\mu dx^\nu = \underbrace{g_{\alpha\beta}(x^\gamma)}_{2D \text{ metric}} dx^\alpha dx^\beta - \underbrace{\phi^2(x^\alpha)}_{\text{surface area}} d\Omega_{S_{D-2}}^2,$$

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Insert into D -dimensional EH action $I_{EH} = \kappa \int d^D x \sqrt{-g^{(D)}} R^{(D)}$:

$$I_{EH} = \kappa \frac{2\pi^{(D-1)/2}}{\Gamma(\frac{D-1}{2})} \int d^2 x \sqrt{-g} \phi^{D-2} \left[R + \frac{(D-2)(D-3)}{\phi^2} ((\nabla\phi)^2 - 1) \right]$$

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Cosmetic redefinition $X \propto (\lambda\phi)^{D-2}$:

$$I_{EH} = \frac{1}{16\pi G_2} \int d^2 x \sqrt{-g} \left[XR + \frac{D-3}{(D-2)X} (\nabla X)^2 - \lambda^2 X^{(D-4)/(D-2)} \right]$$

Result of attempt 3:

A specific class of 2D dilaton gravity models

Attempt 4: Poincare gauge theory and higher power curvature theories

Basic idea: since EH is trivial consider $f(R)$ theories or/and theories with torsion or/and theories with non-metricity

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- Example: Katanaev-Volovich model (Poincare gauge theory)

$$I_{\text{KV}} \sim \int d^2x \sqrt{-g} [\alpha T^2 + \beta R^2]$$

- Kummer, Schwarz: bring into first order form:

$$I_{\text{KV}} \sim \int \left[X_a (\text{de}^a + \epsilon^a_b \omega \wedge e^b) + X \text{d}\omega + \epsilon_{ab} e^a \wedge e^b (\alpha X^a X_a + \beta X^2) \right]$$

- Use same algorithm as before to convert into second order action:

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Attempt 5: Strings in two dimensions

Conformal invariance of the σ model

$$I_\sigma \propto \int d^2\xi \sqrt{|h|} [g_{\mu\nu} h^{ij} \partial_i x^\mu \partial_j x^\nu + \alpha' \phi \mathcal{R} + \dots]$$

requires vanishing of β -functions

$$\beta^\phi \propto -4b^2 - 4(\nabla\phi)^2 + 4\Box\phi + R + \dots$$

$$\beta_{\mu\nu}^g \propto R_{\mu\nu} + 2\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi + \dots$$

Conditions $\beta^\phi = \beta_{\mu\nu}^g = 0$ follow from target space action

$$I_{\text{target}} = \frac{1}{16\pi G_2} \int d^2x \sqrt{-g} \left[X R + \frac{1}{X} (\nabla X)^2 - 4b^2 \right]$$

where $X = e^{-2\phi}$

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Synthesis of all attempts: Dilaton gravity in two dimensions

Second order action:

$$I = \frac{1}{16\pi G_2} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^2x \sqrt{|g|} [XR - U(X)(\nabla X)^2 - V(X)] \\ - \frac{1}{8\pi G_2} \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} dx \sqrt{|\gamma|} [XK - S(X)] + I^{(m)}$$

Synthesis of all attempts: Dilaton gravity in two dimensions

Second order action:

$$I = \frac{1}{16\pi G_2} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^2x \sqrt{|g|} [\textcolor{red}{X}R - U(X)(\nabla X)^2 - V(X)] \\ - \frac{1}{8\pi G_2} \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} dx \sqrt{|\gamma|} [XK - S(X)] + I^{(m)}$$

- Dilaton $\textcolor{red}{X}$ defined by its coupling to curvature $\textcolor{red}{R}$

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- Dilaton X defined by its coupling to curvature R
- Kinetic term $(\nabla X)^2$ contains coupling function $U(X)$

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- ▶ Dilaton X defined by its coupling to curvature R
- ▶ Kinetic term $(\nabla X)^2$ contains coupling function $U(X)$
- ▶ Self-interaction potential $V(X)$ leads to non-trivial geometries

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- ▶ Gibbons–Hawking–York boundary term guarantees Dirichlet boundary problem for metric
- ▶ **Hamilton–Jacobi counterterm** contains superpotential $\textcolor{red}{S}(X)$

$$S(X)^2 = e^{-\int^X U(y) dy} \int^X V(y) e^{\int^y U(z) dz} dy$$

and guarantees well-defined variational principle $\delta I = 0$

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- ▶ Interesting option: couple 2D dilaton gravity to **matter**

Recent example: AdS₂ holography

Two dimensions supposed to be the simplest dimension with geometry, and yet...

- ▶ extremal black holes universally include AdS₂ factor
- ▶ funnily, AdS₃ holography more straightforward
- ▶ study charged Jackiw–Teitelboim model as example

$$I_{\text{JT}} = \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \int d^2x \sqrt{-g} \left[e^{-2\phi} \left(R + \frac{8}{L^2} \right) - \frac{L^2}{4} F^2 \right]$$

Recent example: AdS_2 holography

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- ▶ Cosmological constant $\Lambda = -\frac{8}{L^2}$ parameterized by AdS radius L
- ▶ Coupling constant α usually is positive

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$$I_{\text{JT}} = \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \int d^2x \sqrt{-g} \left[e^{-2\phi} \left(R + \frac{8}{L^2} \right) - \frac{L^2}{4} F^2 \right]$$

- ▶ Metric g has signature $-$, $+$ and Ricci-scalar $R < 0$ for AdS
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- ▶ Dilaton ϕ has no kinetic term and no coupling to gauge field
- ▶ Cosmological constant $\Lambda = -\frac{8}{L^2}$ parameterized by AdS radius L
- ▶ Coupling constant α usually is positive
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- ▶ δg EOM: complicated for non-constant dilaton...

$$\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu e^{-2\phi} - g_{\mu\nu} \nabla^2 e^{-2\phi} + \frac{4}{L^2} e^{-2\phi} g_{\mu\nu} + \frac{L^2}{2} F_\mu{}^\lambda F_{\nu\lambda} - \frac{L^2}{8} g_{\mu\nu} F^2 = 0$$

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- ▶ δA EOM: $\nabla_\mu F^{\mu\nu} = 0 \Rightarrow E = \text{constant}$
- ▶ δg EOM: ...but simple for constant dilaton: $e^{-2\phi} = \frac{L^4}{4} E^2$

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Some surprising results

Hartman, Strominger = HS Castro, DG, Larsen, McNees = CGLM

- Holographic renormalization leads to boundary mass term (CGLM)

$$I \sim \int dx \sqrt{|\gamma|} m A^2$$

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- ▶ Boundary stress tensor transforms anomalously (HS)

$$(\delta_\xi + \delta_\lambda) T_{tt} = 2T_{tt}\partial_t\xi + \xi\partial_t T_{tt} - \frac{c}{24\pi} L \partial_t^3 \xi$$

where $\delta_\xi + \delta_\lambda$ is combination of diffeo- and gauge trafos that preserve the boundary conditions (similarly: $\delta_\lambda J_t = -\frac{k}{4\pi} L \partial_t \lambda$)

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- ▶ Positive central charge only for negative coupling constant α (CGLM)

$$\alpha < 0$$

Outline

Why lower-dimensional gravity?

Which 2D theory?

Which 3D theory?

How to quantize 3D gravity?

What next?

Attempt 1: Einstein–Hilbert

As simple as possible... but not simpler!

Let us start with the simplest attempt. Einstein–Hilbert action:

$$I_{\text{EH}} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} R$$

Equations of motion:

$$R_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

Ricci-flat and therefore Riemann-flat – locally trivial!

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Properties of Einstein–Hilbert

- ▶ No gravitons (recall: in D dimensions $D(D-3)/2$ gravitons)
- ▶ No BHs
- ▶ Einstein–Hilbert in 3D is too simple for us!

Attempt 2: Topologically massive gravity

Deser, Jackiw and Templeton found a way to introduce gravitons!

Let us now add a gravitational Chern–Simons term. TMG action:

$$I_{\text{TMG}} = I_{\text{EH}} + \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} \frac{1}{2\mu} \varepsilon^{\lambda\mu\nu} \Gamma^\rho_{\lambda\sigma} (\partial_\mu \Gamma^\sigma_{\nu\rho} + \frac{2}{3} \Gamma^\sigma_{\mu\tau} \Gamma^\tau_{\nu\rho})$$

Equations of motion:

$$R_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{\mu} C_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

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Properties of TMG

- ▶ Gravitons! Reason: third derivatives in Cotton tensor!
- ▶ No BHs
- ▶ TMG is slightly too simple for us!

Attempt 3: Einstein–Hilbert–AdS

Bañados, Teitelboim and Zanelli (and Henneaux) taught us how to get 3D BHs

Add negative cosmological constant to Einstein–Hilbert action:

$$I_{\Lambda\text{EH}} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} \left(R + \frac{2}{\ell^2} \right)$$

Equations of motion:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R - \frac{1}{\ell^2} g_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

Particular solutions: BTZ BH with line-element

$$ds_{\text{BTZ}}^2 = -\frac{(r^2 - r_+^2)(r^2 - r_-^2)}{\ell^2 r^2} dt^2 + \frac{\ell^2 r^2}{(r^2 - r_+^2)(r^2 - r_-^2)} dr^2 + r^2 \left(d\phi - \frac{r_+ r_-}{\ell r^2} dt \right)^2$$

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Properties of Einstein–Hilbert–AdS

- ▶ No gravitons
- ▶ Rotating BH solutions that asymptote to AdS_3 !
- ▶ Adding a negative cosmological constant produces BH solutions!

Cosmological topologically massive gravity

CTMG is a 3D theory with BHs and gravitons!

We want a 3D theory with gravitons and BHs and therefore take CTMG action

$$I_{\text{CTMG}} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} \left[R + \frac{2}{\ell^2} + \frac{1}{2\mu} \varepsilon^{\lambda\mu\nu} \Gamma^\rho_{\lambda\sigma} (\partial_\mu \Gamma^\sigma_{\nu\rho} + \frac{2}{3} \Gamma^\sigma_{\mu\tau} \Gamma^\tau_{\nu\rho}) \right]$$

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Properties of CTMG

- ▶ Gravitons!
- ▶ BHs!
- ▶ CTMG is just perfect for us. Study this theory!

Einstein sector of the classical theory

Solutions of Einstein's equations

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad \leftrightarrow \quad R = -\frac{6}{\ell^2}$$

also have vanishing Cotton tensor

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Line-element of pure AdS:

$$ds_{\text{AdS}}^2 = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = \ell^2 (-\cosh^2 \rho d\tau^2 + \sinh^2 \rho d\phi^2 + d\rho^2)$$

Isometry group: $SL(2, \mathbb{R})_L \times SL(2, \mathbb{R})_R$

Useful to introduce light-cone coordinates $u = \tau + \phi$, $v = \tau - \phi$

AdS₃-algebra of Killing vectors

A technical reminder

The $SL(2, \mathbb{R})_L$ generators

$$L_0 = i\partial_u$$

$$L_{\pm 1} = ie^{\pm iu} \left[\frac{\cosh 2\rho}{\sinh 2\rho} \partial_u - \frac{1}{\sinh 2\rho} \partial_v \mp \frac{i}{2} \partial_\rho \right]$$

obey the algebra

$$[L_0, L_{\pm 1}] = \mp L_{\pm 1}, \quad [L_1, L_{-1}] = 2L_0$$

and have the quadratic Casimir

$$L^2 = \frac{1}{2}(L_1 L_{-1} + L_{-1} L_1) - L_0^2$$

The $SL(2, \mathbb{R})_R$ generators $\bar{L}_0, \bar{L}_{\pm 1}$ obey same algebra, but with

$$u \leftrightarrow v, \quad L \leftrightarrow \bar{L}$$

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Solutions of CTMG with

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necessarily have also non-vanishing Cotton tensor

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Few exact solutions of this type are known.

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Perhaps most interesting solution:

- Warped AdS (stretched/squashed), see Bengtsson & Sandin

Line-element of space-like warped AdS:

$$ds_{\text{warped AdS}}^2 = \frac{\ell^2}{\nu^2 + 3} \left(-\cosh^2 \rho \, d\tau^2 + \frac{4\nu^2}{\nu^2 + 3} (du + \sinh \rho \, d\tau)^2 + d\rho^2 \right)$$

Sidenote: null-warped AdS in holographic duals of cold atoms:

$$ds_{\text{null warped AdS}}^2 = \ell^2 \left(\frac{dy^2 + 2 \, dx^+ \, dx^-}{y^2} \pm \frac{(dx^-)^2}{y^4} \right)$$

CTMG as particle mechanics problem

Stationary and axi-symmetric solutions

Stationarity plus axi-symmetry:

- ▶ Two commuting Killing vectors

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Reduced action (Clement):

$$I_c[\zeta, X^i] \sim \int d\rho \left[\frac{\zeta}{2} \dot{X}^i \dot{X}^j \eta_{ij} - \frac{2}{\zeta \ell^2} + \frac{\zeta^2}{2\mu} \epsilon_{ijk} X^i \dot{X}^j \ddot{X}^k \right]$$

Here ζ is a Lagrange-multiplier and $X^i = (T, X, Y)$ a Lorentzian 3-vector

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It could be rewarding to investigate this mechanical problem systematically and numerically!

CTMG at the chiral point

...abbreviated as CCTMG

Definition: CTMG at the chiral point is CTMG with the tuning

$$\mu \ell = 1$$

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Calculating the central charges of the dual boundary CFT yields

$$c_L = \frac{3}{2G} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu \ell}\right), \quad c_R = \frac{3}{2G} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\mu \ell}\right)$$

Thus, at the **chiral** point we get

$$c_L = 0, \quad c_R = \frac{3}{G}$$

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Notes:

- ▶ Abbreviate “CTMG at the **chiral** point” as CCTMG
- ▶ CCTMG is also known as “**chiral** gravity”

Gravitons around AdS_3 in CTMG

Linearization around AdS background

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$$

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leads to linearized EOM that are third order PDE

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with three mutually commuting first order operators

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Three linearly independent solutions to (1):

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At **chiral** point left (L) and massive (M) branches coincide!

Degeneracy at the chiral point

Will be quite important later!

Li, Song & Strominger found all solutions of linearized EOM.

- Primaries: L_0, \bar{L}_0 eigenstates $\psi^{L/R/M}$ with

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- ▶ At **chiral** point: L and M branches degenerate. Get **new** solution (DG & Johansson)

$$\psi_{\mu\nu}^{\text{new}} = \lim_{\mu\ell \rightarrow 1} \frac{\psi_{\mu\nu}^M(\mu\ell) - \psi_{\mu\nu}^L}{\mu\ell - 1}$$

with property

$$(\mathcal{D}^L \psi^{\text{new}})_{\mu\nu} = (\mathcal{D}^M \psi^{\text{new}})_{\mu\nu} \neq 0, \quad ((\mathcal{D}^L)^2 \psi^{\text{new}})_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

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That is the question. Choosing between Skylla and Charybdis.

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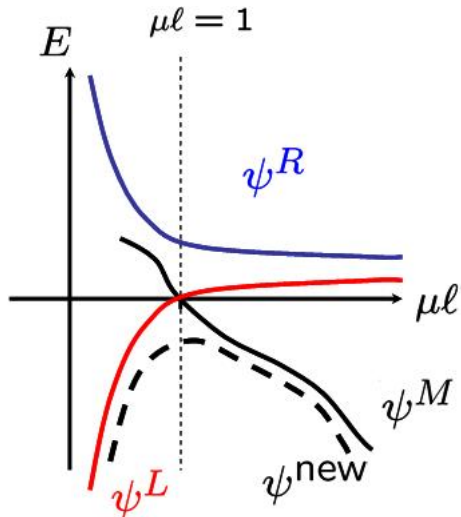
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- ▶ Even at chiral point the problem persists because of the logarithmic mode. See Figure. (Figure: thanks to N. Johansson)

Energy for all branches:



Outline

Why lower-dimensional gravity?

Which 2D theory?

Which 3D theory?

How to quantize 3D gravity?

What next?

Witten's attempt

Different approach (without gravitons!):

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Various suggestions to interpret this problem: need cosmic strings, need sum over complex geometries, 3D quantum gravity does not exist by itself

Li, Song & Strominger attempt Is CCTMG dual to a chiral CFT?

Interesting observations:

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But:

Disagrees with results by Carlip, Deser, Waldron & Wise!

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- ▶ Currently unknown which of these alternatives is realized!

Viability of the logarithmic mode, part 1

Explicit solution for logarithmic mode (DG & Johansson)

Is the logarithmic mode really there?

Collect in the following suggestions how the logarithmic mode could drop out of the physical spectrum and show that none of them is realized.

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Before starting, here is the explicit form of the logarithmic mode:

$$h_{\mu\nu}^{\text{new}} = \frac{\sinh \rho}{\cosh^3 \rho} (c \tau - s \ln \cosh \rho) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}_{\mu\nu} - \tanh^2 \rho (s \tau + c \ln \cosh \rho) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -a^2 \end{pmatrix}_{\mu\nu} \quad (2)$$

with

$$c = \cos(2u), \quad s = \sin(2u), \quad a = \frac{1}{\sinh \rho \cosh \rho}$$

Viability of the logarithmic mode, part 2

Physical mode with negative energy

Suggestion 1

The logarithmic mode is pure gauge?

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The logarithmic mode is pure gauge? No!

h^{new} does not solve linearized Einstein equations. Thus is not pure gauge.
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Logarithmic mode has infinite energy and thus must be discarded?

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$$E^{\text{new}} = -\frac{47}{1152G\ell^3}$$

Energy is finite and negative.

Thus logarithmic mode leads to instability but cannot be discarded.

Viability of the logarithmic mode, part 3

Boundary conditions beyond Brown–Henneaux

Suggestion 3

New mode is not a small perturbation?

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h^{new} diverges asymptotically like ρ , but AdS background diverges asymptotically like $e^{2\rho}$. Thus h^{new} is really a small perturbation.

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Solution is asymptotically AdS

$$ds^2 = d\rho^2 + (\gamma_{ij}^{(0)} e^{2\rho/\ell} + \gamma_{ij}^{(1)} \rho + \gamma_{ij}^{(0)} + \gamma_{ij}^{(2)} e^{-2\rho/\ell} + \dots) dx^i dx^j$$

but violates Brown–Henneaux boundary conditions! $(\gamma_{ij}^{(1)})|_{\text{BH}} = 0$
Henneaux et al. showed precedents where this may happen in 3D

New boundary conditions replacing Brown–Henneaux (DG & Johansson)

Viability of the logarithmic mode, part 4

Brown–York boundary stress tensor

Suggestion 5

New mode leads to ill-defined Brown–York boundary stress tensor?

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Total action including boundary terms (Kraus & Larsen)

$$I_{\text{total}} = I_{\text{CTMG}} + \frac{1}{8\pi G} \int d^2x \sqrt{-\gamma} \left(K - \frac{1}{\ell} \right)$$

Its first variation leads to Brown–York boundary stress-tensor:

$$\delta I_{\text{total}}|_{\text{EOM}} = \frac{1}{32\pi G} \int d^2x \sqrt{-\gamma^{(0)}} T^{ij} \delta \gamma_{ij}^{(0)}$$

DG & Johansson: T_{ij} is finite, traceless and chiral:

$$T_{ij} = -\frac{\ell}{16\pi G} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}_{ij}$$

Note: coincides with Brown–York boundary stress-tensor of global AdS_3

Viability of the logarithmic mode, part 5

Artifact of linearization?

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Maybe some non-linear “magic” kills the new mode?

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DG, Jackiw & Johansson: classical phase space analysis of CCTMG

$$N = \frac{1}{2} (2 \times D - 2 \times N_1 - N_2) = \frac{1}{2} (2 \times 18 - 2 \times 14 - 6) = 1$$

- ▶ N : number of physical degrees of freedom (per point)
- ▶ D : number of canonical pairs in full phase space
- ▶ $N_{1(2)}$: number of linearly independent first (second) class constraints confirmed in more general calculation by Carlip

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- ▶ Conclusion 1: **logarithmic** mode passed all tests so far
- ▶ Conclusion 2: CCTMG is unstable; dual CFT probably **logarithmic**

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Chiral vs. logarithmic

Pivotal open question: does dual CFT exist? is it chiral or logarithmic?

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- ▶ Need different mechanism of truncation!

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Two observations:

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Strominger et al. :

Suggestive to consider warped AdS as possible groundstate of (C)CTMG

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Thank you for your attention!



Some literature

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