Applying Noether's theorem to the pure AdS_3 gravity

Jie-qiang Wu (ITP)
The talk is based on an ongoing work with
Zhe Feng, Zi-en Gao, Xiao-shuai Wang, Hongbao Zhang

Holographic applications:
from Quantum Realms to the Big Bang

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- In this work, we revisit the approach with the covariant phase space formalism for the asymptotic symmetry analysis in the pure AdS_3 gravity
- We reformulate the approach into a version which is exactly in the framework of **Noether theorem**
- Specifically, we get the following two results:
  - First, we show that the asymptotic symmetries are indeed symmetries of the pure AdS_3 gravity **in the sense of Noether theorem**
  - Second, we compute the associated charges of the asymptotic symmetries with the expression of **Noether charge**, which reproduces the result from the ordinarily used approach with the covariant phase space formalism.

Quantum gravity

- Constructing quantum gravity is an important but difficult problem in physics
  - The singularity problem
  - The black hole information paradox
  - The trans-planckian problem
- However, these problems are too difficult for me

A simpler set up

- To really make some progress, we consider a simpler setup and ask ourselves the following question
- Restricting to the effective field theory, low energy, and few body level, do we fully understand quantum gravity?
- There are still some unsolved issues:
  - Conserved charges

    Harlow, Wu, 1906.08616
  - Diffeomorphism invariant observables

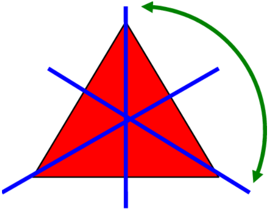
    Harlow, Wu, 2108.04841

    Wang, Wu, 2312.10751

    Held, Kaplan, Marolf, Wu, 2401.02487
  - Solving the constraints in quantum level
  - Constructing the Hilbert space
  - Von-Neumann entropy
- Our focus: **how to properly define conserved charges**

Symmetries and conserved charges

- **Symmetries and conserved charges** are important topics in physics
- **Noether's theorem**



- Applications in classical mechanics, quantum mechanics, classical field theory, quantum field theory

The difficulty in applying Noether's theorem to gravity

- However, **for gravitational system**, the application of Noether's theorem is **difficult**
- The difficulty is from the **diffeomorphism symmetries**

Covariant phase space formalism

- The more ordinarily used approach: the covariant phase space formalism

  Iyer, Wald, gr-qc/9403028

  Barnich, Brandt, hep-th/0111246

  Compere, 0708.3153

- Wide applications in the asymptotic symmetry analysis

  Barnich, Brandt, hep-th/0111246

  Compere, 0708.3153

  Strominger, 1703.05448

Our goal

- Necessities for a modification:
  - Ambiguities in terms of the boundary terms
  - Completeness of the framework
- Our goal: reformulate the approach with the covariant phase space formalism into a version, which is **exactly in the framework of Noether's theorem**

- Previous attempts: finite systems with timelike or null boundaries

  Harlow, Wu, 1906.08616

  Shi, Wang, Xiu, Zhang, 2008.10551

  Chandrasekaran, Speranza, 2009.10739
- Key point: **treating the boundary effects systematically**
- This work: infinite systems with asymptotic boundaries
- Preliminary attempt: the pure AdS_3 gravity

Noether's theorem

- We illustrate Noether's theorem with a $0+1$ dimensional system
  $L = L(t; q_a, \dot{q}_a, \ddot{q}_a, ..., q_a^{(n)})$

The covariant phase space formalism

- To introduce Noether's theorem, we need to reformulate the $0+1$ dimensional system into the Hamiltonian formalism
- Here, we take use of the covariant phase space formalism
- Structures in the covariant phase space formalism:
  - Pre-phase space $\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}$: the set of solutions
  - Symplectic form ω: read out from the Lagrangian

Reading out the symplectic form

- We now read out the symplectic form ω from the Lagrangian
- Variation of the Lagrangian
  $\delta L = E^a[t; q_a]\delta q_a + \frac{d}{dt}\theta[t; q_a, \delta q_a]$
- Symplectic potential: θ
  (a one-form of the set of configurations)
- Symplectic form: $\omega = \delta\theta$
  (a two-form of the set of configurations)
- The symplectic form of the pre-phase space: $\omega|_{\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}}$
  (The pull-back of ω to the pre-phase space $\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}$)

The symmetry

- We now introduce the notion of the symmetry. Here, we need to go back to Lagrangian formalism
- A symmetry in the frame of Noether's theorem:
  - an infinitesimal transformation;
  - it acts on all of the **configurations**;
  - its change on the Lagrangian is a total derivative, up to a configuration independent anomaly term
- Representation in a more rigorous level:
  - Symmetry: $X_\lambda = \int dt \delta_\lambda q_a(t) \frac{\delta}{\delta q_a(t)}$
  - The change of the Lagrangian under the symmetry
    $X_\lambda \cdot \delta L = \frac{d}{dt}\alpha_\lambda[t, q_a] + \beta_\lambda(t)$
    $X_\lambda \cdot \delta L$: acting the symmetry to the Lagrangian.
    $\frac{d}{dt}\alpha_\lambda$: the total derivative term.
    $\beta_\lambda(t)$: the anomaly term which is configuration independent

The Noether charge

- **Noether charge:** $Q_\lambda = X_\lambda \cdot \theta - \alpha_\lambda$

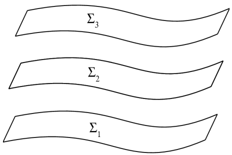
  X_λ: the symmetry, a vector field of the set of configurations
  θ: the symplectic potential, a one-form of the set of configurations
  α_λ: the total derivative term appearing in $X_\lambda \cdot \delta L$

The Noether theorem

- **Noether theorem**
  - First, the Noether charge Q_λ is time independent, up to a configuration independent anomaly term $\frac{d}{dt} Q_\lambda|_{\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}} = \beta_\lambda$.
  - Second, the symmetry indeed maps a solution to a solution $X \cdot E^a|_{\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}} = 0$
  - Third, the Noether charge Q_λ is indeed the charge conjugate to the symmetry X_λ.
    Namely, they satisfy the following Hamiltonian equation $X_\lambda \cdot \omega|_{\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}} = -\delta Q_\lambda|_{\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}}$

Generalization to the higher dimensional systems

- **Higher dimensional generalization: we view the spatial direction as the internal degrees of freedom; and we directly transplant the 0+1 dimensional result to the higher dimensional system**
  - The definitions of θ and α:
    $\delta S = \int d^{d+1}x E^a \delta\phi_a + \theta|_{\Sigma_f} - \theta|_{\Sigma_i}$
    $X \cdot \delta S = \alpha|_{\Sigma_f} - \alpha|_{\Sigma_i} + \beta|_M$
  - The Noether's theorem is exactly the same as the one of $0+1$ dimensional system



A comment for the computation of Noether charge

- Two approaches of the Noether charge
  - Approach I: with the Noether charge, $Q = X \cdot \theta - \alpha$
  - Approach II: with the Hamiltonian equation: $X \cdot \omega|_{\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}} = -\delta Q|_{\widetilde{\mathcal{P}}}$
- The first approach: exactly what we learn in classical mechanics, $H = p\dot{q} - L$
- The second approach: the widely used one in gravity
- **Our goal: compute the charge in gravity with the first approach, namely with the expression of the Noether charge**

The application to the AdS$_3$ gravity

- We now apply Noether's theorem to the the pure AdS$_3$ gravity
- Specific targets: studying the asymptotic symmetries and their associated charges

The strategy

- The strategy:
  - Define the pure AdS_3 gravity in the Lagrangian formalism
  - Take a variation of the action
    Read out the symplectic potential θ
  - Act the asymptotic symmetries to the action
    Read out α, β
  - Compute the Noether charge with $Q = X \cdot \theta - \alpha$

Technical issue

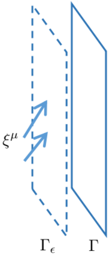
- Technical issue: a systematical treatment of the boundary effects
  - Definition: holographic renormalization

    de Haro, Skenderis, Solodukhin, hep-th/0002230
  - Reformulating into the covariant phase space formalism

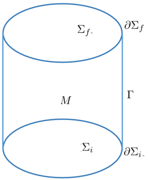
    Harlow, Wu, 1906.08616
  - **Acting the symmetry to the action**

Acting the asymptotic symmetry to the action

- The boundary effect in applying the asymptotic symmetry to the action
- The diffeomorphism is not parallel to the cutoff surface



- The effects:
  - For bulk Lagrangian density
    $X_\xi \cdot \delta(\int_{M_\epsilon} \mathbf{L}) = \int_{M_\epsilon} \mathcal{L}_\xi \mathbf{L} = \int_{M_\epsilon} d(\xi \cdot \mathbf{L}) \supset \int_{\Gamma_\epsilon} \xi \cdot \mathbf{L}$
  - For boundary Lagrangian density
    $X_\xi \cdot \delta \mathbf{l} \neq \mathcal{L}_\xi \mathbf{l}$



- The change of the action under the asymptotic symmetry:
  $X_\xi \cdot \delta S = \alpha_\xi|_{\Sigma_f} - \alpha_\xi|_{\Sigma_i} + \beta_\xi|_M$
  - The expressions of α_ξ, β_ξ
    $\alpha_\xi = \lim_{\epsilon\to 0}\left[\int_{\Sigma_\epsilon} \xi\cdot\mathbf{L} - \int_{\partial\Sigma_\epsilon}\frac{1}{8\pi G}\left((K-1)\gamma^\mu{}_\nu\xi^\nu - D^\mu(n_\nu\xi^\nu)\right)\epsilon^\Gamma{}_{\mu\mu_1}dx^{\mu_1}\right]$
    $\beta_\xi = \int_\Gamma \frac{1}{32\pi G} R^{(0)} D^{(0)}{}_a \xi^{(0)a}\frac{1}{2}\epsilon^{(0)}{}_{a_1 a_2} dx^{a_1}\wedge dx^{a_2}$
    Here, α_ξ contains a bulk term and a boundary term
    β_ξ is configuration independent
  - The asymptotic symmetry is indeed a symmetry in the sense of Noether's theorem
  - Computing the Noether charge $Q_\xi = X_\xi\cdot\theta - \alpha_\xi$

- Two results:
  - The asymptotic symmetry is indeed a symmetry in the sense of Noether's theorem
  - Noether charge:
    $Q_\xi = X_\xi \cdot \theta - \alpha_\xi$
    $\quad = \int_{\partial\Sigma} \frac{1}{8\pi G}(-K^{\mu\nu} + K\gamma^{\mu\nu} - \gamma^{\mu\nu})\xi_\nu \epsilon^{\Gamma}{}_{\mu\mu_1} dx^{\mu_1}$
    consistent with the covariant phase space formalism and the boundary stress tensor

Discussions

- A "new" approach; open questions:
  - TMG
  - Kerr/CFT
  - Higher dimensional theories
  - Theories in asymptotic flat spacetime
- Boundary effects
- Classical anomaly

Thanks

Thanks for your attention!