

Superconformal Bondi-Metzner-Sachs Algebra in Three Dimensions

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The conformal extension of the BMS_3 algebra is constructed. Apart from an infinite number of “superdilations,” in order to incorporate superspecial conformal transformations, the commutator of the latter with supertranslations strictly requires the presence of nonlinear terms in the remaining generators. The algebra appears to be very rigid, in the sense that its central extensions as well as the coefficients of the nonlinear terms become determined by the central charge of the Virasoro subalgebra. The wedge algebra corresponds to the conformal group in three spacetime dimensions $SO(3,2)$, so that the full algebra can also be interpreted as an infinite-dimensional nonlinear extension of the AdS_4 algebra with nontrivial central charges. Moreover, since the Lorentz subalgebra $[sl(2, R)]$ is nonprincipally embedded within the conformal (wedge) algebra, according to the conformal weight of the generators, the conformal extension of BMS_3 can be further regarded as a $W_{(2,2,2,1)}$ algebra. An explicit canonical realization of the conformal extension of BMS_3 is then shown to emerge from the asymptotic structure of conformal gravity in three dimensions, endowed with a new set of boundary conditions. The supersymmetric extension is also briefly addressed.

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Introduction.—The symmetries of special relativity are embodied through the Poincaré algebra. Thus, extensions thereof turn out to play a relevant role in theoretical physics. Indeed, for relativistic systems with scale invariance, the algebra is generically enhanced to that of the conformal group, including special conformal transformations; see e.g., Refs. [1,2]. Conformal field theories, formulated in terms of these enhanced symmetries, have spanned a wealth of impressive results in a wide variety of contexts [3–7]. Besides, extensions of the Poincaré algebra that contain additional fermionic generators of spin 1/2, known as super-Poincaré algebras, provide the building blocks for most of the supersymmetric field theories, enjoying a prominent and complementary source of exciting developments [8–14]. Another very interesting extension of the Poincaré algebra, known as the BMS algebra, emerged from the structure of asymptotically flat spacetimes at null infinity [15,16], in which translations are enhanced to an infinite-dimensional ideal of “supertranslations.” The BMS algebra can be further extended to admit “superrotations” [17–21] and it has recently attracted a great deal of attention due to its fascinating connections with soft theorems [22–24], the memory effect

[25], and the information paradox [26,27]. More recently, the robustness of the BMS algebra shows itself through its canonical realization either at null [28] or spatial infinity [29–31], and also near generic horizons [32].

It is then natural to wonder about the possible compatibility of these three time-honored, but wildly different extensions of the Poincaré algebra.

Conformal and supersymmetric extensions of the Poincaré algebra turn out to be perfectly compatible through the well-known superconformal algebra [8,33]. Nevertheless, the supersymmetric extension of the BMS algebra remains intriguing. Indeed, among the infinite number of supertranslations, only the subset of standard translations possesses a fermionic “square root” being spanned by four fermionic generators, at null [34] or spatial infinity [35]. Inequivalent extensions with an infinite number of fermionic generators have been proposed in Refs. [34,36,37], and it is still unclear whether they could be canonically realized even at the linearized level [38].

On the other hand, a conformal extension of BMS has been recently constructed in Ref. [39], which successfully accommodates “superdilations.” However, its structure is very different from that of the conformal group since standard special conformal transformations are not included. Thus, the BMS algebra seems to resist compatibility with the full conformal extension.

In the case of three-dimensional spacetimes, the conformal, supersymmetric, and BMS extensions of the Poincaré algebra are also well known. The compatibility of conformal and minimal supersymmetric extensions is also

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firmly established by the superconformal algebra $osp(1|4)$ [40]. Interestingly, in contradistinction to the four-dimensional case, the BMS_3 algebra [41,42] is known to admit a fully fledged supersymmetric extension, in the sense that supertranslations possess suitable fermionic square roots, spanned by an infinite number of fermionic canonical generators [43]. However, as in four dimensions, a full conformal extension of BMS_3 has not been hitherto reported. In fact, as it has been recently pointed out from entirely different approaches in Refs. [44–46] the BMS_3 algebra can be suitably enlarged by superdilations, but nonetheless, some difficulties in the closure of the algebra seem to preclude the inclusion of special conformal transformations.

The conformal BMS_3 algebra.—Here we show that the conformal extension of the BMS_3 algebra that incorporates superspecial conformal transformations is a nonlinear algebra. In particular, the commutator of supertranslations with special conformal transformations strictly requires the presence of nonlinear terms in the remaining generators, which become well defined provided that the BMS_3 -Weyl subalgebra is endowed with nonvanishing central extensions. This can be seen as follows.

It is simple to verify that the BMS_3 algebra, spanned by superrotations \mathcal{J}_m and supertranslations \mathcal{P}_m , once enlarged by superdilations \mathcal{D}_m , admits only two nontrivial central charges. The centrally extended BMS_3 -Weyl algebra then reads

$$\begin{aligned} i\{\mathcal{J}_m, \mathcal{J}_n\} &= (m-n)\mathcal{J}_{m+n} + c(m^2-1)m\delta_{m+n,0}, \\ i\{\mathcal{J}_m, \mathcal{P}_n\} &= (m-n)\mathcal{P}_{m+n}, \\ i\{\mathcal{J}_m, \mathcal{D}_n\} &= -n\mathcal{D}_{m+n}, \\ i\{\mathcal{P}_m, \mathcal{D}_n\} &= -i\mathcal{P}_{m+n}, \\ i\{\mathcal{D}_m, \mathcal{D}_n\} &= \tilde{c}m\delta_{m+n,0}, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$. Vanishing commutators are omitted here and in the following. Note that in the presence of superdilations, the Jacobi identity excludes the possibility of a nontrivial central charge in the commutator of \mathcal{J}_m and \mathcal{P}_n .

The generators of superspecial conformal transformations \mathcal{K}_m can then be incorporated provided that the superdilations “level” \tilde{c} coincides with the central charge of the Virasoro subalgebra ($\tilde{c} = c \neq 0$), so that the remaining commutators of the full conformal BMS_3 algebra are given by

$$\begin{aligned} i\{\mathcal{J}_m, \mathcal{K}_n\} &= (m-n)\mathcal{K}_{m+n}, \\ i\{\mathcal{K}_m, \mathcal{D}_n\} &= i\mathcal{K}_{m+n}, \\ i\{\mathcal{P}_m, \mathcal{K}_n\} &= -2(m-n)\mathcal{J}_{m+n} + (m-n)\Lambda_{m+n}^{(2)} \\ &\quad - 2i(m^2 - mn + n^2 - 1)\mathcal{D}_{m+n} \\ &\quad + \Lambda_{m+n}^{(3)} - 2c(m^2 - 1)m\delta_{m+n,0}, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where $\Lambda_m^{(s)}$ stands for nonlinear terms defined through

$$\Lambda_m^{(2)} = \frac{4}{c} \sum_n \mathcal{D}_{m-n} \mathcal{D}_n, \quad (3)$$

$$\Lambda_m^{(3)} = -\frac{4i}{c} \sum_n \mathcal{J}_{m-n} \mathcal{D}_n + \frac{4i}{c^2} \sum_{n,l} \mathcal{D}_{m-n-l} \mathcal{D}_n \mathcal{D}_l, \quad (4)$$

with (anomalous) conformal weight s . Indeed, with respect to the Virasoro subalgebra, the conformal weight of \mathcal{J}_m , \mathcal{P}_m and \mathcal{K}_m is given by $s = 2$, while \mathcal{D}_m has conformal weight $s = 1$.

It is worth highlighting that the central extensions as well as the coefficients in front of the nonlinear terms of the conformal BMS_3 algebra turn out to be entirely determined by the central charge c of the Virasoro subalgebra, and in this sense, the algebra is very rigid. Indeed, the Jacobi identity imposes very stringent conditions suggesting that the nonlinear conformal extension of BMS_3 is unique.

The wedge algebra reduces to that of the conformal group $SO(3,2)$. It is recovered by restricting the integers that label the generators according to their conformal weight s as $|m| < s$, dropping nonlinear terms [see Eqs. (A12) and (A13)].

Remarkably, the conformal BMS_3 algebra can then also be interpreted as an infinite-dimensional nonlinear extension of the AdS_4 algebra with nontrivial central charges. In this way, the classical theorem of algebraic cohomology that precludes nontrivial central extensions for semisimple algebras (see, e.g., Ref. [47]) clearly does not apply in this case due to the nonlinearity of the extended algebra.

Furthermore, as the Lorentz subalgebra $[sl(2, \mathbb{R})]$, spanned by \mathcal{J}_m with $m = -1, 0, 1$, is nonprincipally embedded within the wedge algebra $[so(3, 2)]$ [48], taking into account the conformal weight of the generators, the conformal extension of BMS_3 can also be regarded as a $W_{(2,2,2,1)}$ algebra (see, e.g., Refs. [49,50] [51]).

It is also worth pointing out that, as it occurs for classical W algebras, the conformal BMS_3 algebra is well defined provided that the Virasoro central charge does not vanish; since otherwise, the coefficients that give support to the nonlinear terms would blow up. Nevertheless, this is not necessarily the case for the quantum algebra because these coefficients as well as the central extensions generically acquire corrections.

An explicit canonical realization of the conformal BMS_3 algebra is performed in the next section, while the superconformal extension of BMS_3 is briefly addressed in the final section.

Explicit realization: asymptotic structure of conformal gravity in 3D.—The aforementioned link between the conformal BMS_3 and $W_{(2,2,2,1)}$ algebras naturally suggests an explicit realization in terms of a WZW model for $SO(3,2)$ [50], so that the conformal BMS_3 algebra could be obtained from the Kac-Moody extension of $so(3,2)$ by virtue of a Sugawara-like construction [52]. The Kac-Moody currents could also be endowed with suitable constraints so that the conformal BMS_3 algebra emerges from the Dirac brackets. Equivalently, the latter option can

be holographically realized along the lines of Ref. [53], so that the constraints turn out to be automatically implemented through an appropriate choice of boundary conditions for a Chern-Simons theory of SO(3,2). This is explicitly performed in what follows.

As shown in Ref. [54], a Chern-Simons theory for SO(3,2), described by

$$I_{\text{CS}}[A] = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int \left\langle AdA + \frac{2}{3}A^3 \right\rangle, \quad (5)$$

where the bracket $\langle \dots \rangle$ stands for the invariant bilinear form in Eq. (A8), turns out to be related to conformal gravity in three dimensions [55,56], which admits an interesting class of black hole solutions [57] (see also Ref. [58]). Some choices of asymptotic conditions for conformal gravity in three dimensions have already been explored in Refs. [59–61], being such that the asymptotic symmetry algebra is given by the direct sum of a U(1) current with either BMS₃ or two copies of the Virasoro algebra. Nevertheless, these choices do not accommodate the black holes in Ref. [57]. Thus, in what follows we propose a new set of boundary conditions that allows one to include them, and also provides a canonical realization of the conformal BMS₃ algebra that emerges from the asymptotic symmetries.

Following Ref. [53], the radial dependence of the asymptotic form of the gauge field can be completely gauged away by virtue of a gauge choice of the form $A = h^{-1}ah + h^{-1}dh$, with $h = h(r)$, so that the components of the auxiliary connection $a = a_t dt + a_\varphi d\varphi$ depend only on time and the angular coordinate.

It is useful to express the generators of SO(3,2) in a basis that matches that of the wedge algebra described in the previous section, being precisely defined in Eq. (A12). Thus, the asymptotic behavior that we propose for a_φ can be readily written in terms of deviations with respect to a reference configuration that go along highest weight generators [62]; i.e.,

$$a_\varphi = J_1 - \frac{\pi}{k} \left(\mathcal{J} - \frac{\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2 \right) J_{-1} - \frac{\pi}{2k} \mathcal{P} P_{-1} - \frac{\pi}{2k} \mathcal{K} K_{-1} + \frac{2\pi}{k} \mathcal{D} D_0, \quad (6)$$

where the dynamical fields \mathcal{J} , \mathcal{P} , \mathcal{K} , \mathcal{D} are c-number functions that depend on t , φ . This falloff is maintained under gauge transformations $\delta a = d\Omega + [a, \Omega]$, where $\Omega = \Omega[\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{D}}]$ depends on four arbitrary functions of t , φ [$\epsilon_{\mathcal{X}} = \epsilon_{\mathcal{X}}(t, \varphi)$]. The explicit form of Ω as well as the transformation law of the dynamical fields are given in Eqs. (A14) and (A16), respectively. According to Refs. [63,64], the asymptotic symmetries are preserved by the evolution in time by choosing the asymptotic form of a_t to be generically given by

$$a_t = \Omega[\mu_{\mathcal{J}}, \mu_{\mathcal{P}}, \mu_{\mathcal{K}}, \mu_{\mathcal{D}}], \quad (7)$$

where the ‘‘chemical potentials’’ $\mu_{\mathcal{X}} = \mu_{\mathcal{X}}(t, \varphi)$ are assumed to be fixed at the boundary. The falloff of a_t is then maintained by the asymptotic symmetries provided that the field equations hold in the asymptotic region, and the parameters $\epsilon_{\mathcal{X}}$ fulfill suitable differential equations of first order in time [see Eq. (A17)].

The asymptotic symmetry generators can then be obtained from different approaches [65,66], and read

$$\mathcal{Q}[\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{D}}] = - \int (\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}} \mathcal{J} + \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} \mathcal{P} + \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} \mathcal{K} + \epsilon_{\mathcal{D}} \mathcal{D}) d\varphi. \quad (8)$$

The algebra of the conserved charges (8) can then be obtained from their Dirac brackets, or more directly from the transformation law of the fields in Eq. (A16) by virtue of $\{\mathcal{Q}[\eta_1], \mathcal{Q}[\eta_2]\} = -\delta_{\eta_1} \mathcal{Q}[\eta_2]$. It is explicitly given by

$$\begin{aligned} \{\mathcal{J}(\phi), \mathcal{J}(\varphi)\} &= -2\mathcal{J}(\phi)\delta'(\phi - \varphi) - \delta(\phi - \varphi)\mathcal{J}'(\phi) + \frac{c}{2\pi}\delta'''(\phi - \varphi), \\ \{\mathcal{J}(\phi), \mathcal{P}(\varphi)\} &= -2\mathcal{P}(\phi)\delta'(\phi - \varphi) - \delta(\phi - \varphi)\mathcal{P}'(\phi), \\ \{\mathcal{J}(\phi), \mathcal{K}(\varphi)\} &= -2\mathcal{K}(\phi)\delta'(\phi - \varphi) - \delta(\phi - \varphi)\mathcal{K}'(\phi), \\ \{\mathcal{J}(\phi), \mathcal{D}(\varphi)\} &= -\mathcal{D}(\phi)\delta'(\phi - \varphi), \\ \{\mathcal{P}(\phi), \mathcal{D}(\varphi)\} &= -\mathcal{P}(\phi)\delta(\phi - \varphi), \\ \{\mathcal{K}(\phi), \mathcal{D}(\varphi)\} &= \mathcal{K}(\phi)\delta(\phi - \varphi), \\ \{\mathcal{D}(\phi), \mathcal{D}(\varphi)\} &= -\frac{c}{2\pi}\delta'(\phi - \varphi), \\ \{\mathcal{P}(\phi), \mathcal{K}(\varphi)\} &= 4(\mathcal{J}(\phi) - \Lambda^{(2)}(\phi))\delta'(\phi - \varphi) + 2(\mathcal{J}(\phi) - \Lambda^{(2)}(\phi) + \mathcal{D}'(\phi))\delta(\phi - \varphi) - \frac{k}{c}\delta'''(\phi - \varphi) \\ &\quad + \Lambda^{(3)}(\phi)\delta(\phi - \varphi) + 6[\mathcal{D}(\phi)\delta'(\phi - \varphi)]'. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

so that once expanded in Fourier modes, $X = (1/2\pi) \sum_m X_m e^{im\phi}$, it reduces to that in Eqs. (1) and (2), with $\tilde{c} = c = k$, provided that the zero mode of \mathcal{J}_n is shifted as $\mathcal{J}_0 \rightarrow \mathcal{J}_0 - (k/4\pi)$.

It is worth highlighting that the central extensions of the conformal BMS₃ algebra, in this context are determined by the Chern-Simons level k . This goes hand in hand with the fact that the conformal group $SO(3,2)$ is semisimple, and hence, it admits a unique invariant bilinear form being given by the Cartan-Killing metric [up to a normalization that can fixed as in Eq. (A8)].

As pointed out at the beginning of this section, the conformal BMS₃ algebra can also be directly reproduced from the WZW model for $SO(3,2)$ that is obtained once the solution of the constraints with our gauge choice ($a_\phi = g^{-1}\partial_\phi g$) is substituted back into the Chern-Simons action (5), endowed with the boundary terms that yield the conserved charges in Eq. (8). The corresponding currents that fulfill the Kac-Moody extension of the so (3,2) algebra can then be supplemented with second class constraints, being precisely implemented through requiring that $g^{-1}\partial_\phi g$ is given by Eq. (6), so that the algebra in Eq. (9) is recovered from the Dirac brackets.

A remarkable fact of the asymptotic behavior described above is that, since it accommodates the black holes in Ref. [57], it includes asymptotically (A)dS or flat three-dimensional spacetimes. Indeed, the precise value of the ‘‘cosmological constant’’ can be seen to be fixed by a suitable quotient of the chemical potentials. The structure of the generic form of the black holes that fit within our asymptotic conditions turns out to be very rich and intricate, and it can be carefully analyzed in terms of the conserved charges that span the conformal BMS₃ algebra. This is left for a forthcoming work.

The superconformal BMS₃ algebra.—The conformal, supersymmetric, and BMS extensions of the Poincaré algebra in three dimensions can be shown to be fully compatible. Indeed, the fermionic generators of the superconformal algebra $osp(1|4)$, associated to the square roots of translations (Q) and special conformal transformations (S), admit infinite-dimensional extensions that we denote by $\psi_m^{[+]}$ and $\psi_m^{[-]}$, corresponding to the square roots of supertranslations and superspecial conformal transformations, respectively.

The superconformal BMS₃ algebra is then spanned by the set $(\mathcal{J}_m, \mathcal{P}_m, \mathcal{D}_m, \mathcal{K}_m, \psi_m^{[+]}, \psi_m^{[-]})$, so that the commutators of the BMS₃-Weyl subalgebra $(\mathcal{J}_m, \mathcal{P}_m, \mathcal{D}_m)$ are given by Eq. (1) with $\tilde{c} = c$; while the commutators of the generators of superspecial conformal transformations (\mathcal{K}_m) with the remaining bosonic generators read as in Eq. (2), where the nonlinear term of conformal weight 3 in Eq. (4) acquires a quadratic shift in the fermionic generators, according to

$$\Lambda_m^{(3)} \rightarrow \Lambda_m^{(3)} + \frac{2i}{c} \sum_n \psi_{m-n}^{[-]} \psi_n^{[+]}. \quad (10)$$

The (anti-)commutators that involve fermionic generators read as

$$\begin{aligned} i\{\mathcal{J}_m, \psi_n^{[\pm]}\} &= \left(\frac{m}{2} - n\right) \psi_{m+n}^{[\pm]}, \\ i\{\mathcal{D}_m, \psi_n^{[\pm]}\} &= \pm \frac{i}{2} \psi_{m+n}^{[\pm]}, \\ i\{\mathcal{P}_m, \psi_n^{[-]}\} &= 2\left(\frac{m}{2} - n\right) \psi_{m+n}^{[+]} + \Lambda_{m+n}^{[+](5/2)}, \\ i\{\mathcal{K}_m, \psi_n^{[+]}\} &= -2\left(\frac{m}{2} - n\right) \psi_{m+n}^{[-]} - \Lambda_{m+n}^{[-](5/2)}, \\ i\{\psi_m^{[+]}, \psi_n^{[+]}\} &= \mathcal{P}_{m+n}, \\ i\{\psi_m^{[-]}, \psi_n^{[-]}\} &= -\mathcal{K}_{m+n}, \\ i\{\psi_m^{[+]}, \psi_n^{[-]}\} &= \mathcal{J}_{m+n} - i(m-n)\mathcal{D}_{m+n} \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4} \Lambda_{m+n}^{(2)} + 2c\left(m^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right) \delta_{m+n,0}, \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where $\Lambda_m^{[\pm](5/2)} = \pm(2i/c) \sum_n \mathcal{D}_{m-n} \psi_n^{[\pm]}$, and the brackets between fermionic generators are symmetric. The fermionic generators are labeled by integers or half-integers for fermionic parameters with periodic or antiperiodic boundary conditions, respectively.

Note that the conformal weight of the fermionic generators $\psi_m^{[\pm]}$ is given by $s = 3/2$. For antiperiodic boundary conditions, the wedge algebra reduces to $osp(1|4)$, being recovered once nonlinear terms are dropped and the labels of the generators are restricted according to $|m| < s$, where s is their conformal weight. Therefore, the conformal weight of the generators of the superconformal BMS₃ algebra, naturally suggests that it could be regarded as a $W_{(2,2,2, \frac{3}{2}, 1)}$ algebra.

As in the bosonic case, the superalgebra also appears to be very rigid, in the sense that the coefficients that characterize the nonlinear terms and all of the central extensions become completely determined by the central charge of the Virasoro subalgebra.

It is also worth pointing out that the superconformal extension of the BMS₃ algebra can be interpreted as an infinite-dimensional centrally extended nonlinear extension of the super AdS₄ algebra $[osp(1|4)]$, suggesting the possibility of a different version of the AdS₄/CFT₃ correspondence [67], presumably topological and with enhanced symmetries.

A canonical realization of the superconformal BMS₃ algebra can also be seen to arise from the asymptotic structure of conformal supergravity in three dimensions [68,69], by virtue of a suitable supersymmetric extension of the new boundary conditions described by Eqs. (6) and (7)

(work in progress). Our results could also be regarded as a (super)conformal completion of flat-space chiral (super) gravity [70,71].

As a final remark, it might be interesting to explore whether the super BMS₃ algebras with $\mathcal{N} > 1$ in Refs. [72–78], as well as the bosonic and fermionic higher spin extensions of BMS₃ in Refs. [79–82] and [83,84], respectively, could also be compatible with the conformal extension developed here. The compatibility with other possible extensions of BMS₃ as in, e.g., Refs. [85,86] also deserves attention.

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Appendix: Remarks on so(3,2) and the conformal BMS₃ algebra.—The so(3,2) algebra, spanned by generators J_{AB} , which reads

$$[J_{AB}, J_{CD}] = \eta_{AC}J_{BD} - \eta_{BC}J_{AD} + \eta_{AD}J_{CB} - \eta_{BD}J_{CA}, \quad (\text{A1})$$

is well known to be isomorphic to the conformal algebra in three dimensions. Indeed, choosing $\eta_{AB} = \text{diag}(-1, 1, 1, 1, -1)$ and splitting the index A according to $A = \{a, 3, 4\}$, the following change of basis

$$J_a = \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_{abc}J^{bc}, \quad P_a = J_{a3} - J_{a4}, \quad (\text{A2})$$

$$K_a = J_{a3} + J_{a4}, \quad D = J_{34}, \quad (\text{A3})$$

makes the algebra in Eq. (A1) to read as

$$[J_a, J_b] = \epsilon_{abc}J^c, \quad [P_a, J_b] = \epsilon_{abc}P^c, \quad (\text{A4})$$

$$[K_a, J_b] = \epsilon_{abc}K^c, \quad [P_a, D] = P_a, \quad (\text{A5})$$

$$[K_a, D] = -K_a, \quad [P_a, K_b] = -2\epsilon_{abc}J^c + 2\eta_{ab}D. \quad (\text{A6})$$

Therefore, if the Cartan-Killing metric is normalized according to

$$\langle J^{AB}, J_{CD} \rangle = -\delta_{CD}^{AB}, \quad (\text{A7})$$

in the “conformal basis” the nonvanishing components of the invariant bilinear metric are given by

$$\langle J_a, J_b \rangle = \eta_{ab}; \quad \langle P_a, K_b \rangle = -2\eta_{ab}; \quad \langle D, D \rangle = 1. \quad (\text{A8})$$

Besides, so(3,2) also corresponds to the wedge algebra of the conformal extension of BMS₃. In order to see that explicitly, it is useful to choose the Minkowski metric η_{ab} in light-cone coordinates, so that its nonvanishing components read $\eta_{01} = \eta_{10} = \eta_{22} = 1$, and an orientation for which the Levi-Civita symbol fulfills $\epsilon_{012} = 1$. The suitable change of basis can then be defined as

$$J_0 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}J_{-1}; \quad J_2 \rightarrow J_0, \quad (\text{A9})$$

$$P_0 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}P_{-1}; \quad P_2 \rightarrow P_0, \quad (\text{A10})$$

$$K_0 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}K_{-1}; \quad K_2 \rightarrow K_0, \quad (\text{A11})$$

and hence, the so(3,2) algebra in the new basis spanned by (J_m, P_n, K_m, D) , with $m, n = -1, 0, 1$, reduces to

$$[J_m, J_n] = (m - n)J_{m+n},$$

$$[J_m, P_n] = (m - n)P_{m+n},$$

$$[J_m, K_n] = (m - n)K_{m+n},$$

$$[P_m, D] = P_m,$$

$$[K_m, D] = -K_m,$$

$$[P_m, K_n] = -2(m - n)J_{m+n} - 2(m^2 - mn + n^2 - 1)D, \quad (\text{A12})$$

which agrees with the wedge algebra of the conformal BMS₃ algebra provided that $i\{\cdot, \cdot\} \rightarrow [\cdot, \cdot]$, and

$$\mathcal{J}_m \rightarrow J_m, \quad \mathcal{P}_m \rightarrow P_m, \quad \mathcal{K}_m \rightarrow K_m, \quad i\mathcal{D}_0 \rightarrow D. \quad (\text{A13})$$

In the basis (A12), the so(3,2)-valued parameter Ω that preserves the asymptotic form of the gauge field a_φ in Eq. (6) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega[\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{D}}] &= \epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}J_1 - \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}}P_1 - \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}}K_1 + \left(\epsilon_{\mathcal{D}} + \frac{2\pi}{k}\mathcal{D}\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}\right)D \\ &\quad + \eta[\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{D}}], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A14})$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
 \eta[\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}}, \epsilon_{\mathcal{D}}] = & -\epsilon'_{\mathcal{J}} J_0 + \left(\epsilon'_{\mathcal{K}} - \frac{2\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}\epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} \right) P_0 + \left(\epsilon'_{\mathcal{P}} - \frac{2\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}\epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} \right) K_0 - \frac{\pi}{k} \left[\left(\mathcal{J} - \frac{\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2 \right) \epsilon_{\mathcal{J}} + \mathcal{K}\epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} + \mathcal{P}\epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} - \frac{k}{2\pi} \epsilon''_{\mathcal{J}} \right] J_{-1} \\
 & + \frac{\pi}{k} \left[\left(\mathcal{J} - \frac{3\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2 + \mathcal{D}' \right) \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} + 2\mathcal{D}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{K}} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{P}\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}} - \frac{k}{2\pi} \epsilon''_{\mathcal{K}} \right] P_{-1} + \frac{\pi}{k} \left[\left(\mathcal{J} - \frac{3\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2 - \mathcal{D}' \right) \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} - 2\mathcal{D}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{P}} \right. \\
 & \left. - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{K}\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}} - \frac{k}{2\pi} \epsilon''_{\mathcal{P}} \right] K_{-1},
 \end{aligned} \tag{A15}$$

so that the transformation law of the dynamical fields reads

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta\mathcal{J} = & 2\mathcal{J}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{J}} + \mathcal{J}'\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}} - \frac{k}{2\pi} \epsilon'''_{\mathcal{J}} + 2\mathcal{P}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{P}} + \mathcal{P}'\epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} + 2\mathcal{K}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{K}} + \mathcal{K}'\epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} + \mathcal{D}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{D}}, \\
 \delta\mathcal{P} = & 2\mathcal{P}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{J}} + \mathcal{P}'\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}} - 4 \left(\mathcal{J} - \frac{4\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2 \right) \epsilon'_{\mathcal{K}} - 2 \left(\mathcal{J} - \frac{4\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2 \right)' \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} + \frac{k}{\pi} \epsilon'''_{\mathcal{K}} - 2 \left[\mathcal{D}'' - \frac{4\pi}{k} \left(\mathcal{J} - \frac{2\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2 \right) \mathcal{D} \right] \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} \\
 & - 6(\mathcal{D}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{K}})' + \mathcal{P}\epsilon_{\mathcal{D}}, \\
 \delta\mathcal{K} = & 2\mathcal{K}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{J}} + \mathcal{K}'\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}} - 4 \left(\mathcal{J} - \frac{4\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2 \right) \epsilon'_{\mathcal{P}} - 2 \left(\mathcal{J} - \frac{4\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2 \right)' \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} + \frac{k}{\pi} \epsilon'''_{\mathcal{P}} \\
 & + 2 \left[\mathcal{D}'' - \frac{4\pi}{k} \left(\mathcal{J} - \frac{2\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2 \right) \mathcal{D} \right] \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} + 6(\mathcal{D}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{P}})' - \mathcal{K}\epsilon_{\mathcal{D}}, \\
 \delta\mathcal{D} = & \mathcal{D}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{J}} + \mathcal{D}'\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}} - \mathcal{P}\epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} + \mathcal{K}\epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} + \frac{k}{2\pi} \epsilon'_{\mathcal{D}}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{A16}$$

As pointed out in Ref. [63], the asymptotic form of the field equations can be obtained from the fact that the evolution in time corresponds to a gauge transformation spanned by $\Omega = \Omega[\mu_{\mathcal{J}}, \mu_{\mathcal{P}}, \mu_{\mathcal{K}}, \mu_{\mathcal{D}}]$, where $\mu_{\mathcal{X}}$ stands for the chemical potentials.

Finally, in order to maintain the falloff of a_t , the parameters $\epsilon_{\mathcal{X}}$ have to fulfill the following differential equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \dot{\epsilon}_{\mathcal{J}} = & \mu_{\mathcal{J}}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{J}} - \epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}\mu'_{\mathcal{J}} + 2 \left(\epsilon_{\mathcal{P}}\mu'_{\mathcal{K}} - \mu_{\mathcal{K}}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{P}} - \frac{4\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}\mu_{\mathcal{K}}\epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} \right) + 2 \left(\epsilon_{\mathcal{K}}\mu'_{\mathcal{P}} - \mu_{\mathcal{P}}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{K}} + \frac{4\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}\mu_{\mathcal{P}}\epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} \right), \\
 \dot{\epsilon}_{\mathcal{P}} = & \mu_{\mathcal{P}}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{J}} - \epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}\mu'_{\mathcal{P}} - [(\mu_{\mathcal{D}} + \mu'_{\mathcal{J}})\epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} - \mu_{\mathcal{J}}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{P}}] + \mu_{\mathcal{P}}\epsilon_{\mathcal{D}}, \\
 \dot{\epsilon}_{\mathcal{K}} = & \mu_{\mathcal{K}}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{J}} - \epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}\mu'_{\mathcal{K}} + [(\mu_{\mathcal{D}} - \mu'_{\mathcal{J}})\epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} + \mu_{\mathcal{J}}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{K}}] - \mu_{\mathcal{K}}\epsilon_{\mathcal{D}}, \\
 \dot{\epsilon}_{\mathcal{D}} = & -\epsilon_{\mathcal{J}}\mu'_{\mathcal{D}} - 2 \left(\mu'_{\mathcal{K}} - \frac{8\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}\mu_{\mathcal{K}} \right) \epsilon'_{\mathcal{P}} + 2\mu_{\mathcal{K}}\epsilon''_{\mathcal{P}} + 2 \left[\mu''_{\mathcal{K}} - \frac{4\pi}{k} \left(\mathcal{J}\mu_{\mathcal{K}} + 2\mathcal{D}\mu'_{\mathcal{K}} - \frac{6\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2\mu_{\mathcal{K}} \right) \right] \epsilon_{\mathcal{P}} \\
 & - 2 \left[\mu''_{\mathcal{P}} - \frac{4\pi}{k} \left(\mathcal{J}\mu_{\mathcal{P}} - 2\mathcal{D}\mu'_{\mathcal{P}} - \frac{6\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}^2\mu_{\mathcal{P}} \right) \right] \epsilon_{\mathcal{K}} + 2 \left(\mu'_{\mathcal{P}} + \frac{8\pi}{k} \mathcal{D}\mu_{\mathcal{P}} \right) \epsilon'_{\mathcal{K}} - 2\mu_{\mathcal{P}}\epsilon''_{\mathcal{K}} + \mu_{\mathcal{J}}\epsilon'_{\mathcal{D}}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{A17}$$

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