

Supertranslations Call for Superrotations

Glenn Barnich^{a,*} and Cédric Troessaert^b

Physique Théorique et Mathématique

Université Libre de Bruxelles and International Solvay Institutes

Campus Plaine C.P. 231, B-1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

^aResearch Director of the Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS

^bResearch Fellow of the Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS

gbarnich@ulb.ac.be and ctroessa@ulb.ac.be

Abstract

We review recent results on symmetries of asymptotically flat spacetimes at null infinity. In higher dimensions, the symmetry algebra realizes the Poincaré algebra. In three and four dimensions, besides the infinitesimal supertranslations that have been known since the sixties, the algebras are evenly balanced because there are also infinitesimal superrotations. We provide the classification of central extensions of \mathfrak{bms}_3 and \mathfrak{bms}_4 . Applications and consequences as well as directions for future work are briefly indicated.

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