



THE UNIVERSITY  
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# Spectral duality relation in thermal CFTs

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New Insights in Black Hole Physics from Holography

IFT Madrid, June 18th, 2025

Based on

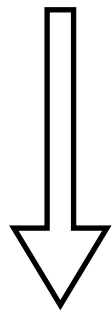
Sašo Grozdanov, M.V.:

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2505.14229

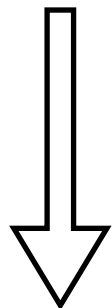
# Recap

Dualities of perturbations around 4d black holes



AdS/CFT in large- $N$  limit

Duality relation for retarded correlators:  $\underbrace{G_+(\omega)G_-(\omega)}_{\text{same theory}} = \frac{\omega^2}{\omega_*^2} - 1$



Thermal product formula

[Dodelson, Iossa, Karlsson, Zhiboedov, 2023]

Spectral duality relation:  $S(\omega) - S(-\omega) = 2i\lambda \sinh \frac{\beta\omega}{2}$

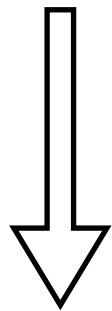
$$S(\omega) = \left(1 + \frac{\omega}{\omega_*}\right) \prod_n \left(1 - \frac{\omega}{\omega_n^+}\right) \left(1 + \frac{\omega}{\omega_n^-}\right)$$

↑  
algebraically  
special frequency

↙ ↘  
QNMs

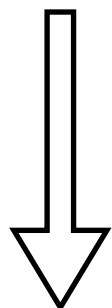
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algebraically  
special frequency

QNM's

# Algebraically special solutions

Space is algebraically special if  $C_{\mu\nu\rho[\sigma}l_{\alpha]}l^\nu l^\rho = 0$  for some null  $l^\mu$ .

- all static black holes are algebraically special
- algebraically special perturbations only possible with  $\omega = \pm \omega_*$

Einstein-Maxwell + massless scalar:

$$\Rightarrow \text{Schwarzschild: } \omega_* = i \frac{k^4}{12M}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Reissner-Nordström: } \omega_* = i \frac{k^4/6M}{1 \pm \sqrt{1 + 4Q^2k^2/9M^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Linear-axion model: } \omega_* = i \frac{k^4 + k^2m^2}{12M}$$

} Simple computation  
non-trivial physics

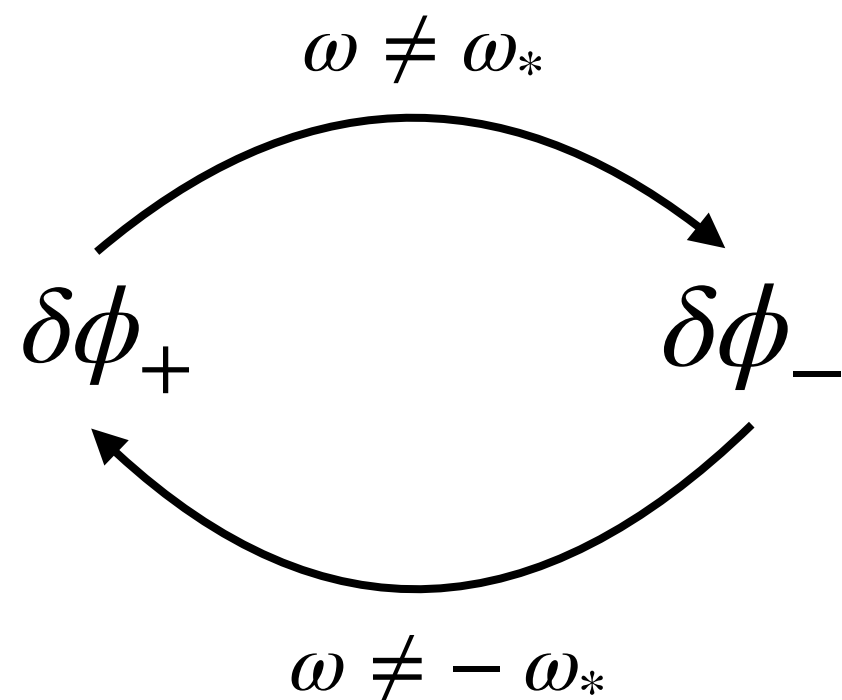
- On the boundary:  $G_+(\omega_*) = G_-(-\omega_*) = 0$
- Classifies pole-skipping points

# Bulk Dualities

Background:  $ds^2 = -f(r)dt^2 + \frac{1}{f(r)}dr^2 + r^2\gamma_{AB}dx^A dx^B$   
 $\uparrow$   
 maximally symmetric  
 2d metric

Linear perturbations (Einstein-Maxwell):  $g \rightarrow g + \delta g, A \rightarrow A + \delta A$

We can map between solutions of the channels:



Darboux transformations/SUSY QM



‘Mixed’ electric-magnetic-type duality

These transformations leave background alone

# Self-dual limit

$$\omega_* \rightarrow \infty$$

- $Q \rightarrow 0$ : Maxwell/electric-magnetic duality  
[Herzog, Kovtun, Sachdev, Son, 2007]
- $M \rightarrow 0$  (pure dS/flat/AdS): graviton electric-magnetic duality  
[Leigh, Petkou, 2003]
- self-dual limit of the linear axion model: emergent  $SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{R})$   
[Davison, Goutéraux, 2014]

This limit is holographically understood:  
particle-vortex self-duality and its  $T^{\mu\nu}$  analogue

# Summary

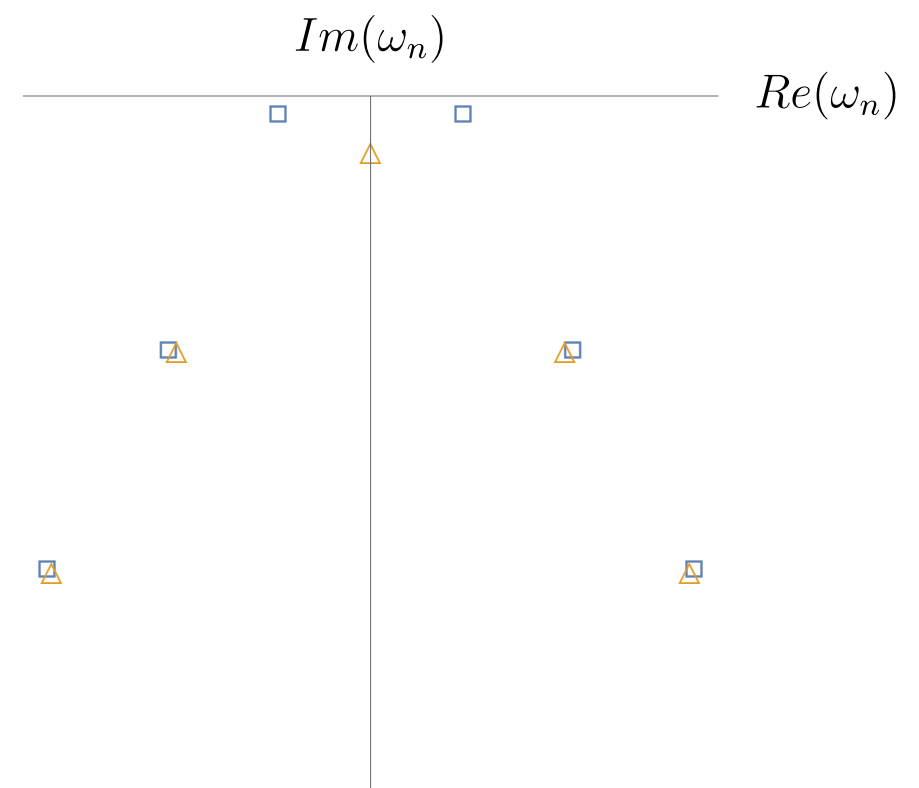
- Such dualities are a very special property of 4d gravity
- Controlled by the algebraically special frequency  $\omega_*$
- Their geometry is now better understood
- QNMs:

$\Rightarrow$  asymptotically flat/dS:

$$\omega_n^+ = \omega_n^-$$

$\Rightarrow$  asymptotically AdS

$$S(\omega) - S(-\omega) = 2i\lambda \sinh \frac{\beta\omega}{2}$$



- QFT meaning unclear
- The extent of generality unclear