



Horizons in flat space holography

A Carrollian Vision

Daniel Grumiller

Institute for Theoretical Physics
TU Wien

ICMS, Edinburgh, September 2025

Three foci in this session

1. **Asymptotic symmetries (Laura Donnay):**
BMS, Hilbert space of UIRs, \mathcal{S} -matrix construction

Three foci in this session

1. **Asymptotic symmetries (Laura Donnay):**
BMS, Hilbert space of UIRs, \mathcal{S} -matrix construction
2. **Boundary operators (Shamik Banerjee):**
Operator definitions on \mathcal{I} ; celestial + stringy hints

Three foci in this session

1. **Asymptotic symmetries (Laura Donnay):**
BMS, Hilbert space of UIRs, \mathcal{S} -matrix construction
2. **Boundary operators (Shamik Banerjee):**
Operator definitions on \mathcal{I} ; celestial + stringy hints
3. **Horizons (this talk):** What is the holographic imprint of a **dynamical horizon** in asymptotically **flat space**?

Why focus on horizons in flat space holography?

- ▶ Reminder: holography emerged from BH thermodynamics

$$S_{\text{BH}} = \frac{A}{4}$$

Why focus on horizons in flat space holography?

- ▶ Reminder: holography emerged from BH thermodynamics
- ▶ Holography à la 't Hooft–Susskind should explain spacetimes with horizons: entropy, information flow, evaporation, ...

Why focus on horizons in flat space holography?

- ▶ Reminder: holography emerged from BH thermodynamics
- ▶ Holography à la 't Hooft–Susskind should explain spacetimes with **horizons**: entropy, information flow, evaporation, ...
- ▶ AdS/CFT: understand several aspects of BHs
 - ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
 - ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization (QGP formation from colliding shockwaves)
 - ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
 - ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma ($\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi}$)
 - ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary (at arbitrary finite N)
 - ▶ information lost in strict large N limit (large N factorization)
 - ▶ AdS BH microstate counting from Cardyology
 - ▶ AdS BHs saturate chaos bound
 - ▶ AdS BHs are fast scramblers
 - ▶ AdS BH interior: entanglement, bulk reconstruction & (no) firewalls
 - ▶ AdS BHs suggest ER = EPR
 - ▶ Page curve from quantum extremal surfaces (island proposal)
 - ▶ AdS BH holographic complexity = computational difficulty in CFT
 - ▶ ...

Why focus on horizons in flat space holography?

- ▶ Reminder: holography emerged from BH thermodynamics
- ▶ Holography à la 't Hooft–Susskind should explain spacetimes with horizons: entropy, information flow, evaporation, ...
- ▶ AdS/CFT: understand several aspects of BHs
- ▶ Question for flat space: what is description of BHs in dual QFT?

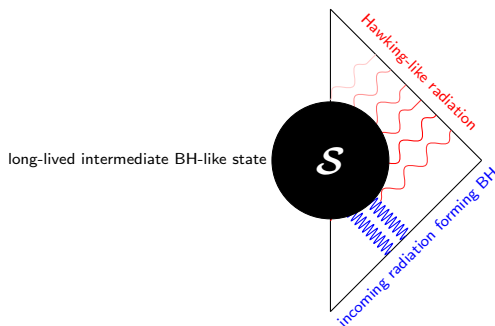
Possible answers:

Why focus on horizons in flat space holography?

- ▶ Reminder: holography emerged from BH thermodynamics
- ▶ Holography à la 't Hooft–Susskind should explain spacetimes with **horizons**: entropy, information flow, evaporation, ...
- ▶ AdS/CFT: understand several aspects of BHs
- ▶ Question for **flat space**: what is description of BHs in dual QFT?

Possible answers:

- ▶ Celestial amplitudes: formation & evaporation of BH = huge \mathcal{S} -matrix



Why focus on horizons in flat space holography?

- ▶ Reminder: holography emerged from BH thermodynamics
- ▶ Holography à la 't Hooft–Susskind should explain spacetimes with horizons: entropy, information flow, evaporation, ...
- ▶ AdS/CFT: understand several aspects of BHs
- ▶ Question for flat space: what is description of BHs in dual QFT?

Possible answers:

- ▶ Celestial amplitudes: formation & evaporation of BH = huge \mathcal{S} -matrix
- ▶ Carroll CFT: eternal black hole (cosmology) is Carroll thermal state

Why focus on horizons in flat space holography?

- ▶ Reminder: holography emerged from BH thermodynamics
- ▶ Holography à la 't Hooft–Susskind should explain spacetimes with horizons: entropy, information flow, evaporation, ...
- ▶ AdS/CFT: understand several aspects of BHs
- ▶ Question for flat space: what is description of BHs in dual QFT?

Possible answers:

- ▶ Celestial amplitudes: formation & evaporation of BH = huge \mathcal{S} -matrix
- ▶ Carroll CFT: eternal black hole (cosmology) is Carroll thermal state

Focus first on spacetimes with eternal horizons and then on dynamics

Carrollian perspective in one slide

- ▶ Carroll limit: ultra-relativistic contraction of Poincaré

Carrollian perspective in one slide

- ▶ Carroll limit: ultra-relativistic contraction of Poincaré
- ▶ asymptotic boundary \mathcal{I} is naturally Carrollian

Carrollian perspective in one slide

- ▶ Carroll limit: ultra-relativistic contraction of Poincaré
- ▶ asymptotic boundary \mathcal{I} is naturally Carrollian
- ▶ BMS/Carroll CFT correspondence: BMS asymptotic symmetries = Carroll conformal symmetries in one lower dimension

Carrollian perspective in one slide

- ▶ Carroll limit: ultra-relativistic contraction of Poincaré
- ▶ asymptotic boundary \mathcal{I} is naturally Carrollian
- ▶ BMS/Carroll CFT correspondence: BMS asymptotic symmetries = Carroll conformal symmetries in one lower dimension
- ▶ celestial amplitudes = (electric) Carrollian correlators

Carrollian perspective in one slide

- ▶ Carroll limit: ultra-relativistic contraction of Poincaré
- ▶ asymptotic boundary \mathcal{I} is naturally Carrollian
- ▶ BMS/Carroll CFT correspondence: BMS asymptotic symmetries = Carroll conformal symmetries in one lower dimension
- ▶ celestial amplitudes = (electric) Carrollian correlators
- ▶ observables related to horizons = (magnetic) Carrollian correlators

(at least in $2+1$)

Carrollian perspective in one slide

- ▶ Carroll limit: ultra-relativistic contraction of Poincaré
- ▶ asymptotic boundary \mathcal{I} is naturally Carrollian
- ▶ BMS/Carroll CFT correspondence: BMS asymptotic symmetries = Carroll conformal symmetries in one lower dimension
- ▶ celestial amplitudes = (electric) Carrollian correlators
- ▶ observables related to horizons = (magnetic) Carrollian correlators
- ▶ Flat/Carroll from AdS/CFT: limit often works but always subtle



Carrollian perspective in one slide

- ▶ Carroll limit: ultra-relativistic contraction of Poincaré
- ▶ asymptotic boundary \mathcal{I} is naturally Carrollian
- ▶ BMS/Carroll CFT correspondence: BMS asymptotic symmetries = Carroll conformal symmetries in one lower dimension
- ▶ celestial amplitudes = (electric) Carrollian correlators
- ▶ observables related to horizons = (magnetic) Carrollian correlators
- ▶ Flat/Carroll from AdS/CFT: limit often works but always subtle
- ▶ ChatGPT fantasy: celestial CFT \approx representation/kinematics
Carroll CFT \approx dynamics/hydrodynamics on \mathcal{I}

Carrollian perspective in one slide

- ▶ Carroll limit: ultra-relativistic contraction of Poincaré
- ▶ asymptotic boundary \mathcal{I} is naturally Carrollian
- ▶ BMS/Carroll CFT correspondence: BMS asymptotic symmetries = Carroll conformal symmetries in one lower dimension
- ▶ celestial amplitudes = (electric) Carrollian correlators
- ▶ observables related to horizons = (magnetic) Carrollian correlators
- ▶ Flat/Carroll from AdS/CFT: limit often works but always subtle
- ▶ ChatGPT fantasy: celestial CFT \approx representation/kinematics
Carroll CFT \approx dynamics/hydrodynamics on \mathcal{I}
- ▶ horizons \mathcal{H} also naturally Carrollian (null hypersurfaces)

Carrollian perspective in one slide

- ▶ Carroll limit: ultra-relativistic contraction of Poincaré
- ▶ asymptotic boundary \mathcal{I} is naturally Carrollian
- ▶ BMS/Carroll CFT correspondence: BMS asymptotic symmetries = Carroll conformal symmetries in one lower dimension
- ▶ celestial amplitudes = (electric) Carrollian correlators
- ▶ observables related to horizons = (magnetic) Carrollian correlators
- ▶ Flat/Carroll from AdS/CFT: limit often works but always subtle
- ▶ ChatGPT fantasy: celestial CFT \approx representation/kinematics
Carroll CFT \approx dynamics/hydrodynamics on \mathcal{I}
- ▶ horizons \mathcal{H} also naturally Carrollian (null hypersurfaces)
- ▶ my phantasy: RG-flow in Carroll CFT from \mathcal{I} to \mathcal{H} allows isolating horizon degrees of freedom as specific states in Carroll CFT

electric sector of Carroll CFT: scattering data

magnetic sector of Carroll CFT: horizon data

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

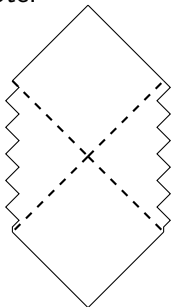
- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**

Status in flat space: we do not know

(in 2+1 this works for flat space cosmologies and Carroll CFT₂)

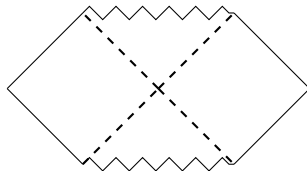
(in 1+1 this sort of works for CJ/charged SYK)

Note:



FSC Penrose slice

\neq



SBH Penrose slice

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization

Status in flat space: we do not know

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition

Status in flat space: we do not know

(in 2+1 this works for flat space cosmologies and (holographic) Carroll CFT)

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma

Status in flat space: we do not know

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma
- ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary

Status in flat space: we do not know

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma
- ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary
- ▶ information lost in strict large N limit

Status in flat space: we do not know

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma
- ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary
- ▶ information lost in strict large N limit
- ▶ AdS BH microstate counting from Cardyology

Status in flat space: we know a tiny bit

(in 2+1 this works for flat space cosmologies and Carroll CFT₂)

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma
- ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary
- ▶ information lost in strict large N limit
- ▶ AdS BH microstate counting from Cardyology
- ▶ AdS BHs saturate chaos bound

Status in flat space: we know a tiny bit

(in 2+1 this works for flat space cosmologies and Carroll CFT₂)

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma
- ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary
- ▶ information lost in strict large N limit
- ▶ AdS BH microstate counting from Cardyology
- ▶ AdS BHs saturate chaos bound
- ▶ AdS BHs are fast scramblers

Status in flat space: we do not know

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma
- ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary
- ▶ information lost in strict large N limit
- ▶ AdS BH microstate counting from Cardyology
- ▶ AdS BHs saturate chaos bound
- ▶ AdS BHs are fast scramblers
- ▶ AdS BH interior: entanglement, bulk reconstruction & (no) firewalls

Status in flat space: we know a tiny bit

In 2+1: HEE for global flat space and flat space cosmologies and Renyi/entanglement entropy for Carroll CFT₂

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma
- ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary
- ▶ information lost in strict large N limit
- ▶ AdS BH microstate counting from Cardyology
- ▶ AdS BHs saturate chaos bound
- ▶ AdS BHs are fast scramblers
- ▶ AdS BH interior: entanglement, bulk reconstruction & (no) firewalls
- ▶ AdS BHs suggest ER = EPR

Status in flat space: we do not know

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma
- ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary
- ▶ information lost in strict large N limit
- ▶ AdS BH microstate counting from Cardyology
- ▶ AdS BHs saturate chaos bound
- ▶ AdS BHs are fast scramblers
- ▶ AdS BH interior: entanglement, bulk reconstruction & (no) firewalls
- ▶ AdS BHs suggest ER = EPR
- ▶ Page curve from quantum extremal surfaces (island proposal)

Status in flat space: we do not know

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma
- ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary
- ▶ information lost in strict large N limit
- ▶ AdS BH microstate counting from Cardyology
- ▶ AdS BHs saturate chaos bound
- ▶ AdS BHs are fast scramblers
- ▶ AdS BH interior: entanglement, bulk reconstruction & (no) firewalls
- ▶ AdS BHs suggest ER = EPR
- ▶ Page curve from quantum extremal surfaces (island proposal)
- ▶ AdS BH holographic complexity = computational difficulty in CFT

Status in flat space: we do not know

Status of flat space holography todo list from horizon perspective

Copy-and-paste AdS list:

- ▶ **eternal BH in AdS = thermal equilibrium in CFT**
- ▶ AdS BH formation = thermalization
- ▶ Hawking–Page phase transition = (de)confinement phase transition
- ▶ AdS BH perturbations = relaxation process in dual plasma
- ▶ information not lost since dual CFT unitary
- ▶ information lost in strict large N limit
- ▶ AdS BH microstate counting from Cardyology
- ▶ AdS BHs saturate chaos bound
- ▶ AdS BHs are fast scramblers
- ▶ AdS BH interior: entanglement, bulk reconstruction & (no) firewalls
- ▶ AdS BHs suggest ER = EPR
- ▶ Page curve from quantum extremal surfaces (island proposal)
- ▶ AdS BH holographic complexity = computational difficulty in CFT
- ▶ **Summary: there is a lot we do not know. Let us find out!**

