

# New Horizon Symmetries, Hydrodynamics and Chaos

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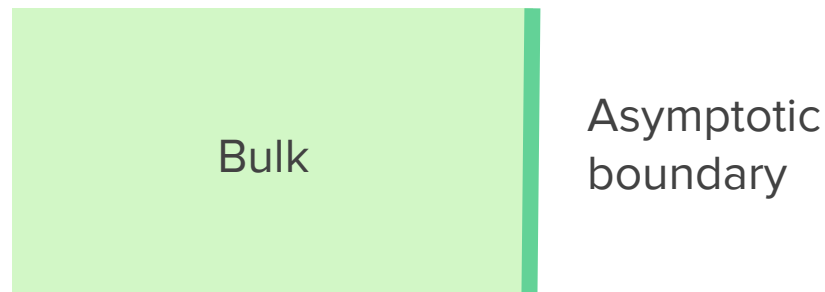
Natalia Pinzani Fokeeva - University of Florence and INFN  
Lausanne - December 2025

with Hong Liu (MIT) and Maria Knysh (VUB) - 2405.17559 + w.i.p.

# Introduction

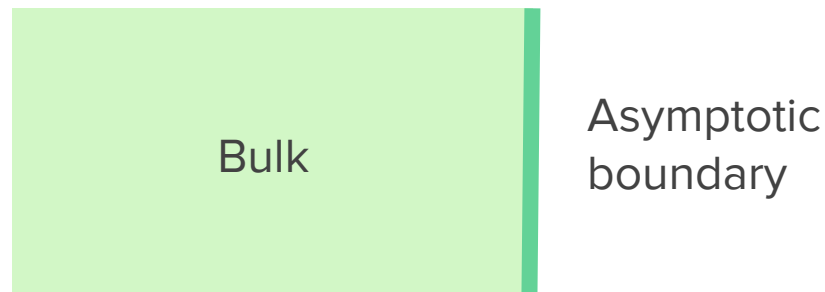
# Asymptotic symmetries

- Asymptotic symmetries are local symmetries that **do not vanish at the asymptotic boundary** of a spacetime and **preserve some boundary conditions**
  - BMS group in flat spacetime: [ Bondi, Van der Burg, and Metzner 1962, Sachs 1962 ]  
Poincare' group + supertranslations
  - Conformal symmetry group in AdS [ Brown, Hennaux 1986 ]
  - Large gauge transformations in QED [ Strominger et al 2014 ]



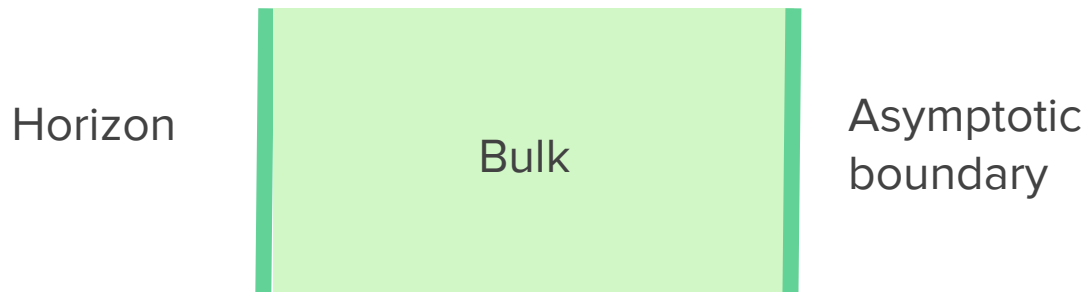
# Asymptotic symmetries

- Related to physical phenomena ( Weinberg's soft graviton theorem, soft photon theorem [ see, e.g., Strominger 2017 ], Displacement Memory effect,... )
- May be interpreted as the **symmetries of the dual boundary system**
  - AdS/CFT correspondence [ Maldacena 1998 ]
  - Celestial (flat) holography [ Pasterski, Shao, Strominger, 2017 ]
- Challenges ahead
  - *Which boundary conditions are physically correct?*
  - ....



# Horizon symmetries

- Horizon symmetries are local symmetries that **do not vanish** at the **horizon** of a **black hole** and **preserve some boundary conditions**
  - Stationary **black holes** possess an **infinite amount of symmetries** beyond the usual Killing symmetries [ Carlip 1999, Hotta et al. 2001, i.-Koga 2001, Guica et al. 2009, Compere et al 2012 ] [ Donnay et al. 2015 + ... ]
  - Symmetries of **any null surface** and can be characterized **covariantly** [ Chandrasekaran et al 2018 ]
  - **Interpretation** from the dual boundary point of view (even in the familiar *AdS case*) **is unclear** [ Eling and Oz 2016, Penna 2017, Donnay and Marteau 2017, Marjeh, **NPF**, Tavor and Yarom 2021 ]



# Results:

## Interpretation:

**Horizon symmetries** are symmetries of the **dual hydrodynamic** and **chaotic boundary theory**

# Results:

1. New horizon symmetries

2. **Interpretation:**

**Horizon symmetries** are symmetries of the **dual hydrodynamic** and **chaotic boundary theory**

3. Implications on shock waves and pole skipping

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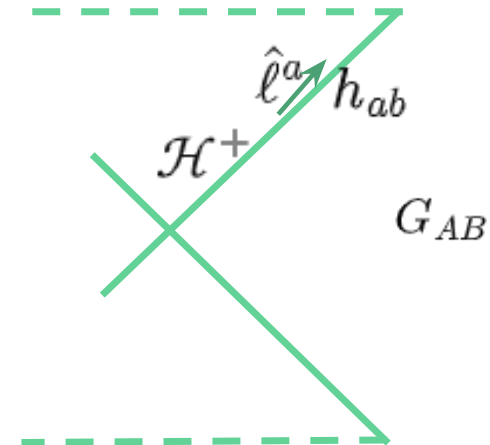
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# Null surfaces

- Consider a null manifold with coordinates  $x^A$  and metric  $G_{AB}$
- Given the embedding functions  $X^A(\sigma)$ , the induced metric on the horizon is

$$h_{ab}(\sigma) = \partial_a X^A(\sigma) \partial_b X^B(\sigma) G_{AB}(X(\sigma))$$

- The metric  $h_{ab}$  is degenerate:  $h_{ab} \hat{\ell}^a = 0$
- The null vector:  $\ell^A \triangleq \partial_a X^A \hat{\ell}^a$ ,  $\ell^A \ell^B G_{AB} \triangleq 0$
- Non-affinity parameter:  $\kappa \ell^A \triangleq \ell^B \nabla_B \ell^A$




# Horizon symmetries

- Consider bulk diffs:  $x^A \rightarrow x^A + \chi^A$ ,  $G'_{AB} = G_{AB} + \mathcal{L}_\chi G_{AB}$
- They imply:  $h'_{ab} = h_{ab} + \partial_a X^A \partial_b X^B \mathcal{L}_\chi G_{AB}(X)$   
 $\hat{\ell}'^a = \hat{\ell}^a$ ,  $(\ell'^A = \ell^A)$ ,  $\kappa' \ell^A \triangleq \ell^B \nabla'_B \ell^A$

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- $\chi^A$  is a **horizon preserving diffeomorphism** if
  - i) the null manifold remains null  $h'_{ab} \hat{\ell}^a = 0$
  - ii) the non-affinity parameter is unchanged  $\kappa' = \kappa$

## Horizon symmetry constraints

- 
- i)  $\mathcal{L}_\chi G_{AB} \ell^B \triangleq 0$
  - ii)  $\nabla_C (\mathcal{L}_\chi G_{AB} \ell^A \ell^B) \triangleq 0$

# Horizon symmetries: Example

- Consider diffs along the horizon:  $\chi^A \ell_A \triangleq 0$

- For horizons parameterized by

$$ds_{\mathcal{H}}^2 = h_{ab} d\sigma^a d\sigma^b = \gamma_{ij} d\sigma^i d\sigma^j \quad \hat{\ell}^a = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial \sigma^0} \right)^a$$

- The horizon preserving diffs can be decomposed into **supertranslations** and **superrotations**

$$\sigma^0 \rightarrow \sigma^0 + f(\sigma^0, \vec{\sigma}), \quad \vec{\sigma} \rightarrow \vec{\sigma} + \vec{Y}(\sigma^0, \vec{\sigma})$$

- which satisfy the constraints  $\partial_0 Y^i = 0, \quad \partial_0^2 f + \kappa \partial_0 f = 0$

- and leads to 
$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^0 &\rightarrow \sigma^0 + \lambda(\vec{\sigma}) + \alpha(\vec{\sigma}) e^{-\kappa \sigma^0} \\ \sigma^i &\rightarrow \sigma^i + \zeta^i(\vec{\sigma}) \end{aligned}$$

[ Donnay et al. 2015 + ... ]

# New horizon symmetries

- Consider diffs not aligned on the horizon
- The horizon symmetry constraints imply

$$\chi^A \ell_A \neq 0$$

Shift symmetries: postulated as symmetries of **chaotic systems\*** [ Liu, Lee, Blake 2018 ]

$$\sigma^0 \rightarrow \sigma^0 + \lambda(\vec{\sigma}) + \alpha(\vec{\sigma})e^{-\kappa\sigma^0} + \gamma(\vec{\sigma})e^{\kappa\sigma^0}$$

$$\sigma^i \rightarrow \sigma^i + \zeta^i(\vec{\sigma}) + \# \partial_i \gamma(\vec{\sigma}) e^{\kappa\sigma^0}$$

Hydro symmetries

New prediction

\* Maximally chaotic, no momentum conservation

# Results:

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3. Implications on shock waves and pole skipping

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1. New horizon symmetries

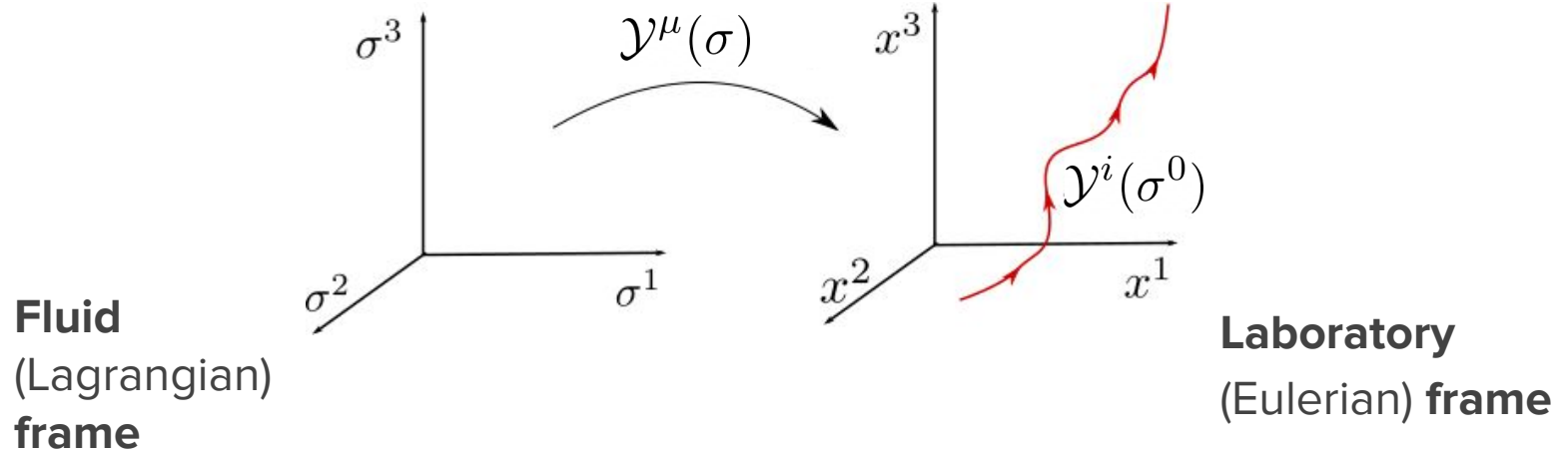
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# Modern hydrodynamic d.o.f.

- Conventional fluid d.o.f. are:  $u^\mu(t, \vec{x})$ ,  $T(t, \vec{x})$ ,  $\mu(t, \vec{x})$
- Modern fluid d.o.f. are **maps**:  $\mathcal{Y}^\mu(\sigma)$ ,  $\phi(\sigma)$



- The resulting e.o.m. from a variational principle are the hydrodynamic equations [ Herglotz 1911, Taub 1954, Carter 1973,... ]

$$0 = \frac{\delta S_{eff}}{\delta \mathcal{Y}^\mu} = \nabla_\nu T^{\mu\nu} \quad 0 = \frac{\delta S_{eff}}{\delta \phi} = \nabla_\mu J^\mu$$

# The redundancy

- Relation to the conventional variables:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{Y}^\mu}{\partial \sigma^0} = \beta^\mu = \frac{u^\mu}{T} \quad \mu = \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial \sigma^0} + \beta^\mu A_\mu$$

- The following transformation leaves the thermal vector and chemical potential invariant:

$$\sigma^0 \rightarrow \sigma^0 + \lambda(\vec{\sigma}), \quad \sigma^i \rightarrow \sigma^i + \zeta^i(\vec{\sigma})$$
$$\phi \rightarrow \phi + \Lambda(\vec{\sigma})$$

- This local symmetry, together with other properties of  $S_{eff}$  based on the Schwinger-Keldysh path integral (CPT, KMS,...), leads to a **consistent EFT for hydrodynamics** [ Crossley, Glorioso, Liu 2015-2018, Haehl, Loganayagam, Rangamani 2015-2018, Marjeh, Jensen, **NPF**, Yarom 2017-2018 ]

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# EFT for chaos

- Hydrodynamics in strongly coupled CFTs assumes  $L \gg \beta$
- The EFT for hydrodynamics can be extended to orders  $L \sim \beta$ :  
**quantum hydrodynamics** = hydro to all order in derivatives
- **Quantum hydrodynamics + shift symmetry**

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma^0 &\rightarrow \sigma^0 + \lambda(\vec{\sigma}) + \alpha(\vec{\sigma})e^{-\kappa\sigma^0} + \gamma(\vec{\sigma})e^{\kappa\sigma^0} \\ \sigma^i &\rightarrow \sigma^i + \zeta^i(\vec{\sigma})\end{aligned}$$

= an **EFT for maximally chaotic systems**\* [ Liu, Lee, Blake 2018 ]

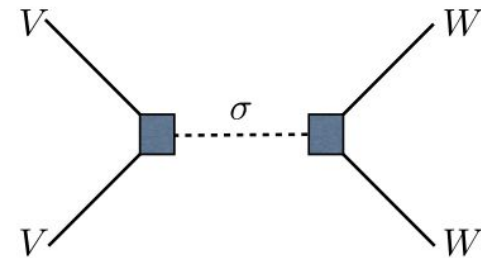
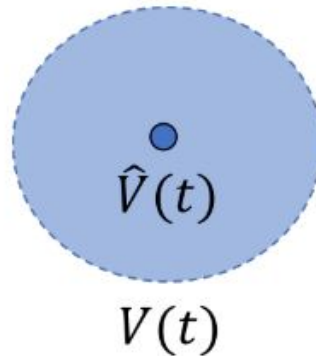
\* Maximally chaotic, no momentum conservation

# EFT for chaos

- Exponential growth of Out-of-Time Ordered (OTOC) correlation functions (and no growth of TOC) [ Shenker, Stanford 2013, Kitaev 2015,... ]

$$\langle [V(t), W]^2 \rangle \sim \frac{1}{N} e^{\kappa t}$$

- An EFT for chaos\*



- Exponential growth of the propagator  $G_{\sigma^0 \sigma^0} \sim e^{\kappa t}$
- Pole skipping [ Grozdanov, Schalm, Scopelliti 2017, Blake, Davison, Grozdanov, Liu 2018 ]

$$G_{\epsilon\epsilon} \sim \frac{(\omega - \omega^*)}{k - k^*}$$

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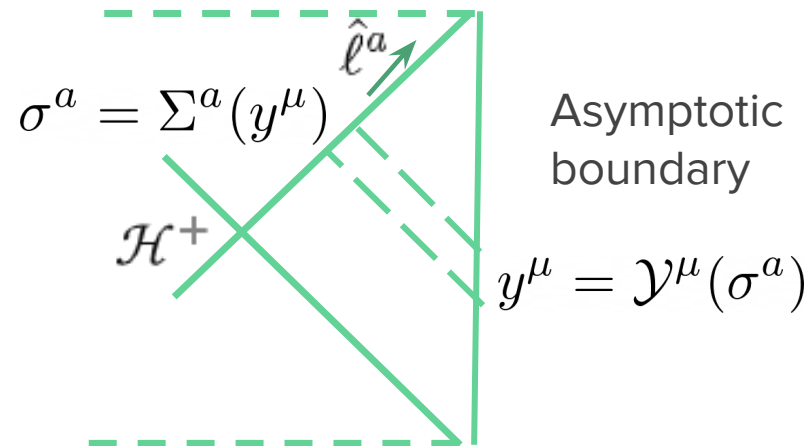
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# Fluid d.o.f. in gravity

- In gravity, fluid d.o.f. are **maps between the horizon** and the **boundary** [Nickel and Son 2010, Liu, Glorioso et al 2015, de Boer, Heller, **NPF** 2015] (See, e.g., the time reparameterization mode in JT gravity [Jensen 2016])
- Shoot a (null) geodesic from the point  $y^\mu$  on the boundary to the point  $\sigma^a$  on the horizon. This establishes a map  $\sigma^a = \Sigma^a(y^\mu)$



- The velocity field is given by:  $\beta^\mu = \frac{\partial \mathcal{Y}^\mu}{\partial \sigma^a} \hat{\ell}^a$

# Fluid d.o.f. in gravity

- Rewrite the metric as follows

$$ds^2 = -2a_\mu dx^\mu dr + \chi_{\mu\nu}(r, x) dx^\mu dx^\nu$$

- Null geodesics correspond to  $x^\mu = \text{const.}$  and the tangent vector is  
[ Bhattacharyya, Hubeny, Loganayagam, Mandal, Minwalla, Morita, Rangamani, Reall 2008 ]

$$T^A = (1, a^\mu(y))$$

- Starting from the boundary  $(r_B, y^\mu)$  the horizon is reached at  $(r_{\mathcal{H}}, y^\mu)$
- And the map is then given by  $\mathcal{Y}^\mu(\sigma) = x^\mu(\sigma)|_{\mathcal{H}} = X^\mu(\sigma)$
- which transforms under the horizon symmetries as

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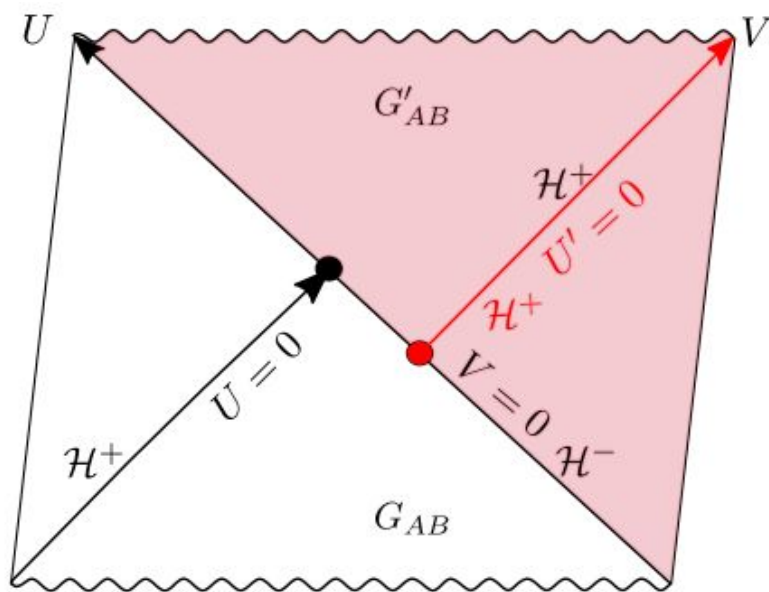
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# Shock Waves

The new horizon symmetries can be used to create shock wave geometries relevant for OTOCs

- Shock wave geometry generated by a high energy particle injected at  $V=0$   
[ Sfetsos 1995 ]

$$G_{\text{shock}} = G + \Theta(V)\mathcal{L}_\xi G, \quad \xi^V = 0, \quad \xi^U = q(\vec{x}), \quad \xi^i = 0$$



# Shift symmetry and shock waves

- Shock wave geometry generated by the horizon symmetry transformation

$$G'_{\text{shock}} = G + \Theta(V)\mathcal{L}_\chi G ,$$

$$\chi^V = \#\gamma(\vec{x})V^2 + \mathcal{O}(U) ,$$

$$\chi^U = \#\gamma(\vec{x}) + \mathcal{O}(U) ,$$

$$\chi^i = \#\partial_i\gamma(\vec{x})V + \mathcal{O}(U)$$

- is related to the original shock wave geometry along  $U=0$  via a diffeo

$$G_{\text{shock}} = G'_{\text{shock}} + \mathcal{L}_\rho G'_{\text{shock}} , \quad \rho = -\Theta(V)(\chi - \xi)$$

- Thus, the two seemingly different geometries are physically equivalent

# Chaos pole-skipping point

- The 2-point function for the energy density correlator exhibits the pole-skipping phenomenon: a would-be pole appears to be skipped at:  $(\omega^*, k^*)$

$$\omega^* = i\kappa, \quad k^{*2} = -d\pi T g'(r_{\mathcal{H}})$$

- The value of  $\omega^*$  is universal and determined by the horizon symmetry
- The value of  $k^*$  is model dependent. For instance, it is determined by the shock wave equation

$$(\nabla^2 - d\pi T g'(r_{\mathcal{H}})) q(\vec{x}) \sim \delta(\vec{x})$$

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# Outlook

- Generalizations to
  - charged black holes, non stationary black holes, extremal black holes,...
  - higher derivative and stringy corrections (non maximal chaos),
  - non asymptotically AdS spacetimes (Rindler fluids) ...
- Is the new prediction helpful to constrain a complete EFT for maximal chaos?
- Gravitational dual of the symmetry responsible for entropy production?
- Is there a symmetry responsible for the infinite tower of pole skipping points?
- Relation to edge modes?

# Thank you!

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Extra slides:

# The equations of motion

For example, to write a Lorentz covariant  $T^{\mu\nu}$  it is convenient to couple the theory to an external source  $g_{\mu\nu}$  and require diff invariance

The pullback sources: 
$$g_{ij} = \frac{\partial X^\mu}{\partial \sigma^i} \frac{\partial X^\nu}{\partial \sigma^j} g_{\mu\nu}(X(\sigma))$$

Sigma-model Lagrangian: 
$$S_{eff} = \int d^d \sigma \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{L}(g_{ij})$$

The constitutive relations: 
$$T^{ij} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta S_{eff}}{\delta g_{ij}}$$

E.o.m.: 
$$0 = \delta_X S_{eff} = \int d^d \sigma \sqrt{-g} (\nabla_i T^{ij}) \partial_j X^\mu g_{\mu\nu} \delta X^\nu$$

# Fluid d.o.f. in gravity: e.o.m.

- The action for the new metric is

$$S[G_{AB}] = S[\tilde{G}_{AB}, \tilde{x}^A]$$

- The variation of the action

$$\delta S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^D x \sqrt{-G} E^{MN} \delta G_{MN}$$

- Variation w.r.t. the dynamical d.o.f.

$$0 = \frac{\delta S}{\delta \tilde{x}^\mu} \longrightarrow E^{\mu r} = 0 \longrightarrow \nabla_\nu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

# Fluid d.o.f. in gravity: example

- Consider linearized perturbations on a black hole background:  $G_{AB} + f_{AB}$
- To go to the desired parameterization of the metric we perform a diffeomorphism and require  $f_{Ar} + \mathcal{L}_\xi G_{rA} = 0$
- The diffeomorphism evaluated on one of the boundaries gives the linearized fluid d.o.f.  $\mathcal{Y}^\mu(\sigma) = \delta_a^\mu \sigma^a + \pi^\mu(\sigma)$

$$\pi^v \sim \int_{\mathcal{H}}^B f_{rr} dr', \quad \pi^i \sim \int_{\mathcal{H}}^B f_{ri} dr'$$

- Which transform under the horizon symmetries:  $\pi^\mu \rightarrow \pi^\mu + \chi^\mu(\mathcal{H})$