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# Towards a flat space Carrollian hologram from $AdS_4/CFT_3$

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ABSTRACT: Finding a concrete example holography in four dimensional asymptotically flat space is an important open problem. A natural strategy is to take the flat space limit of the celebrated  $AdS_4/CFT_3$  correspondence, which relates M-theory in  $AdS_4 \times S^7$  to a certain superconformal Chern-Simons-matter theory known as the ABJM theory. In this limit, the boundary of  $AdS_4$  becomes null infinity and the ABJM theory should exhibit an emergent superconformal Carrollian symmetry. We investigate this possibility by matching the Carrollian limit of ABJM correlators with four-dimensional supergravity amplitudes that arise from taking the flat space limit of  $AdS_4 \times S^7$  and reducing along the  $S^7$ . We also present a general analysis of three-dimensional superconformal Carrollian symmetry.

KEYWORDS: AdS-CFT Correspondence, Gauge-Gravity Correspondence, Scattering Amplitudes

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# 1 Introduction

The holographic principle constitutes one of the most successful paths toward a description of quantum gravity and has been extensively studied for spacetimes with a negative cosmological constant through the celebrated AdS/CFT correspondence. On the other hand, it is of great

interest to extend this approach to more realistic backgrounds, notably four-dimensional spacetimes which are approximately flat or have positive curvature. Early works [1-3]attempted to implement a flat space limit of AdS/CFT to obtain a holographic description of spacetimes with vanishing cosmological constant. In recent years there has been an explosion of activity seeking to formulate flat space holography in terms of a two-dimensional CFT at null infinity, known as a celestial CFT [4-10], or a three-dimensional Carrollian CFT living on all of null infinity [11-26], and these two approaches have been related in [23-25]. Many deep lessons have been learned about the nature of flat space holography [27-70], and tremendous progress has been made in constructing explicit examples involving self-dual sectors of Yang-Mills theory and gravity [71-75]. Connections have also been established with certain non-gravitational amplitudes [76-82]. However, to date there is no concrete example of a flat space hologram for a UV complete theory which reduces to Einstein gravity at low energies. As a result, the holographic principle is still far less established in flat spacetime than in AdS. The goal of this paper is to take the first steps in deriving a concrete flat space Carrollian hologram from a canonical example of the AdS/CFT correspondence, notably the  $AdS_4/CFT_3$  correspondence which relates M-theory on  $AdS_4 \times S^7$  to a 3D superconformal Chern-Simons theory known as the ABJM theory [83].

It has recently been understood from a bottom-up perspective that the flat space limit of AdS spacetime corresponds to a Carrollian limit in the dual boundary theory. The latter is a non-relativistic limit of the Poincaré algebra, formally defined by taking the speed of light to zero [84]. This correspondence has been explored at the level of Einstein's equations in three [85, 86] and four dimensions [22, 87–89] using Bondi-type coordinates and has been extended to holographic correlators in [90], see also [91–96] for recent related works. Notably, [90] provides a universal procedure for implementing the Carrollian limit of scalar correlators in 3D CFTs.

In this paper, we focus on two, three, and four-point correlation functions of protected scalar operators in the ABJM theory which are dual to Kaluza-Klein (KK) modes on the seven-sphere whose mode number is tied to the *R*-symmetry charge of the dual operators. Such correlation functions have been extensively studied using superconformal bootstrap techniques [97-103] and are typically written in Mellin space. At four points, we write the Mellin space expressions in terms a finite number of  $\overline{D}$ -functions in position space (along the lines of [100, 104], allowing us to directly apply the techniques developed in [90] to derive their Carrollian limit. This provides data for a putative 3D Carrollian theory living at null infinity. At the same time, we show how to derive the Carrollian correlators from a bulk perspective by restricting 11D supergravity amplitudes in flat space to a four-dimensional hyperplane, with polarisation vectors pointing along the transverse directions. This directly gives the lowest charge correlators and we show how to obtain higher-charge correlators by appropriately defining the external states of the bulk scattering amplitudes. We also show that two and three-point Carrollian correlators can be derived by truncating the sum over KK modes in  $AdS_4 \times S^7$ , integrating out the seven sphere, and taking the flat space limit of the resulting effective field theory in  $AdS_4$ . In the flat space limit, the  $S^7$  decompactifies, and the KK modes lead to a tower of massless scalar fields. In the dual theory, this corresponds to a tower of Carrollian primaries, each with a corresponding conformal dimension. We also discuss the kinematic properties of the Carrollian ABJM theory obtained in this limit and show an

isomorphism between the superconformal Carrollian algebra in three dimensions and the super-Poincaré algebra in four dimensions. Although we mostly restrict to the supergravity approximation, which corresponds to the large N limit in the boundary theory, the approach developed in this paper can be extended to higher orders in 1/N (see appendix D).

This paper is organised as follows. In section 2 we review some background material such as the  $AdS_4/CFT_3$  correspondence and methods for extracting the Carrollian limit of 3D CFT correlators. In section 3, we then review correlators of protected scalar operators in the ABJM theory, obtaining new expressions for four-point correlators in position space. In section 4, we then compute the Carrollian limit of these correlators and in section 5 we derive these results from a bulk perspective. In section 6, we derive the superconformal Carrollian algebra in three dimensions, demonstrate the relation to the bulk 4D super Poincare algebra, and use it to define super conformal Carrollian primaries. Finally in section 7 we present our conclusions and future directions. There are also several appendices, where we review previous results on ABJM correlators in Mellin space (appendix A), analyse the relation between the high energy limit in Mellin space and the Carrollian limit (appendix B), provide more details on how to derive two and three-point Carrollian correlators in the ABJM theory from bulk supergravity amplitudes (appendix C), and consider higher-derivative corrections to supergravity (appendix D).

## 2 Review

In this section we will review some important concepts that we will make use of throughout the paper, notably the  $AdS_4/CFT_3$  correspondence and the Carrollian limit of CFT correlators.

#### 2.1 $AdS_4/CFT_3$ correspondence

We are interested in the correspondence between M-theory on  $\operatorname{AdS}_4 \times \operatorname{S}^7 / \mathbb{Z}_{k_{\text{CS}}}$  and ABJM theory on  $\mathbb{R}^{2,1}$  [83]. The AdS<sub>4</sub> has radius  $\ell$  and the  $S^7$  has radius  $2\ell$ . The ABJM theory is a superconformal Chern-Simons matter theory with gauge group  $U(N)_{k_{\text{CS}}} \times U(N)_{-k_{\text{CS}}}$ , where  $k_{\text{CS}}$  is the Chern-Simons level and the matter fields are in the bi-adjoint representation of the gauge group. The theory has a Lagrangian description with  $\mathcal{N} = 6$  supersymmetry [105, 106], but for  $k_{\text{CS}} = 1, 2$ , the quantum theory has maximal  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  supersymmetry [107]. We will only consider these case where the Chern-Simons level  $k_{\text{CS}} = 1$ .

The central charge  $c_T$  is defined as the coefficient of the stress tensor two-point function. When  $N \gg k_{\rm CS}$ , the relationship between  $c_T$  and N is [83, 108]

$$c_T = \frac{64}{3\pi} \sqrt{2k_{\rm CS}} N^{\frac{3}{2}} + \mathcal{O}\left(N^{1/2}\right).$$
 (2.1)

Moreover when  $N \gg k_{\rm CS}^5$ , the bulk is described by supergravity on AdS<sub>4</sub>×S<sup>7</sup> and we have

$$\frac{\ell^6}{\ell_{11}^6} = \left(\frac{3\pi c_T k_{\rm CS}}{2^{11}}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} + \mathcal{O}\left(c_T^0\right) = \frac{Nk_{\rm CS}}{8} + \mathcal{O}\left(N^0\right),\tag{2.2}$$

where  $\ell_{11}$  is the 11-dimensional Planck length.

We will focus on correlators of scalar operators which are 1/2-BPS (i.e. annihilated by half of the supersymmetry generators) and are dual to modes on the 7-sphere. These operators

take the form  $\mathcal{O}_k^{I_1...I_k}$ , where  $I_1, \ldots, I_k$  are SO(8) *R*-symmetry indices and  $\mathcal{O}_k^{I_1...I_k}$  is symmetric trace-free. To make this property manifest, we will contract the indices with null vectors  $t_I$ 

$$\mathcal{O}_k\left(x,t\right) \equiv \mathcal{O}_k^{I_1\dots I_k} t_{I_1}\dots t_{I_k},\tag{2.3}$$

where the subscript k denotes the R-charge. The scaling dimensions of these operators are protected and an operator with R-charge k has conformal dimension  $\Delta_k = \frac{k}{2}$ . For the minimal value k = 2, these operators belong to the stress tensor multiplet.

The t'Hooft coupling is  $\lambda = N/k_{\rm CS}$  and the planar limit corresponds to taking  $k_{\rm CS}$  and N to infinity while holding  $\lambda$  fixed. In this limit, the theory becomes integrable (see [109] for a review). On the other hand, the enhancement of supersymmetry at  $k_{\rm CS} = 1, 2$  arises from non-perturbative effects involving monopole operators. In this regime, the operators  $\mathcal{O}_k$  are quantum operators which are not constructed directly out of the fields in the Lagrangian and have no classical analogue [110, 111]. As a result, their correlation functions have been mainly been computed using superconformal bootstrap methods [97–103].

#### 2.2 Carrollian amplitudes

In this section, we briefly review salient results on Carrollian amplitudes in flat space, and their relation with holographic correlators in AdS. We will mainly follow [90, 112] and refer to [23–25, 62, 94–96, 113–125] for recent developments on this topic. Carrollian holography suggests that gravity in 4D asymptotically flat spacetime is dual to a 3D Carrollian CFT living at null infinity ( $\mathscr{I}$ ). These theories exhibit conformal Carrollian or, equivalently [126], BMS symmetries, as spacetime symmetries, and can be constructed from standard Lorentzian CFT by taking the Carrollian limit. Explicit examples of Carrollian field theories have been presented e.g. in [17, 127–142] and their quantization has been discussed in [143–149].

Let us first review how a massless scattering amplitude in Minkowski space can be recast as a correlator of local operators in a putative Carrollian CFT at  $\mathscr{I}$ . The momentum of a massless particle j in Minkowski space can be parametrized by

$$p_j = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \epsilon_j \omega_j \left( 1 + z_j \bar{z}_j, z_j + \bar{z}_j, -i(z_j - \bar{z}_j), 1 - z_j \bar{z}_j \right).$$
(2.4)

Here  $\epsilon_j = \pm 1$  labels an outgoing/incoming particle,  $\omega_j$  is the energy and  $(z_j, \bar{z}_j)$  coordinates on the celestial sphere. We will often find it useful to work in Klein space (spacetime with (2, 2) signature), in which case the appropriate parametrization of the momentum is obtained by Wick rotating the third component.<sup>1</sup> The Carrollian amplitude corresponding to the scattering of massless scalars is [23–25, 34, 112, 151]

$$\mathcal{C}_{n}^{\Delta_{1},\dots,\Delta_{n}}\left(\{u_{j},z_{j},\bar{z}_{j}\}^{\epsilon_{j}}\right) = \int_{0}^{+\infty} \prod_{j=1}^{n} \frac{d\omega_{j}}{2\pi} \left(-i\epsilon_{j}\omega_{j}\right)^{\Delta_{j}-1} e^{-i\epsilon_{j}\omega_{j}u_{j}} \mathcal{A}_{n}\left(\{\omega_{j},z_{j},\bar{z}_{j}\}^{\epsilon_{j}}\right), \quad (2.5)$$

where  $\mathcal{A}_n(\{\omega_j, z_j, \bar{z}_j\}^{\epsilon_j})$  is the momentum space amplitude. They can also be interpreted as correlators of Carrollian CFT primaries inserted at null infinity,

$$\mathcal{C}_{n}^{\Delta_{1},\dots,\Delta_{n}}\left(\left\{u_{j},z_{j},\bar{z}_{j}\right\}^{\epsilon_{j}}\right) \equiv \left\langle\prod_{j=1}^{n}\Phi_{\Delta_{j}}^{\epsilon_{j}}(u_{j},z_{j},\bar{z}_{j})\right\rangle.$$
(2.6)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>In this case,  $\epsilon_j = \pm 1$  labels the two Poincaré patches on the celestial torus [150].

At this stage, it is important to note that the encoding of the massless S-matrix in (2.5) is redundant, and one has to fix the value of  $\Delta_i$  to obtain a one-to-one correspondence between massless scattering amplitudes and Carrollian CFT correlators. A natural choice is setting  $\Delta_i = 1$ , which is consistent with the extrapolate dictionary, and for which (2.5) reduces to the Fourier transform [23, 25, 112]

$$\mathcal{C}_{n}^{1,\dots,1}\left(\{u_{j},z_{j},\bar{z}_{j}\}^{\epsilon_{j}}\right) = \int_{0}^{+\infty} \prod_{j=1}^{n} \frac{d\omega_{j}}{2\pi} e^{-i\epsilon_{j}\omega_{j}u_{j}} \mathcal{A}_{n}\left(\{\omega_{j},z_{j},\bar{z}_{j}\}^{\epsilon_{j}}\right).$$
(2.7)

As we shall see in section 5, in the context of ABJM, the value of  $\Delta_i$  will be dictated by the *R*-symmetry properties of the primary.

Carrollian amplitudes are the flat space analogues of holographic correlators in AdS. To see this, we briefly review the correspondence between flat space limit in the bulk theory and Carrollian limit in the boundary theory [90]. The  $AdS_4$  line element can be written in Bondi coordinates as

$$ds_{\text{AdS}_4}^2 = -\frac{r^2}{\ell^2} du^2 - 2dudr + 2r^2 dz d\bar{z},$$
(2.8)

where the dimensions of length are  $\ell \sim L$ ,  $u \sim L$ ,  $r \sim L$ ,  $z \sim L^0$  and  $\bar{z} \sim L^0$ . The flat limit is obtained by taking  $\frac{\ell}{r} \gg 1$  which is distinct from the large N limit  $\frac{\ell}{\ell_{11}} \gg 1$  discussed in section 2.1. Hence one could in principle consider the flat space limit term by term in the 1/N expansion (cf. appendix D). An advantage of the Bondi coordinates (2.8) is that the flat limit can simply be obtained by formally taking  $\ell \to \infty$ , so that (2.8) reduces to

$$ds_{\mathbb{R}^{3,1}}^2 = -2dudr + 2r^2 dz d\bar{z},$$
(2.9)

which is the line element of  $\mathbb{R}^{3,1}$ . Furthermore, the boundary metric of  $\mathrm{AdS}_4$  is the flat space Lorentzian metric

$$ds_{\partial \mathrm{AdS}_4}^2 = -\frac{du^2}{\ell^2} + 2dz d\bar{z}.$$
 (2.10)

Implementing the flat limit in the bulk yields the degenerate metric

$$ds_{\mathscr{I}}^2 = 0\,du^2 + 2dzd\bar{z},\tag{2.11}$$

which is part of the Carrollian structure at null infinity [126, 152–154], the boundary of 4D flat space. Notice that the  $1/\ell^2$  in (2.10) appears at the same place and plays the same role as if we were to restore the speed of light c in a 3D Minkowski line element and take the Carrollian limit  $c \to 0$  [84]. Therefore, we have a correspondence between flat space limit in the bulk of AdS and Carrollian limit at the boundary, which is formally implemented in Bondi coordinates by the following identification:

$$c_{\text{boundary}} \equiv \frac{1}{\ell_{\text{bulk}}}$$
 (2.12)

This correspondence was solidified in [90], where it was shown that the Carrollian limit of holographic CFT correlators yields Carrollian amplitudes. For the convenience of the reader, we now briefly review the relevant results of that paper. The procedure for obtaining the Carrollian amplitude for massless scalars  $\langle \Phi_{\Delta_1} \dots \Phi_{\Delta_n} \rangle$  from its Euclidean CFT counterpart  $\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_1} \dots \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_n} \rangle$  is:

- ▷ Analytically continue the correlator to Lorentzian/Kleinian signature.
- $\triangleright \text{ Compute } \lim_{c \to 0} c^{\sum_i \Delta_i 1} \langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_1} \dots \mathcal{O}_{D_n} \rangle \text{ by keeping track of distributional terms and identify the rescaled operator } c^{\Delta 1} \mathcal{O}_{\Delta} \text{ with } \Phi_{\Delta} \text{ up to a normalization.}$

The resulting object is the Carrollian amplitude. We will outline how this works for 2, 3 and 4 point correlators below.

**2** points. The two point function is completely fixed by conformal symmetry. After analytic continuation to Lorentzian signature it is given by

$$\left\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta}\left(x_{1}\right)\mathcal{O}_{\Delta}\left(x_{2}\right)\right\rangle = \frac{\mathcal{N}_{2}}{\left(x_{12}^{2}+i\epsilon\right)^{\Delta}},\tag{2.13}$$

where  $\mathcal{N}_2$  is a normalization and  $x_{ij}^2 = -c^2 u_{ij}^2 + 2|z_{ij}|^2$ . Following the procedure above, we compute

$$\lim_{c \to 0} c^{2\Delta - 2} \left\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta}\left(x_{1}\right) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta}\left(x_{2}\right) \right\rangle = \frac{\mathcal{N}_{2} \,\delta^{2}(z_{12})}{2(\Delta - 1)(-u_{12} + i\varepsilon)^{2\Delta - 2}} \propto \left\langle \Phi_{\Delta}^{\epsilon_{1}} \Phi_{\Delta}^{\epsilon_{2}} \right\rangle, \tag{2.14}$$

where we have suppressed the coordinate dependence of the Carrollian amplitude. After appropriate normalization and setting  $\epsilon_1 = -\epsilon_2 = -1$ , the above proportionality can be turned into an equality.

**3 points.** Here it is convenient to work in Klein signature in the bulk since it allows for non-trivial 3-point amplitudes.<sup>2</sup> This amounts to treating  $z_i, \bar{z}_i$  as real and independent. The time-ordered correlator with  $z_i, \bar{z}_i$  real and independent is:

$$\left\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_{1}}\left(x_{1}\right)\mathcal{O}_{\Delta_{2}}\left(x_{2}\right)\mathcal{O}_{\Delta_{3}}\left(x_{3}\right)\right\rangle_{K} = \frac{\mathcal{N}_{3}}{c} \frac{1}{\left(x_{12}^{2} + i\varepsilon\right)^{\Delta_{12}}\left(x_{23}^{2} + i\varepsilon\right)^{\Delta_{23}}\left(x_{13}^{2} + i\varepsilon\right)^{\Delta_{13}}},\qquad(2.15)$$

where  $\mathcal{N}_3$  is once again a normalization and  $\Delta_{ij} = \Delta_i + \Delta_j - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^3 \Delta_k$ . Applying the procedure outlined above, we get

$$\lim_{c \to 0} c^{3-\sum_{j=1}^{3} \Delta_{j}} \langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_{1}}(u_{1}, z_{1}, \bar{z}_{1}) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_{2}}(u_{2}, z_{2}, \bar{z}_{2}) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_{3}}(u_{3}, z_{3}, \bar{z}_{3}) \rangle$$

$$= \frac{\tilde{\mathcal{N}}_{3} \,\delta(\bar{z}_{12}) \delta(\bar{z}_{23}) \Theta\left(z_{12} z_{31}\right) \Theta\left(z_{13} z_{23}\right) z_{12}^{\Delta_{3}-2} z_{23}^{\Delta_{1}} z_{13}^{\Delta_{2}-2}}{(u_{1} z_{23} + u_{2} z_{31} + u_{3} z_{12} + i \text{sign } z_{23} \varepsilon)^{\sum_{j=1}^{3} \Delta_{j}-4}} \propto \langle \Phi_{\Delta_{1}} \Phi_{\Delta_{2}} \Phi_{\Delta_{3}} \rangle.$$

$$(2.16)$$

We refer the reader to [90] for the normalization factor  $\tilde{\mathcal{N}}_3$ . This coincides with a 3-point Carrollian scalar amplitude with  $\epsilon_1 = -\epsilon_2 = -\epsilon_3 = 1$  obtained from the 3-point amplitude in (2, 2) signature momentum space by using (2.5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>In Minkowski space, they are non-zero only when all momenta are collinear.

4 points. We will only need to consider the Carrollian limit of scalar contact diagrams in the bulk, which take the form

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_1}(x_1)\mathcal{O}_{\Delta_2}(x_2)\mathcal{O}_{\Delta_3}(x_3)\mathcal{O}_{\Delta_4}(x_4)\rangle \propto \bar{D}_{\Delta_1,\Delta_2,\Delta_3,\Delta_4}(U,V)$$
(2.17)

where we have dropped numerical factors and a coordinate-dependant one which encodes the conformal weights, and

$$U = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2} = Z\bar{Z}, \qquad V = \frac{x_{23}^2 x_{14}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2} = (1 - Z)(1 - \bar{Z})$$
(2.18)

are the conformal cross ratios. The definition of  $\overline{D}$  functions and various useful properties can be found in appendix D of [155]. The  $\overline{D}$  function becomes singular as  $Z \to \overline{Z}$  upon analytic continuation to Lorentzian signature [156, 157] and its leading singularity is [90]

$$\bar{D}_{\Delta_1,\Delta_2,\Delta_3,\Delta_4}\left(U,V\right) \xrightarrow{Z \to \bar{Z}} \hat{\Phi}_{\Delta_1,\Delta_2,\Delta_3,\Delta_4}^{l.s} \equiv \mathcal{K}_{\Delta} \frac{Z^{\Delta_3 + \Delta_4 - 2}(1-Z)^{\Delta_1 + \Delta_4 - 2}}{(Z - \bar{Z})^{\sum_{i=1}^4 \Delta_i - 3}}.$$
 (2.19)

The Carrollian limit is non-trivial only on the support of this leading singularity and

$$\lim_{c \to 0} \hat{\Phi}^{l.s}_{\Delta_1, \Delta_2, \Delta_3, \Delta_4} = \mathcal{R}\left(u_i, z_i\right) \delta\left(z - \bar{z}\right),\tag{2.20}$$

where  $z = \frac{z_{12}z_{34}}{z_{13}z_{24}}$  is the 2D cross ratio and  $\mathcal{R}(u_i, z_i)$  is a complicated function of the coordinates whose expression can be found in [90]. Using these results, we can show that applying the procedure outlined at the beginning of this section to the correlator corresponding to the four point contact diagram results in

$$\lim_{c \to 0} c^{4-\sum_{\Delta}} \langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_{1}}(x_{1}) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_{2}}(x_{2}) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_{3}}(x_{3}) \mathcal{O}_{\Delta_{4}}(x_{4}) \rangle = \mathcal{N} \left( \frac{|z_{23}|^{2}}{|z_{34}|^{2} |z_{24}|^{2}} \right)^{\frac{4-\sum_{\Delta}}{2}} \frac{z^{2-\Delta_{1}-\Delta_{2}} (1-z)^{\Delta_{1}+\Delta_{4}-2} \delta(z-\bar{z})}{\mathcal{U}^{\sum_{i=1}^{4}\Delta_{i}-4}} \propto \langle \Phi_{\Delta_{1}}^{\epsilon_{1}} \Phi_{\Delta_{2}}^{\epsilon_{2}} \Phi_{\Delta_{3}}^{\epsilon_{3}} \Phi_{\Delta_{4}}^{\epsilon_{4}} \rangle,$$
(2.21)

where

$$\mathcal{U} = u_4 - u_1 z \left| \frac{z_{24}}{z_{12}} \right|^2 + u_2 \frac{1-z}{z} \left| \frac{z_{34}}{z_{23}} \right|^2 - u_3 \frac{1}{1-z} \left| \frac{z_{14}}{z_{13}} \right|^2$$
(2.22)

is the translation-invariant denominator appearing in the four-point Carrollian amplitude. Depending on the details of the analytic continuation, we can have z < 0, 0 < z < 1 or z > 1. This coincides with the allowed values of z for which the Carrollian amplitude is non-zero. Focussing on 0 < z < 1, the proportionality can once again be turned into an equality after an appropriate choice of normalization and setting  $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon_2 = -\epsilon_3 = -\epsilon_4 = 1$ . Let us emphasize that the Carrollian limit discussed above is taken intrinsically in the CFT, without referring to the bulk spacetime. It is valid for any scalar subsector of holographic CFTs in three dimensions. We will apply this to ABJM correlators in section 4 to obtain correlators of a Carrollian ABJM theory living at null infinity.

#### **3** ABJM correlators in position space

In this section, we present 2, 3 and 4-point correlation functions of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS operators in the ABJM theory. The 2 and 3-point functions are computed directly in position space from the dual supergravity action. The 4-point function has been computed using bootstrap methods in Mellin space, the results of which we review in appendix (A). Here we rewrite these results in position space in a way that makes the computation of their Carrollian limit feasible. At 4 points, We will restrict our attention to correlators in the supergravity approximation, i.e the leading terms in the  $\frac{1}{N}$  expansion, relegating a discussion of higher derivative corrections to appendix (D).

## 3.1 Two and three-point functions

On the supergravity side, we can identify the operator (2.3) as the source for one of the scalar fluctuations around the  $AdS_4 \times S^7$  background. Denoting this bulk scalar by s, we can expand it in Kaluza Klein (KK) modes on the 7-sphere as [158]

$$s = \sum_{k \ge 0} Y_k^{(7)} s_k = \sum_{k \ge 0} \frac{s_k}{\ell^k} \, \mathcal{C}_{I_1 \dots I_k}^{(k)} Z^{I_1} \dots Z^{I_k}$$
(3.1)

where  $Y_k^{(7)}$  are spherical harmonics on S<sup>7</sup> and  $Z^I$  are embedding coordinates for the S<sup>7</sup>, notably coordinates in  $\mathbb{R}^8$  such that  $Z^I Z_I = 1$ . In the second equality, we have represented the spherical harmonics as homogeneous polynomials encoded by the traceless, symmetric tensor  $\mathcal{C}_{I_1...I_k}$  [159]. The action for the scalar fields  $s_k$  on AdS<sub>4</sub> can be derived from the 11D  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  supergravity action after integrating over the  $S^7$  [160] and is given by<sup>3</sup>

$$S = \frac{243}{\kappa^2} \int_{\text{AdS}_4} d^4 y \sqrt{-\bar{g}_4} \Big\{ \sum_{k \ge 2} \frac{(2\ell)^7}{2} A_k s_k \left( \Box_{\text{AdS}} - m_k^2 \right) s_k \left\langle \mathcal{C}^{(k)} \mathcal{C}^{(k)} \right\rangle \\ + \sum_{k_i \ge 2} \frac{(2\ell)^5}{3} \left\langle \mathcal{C}^{(k_1)} \mathcal{C}^{(k_2)} \mathcal{C}^{(k_3)} \right\rangle g_{123} s_{k_1} s_{k_2} s_{k_3} \Big\}, \quad (3.2)$$

where  $\kappa$  is the 11D gravitational coupling and is related to the 11D Planck length by  $4\kappa^2 = (2\pi)^5 \ell_{11}^9$ . The other constants appearing in the action are

$$A_{k} = \frac{4\pi^{4}k(k-1)}{3 \times 2^{k}(k+1)(k+2)^{2}}, \qquad m_{k}^{2} = \frac{k(k-6)}{4\ell^{2}},$$

$$g_{123} = \frac{192\pi^{4}(\alpha^{2}-9)(\alpha^{2}-1)(\alpha+2)}{(2\alpha+6)!!} \prod_{i=1}^{3} \frac{k_{i}!}{(k_{i}+2)\Gamma(\alpha_{i})}.$$
(3.3)

Here  $\langle \mathcal{C}^{(k_1)} \dots \mathcal{C}^{(k_n)} \rangle$  is the unique SO(7) invariant contraction of the tensors representing the spherical harmonics and

$$\alpha_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^3 k_j - k_i, \qquad \alpha = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^3 k_i$$
(3.4)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>The modes k = 0, 1 decouple from the action.

The scalar fields  $s_k$  couple to the operators  $\mathcal{O}_k$  in the dual ABJM theory via

$$S_{\rm int} = \int_{\partial \text{AdS}_4} d^3 y \, w_k \, s_k^{(0)} \mathcal{O}_k, \qquad (3.5)$$

where  $w_k$  are proportionality factors,  $s_k^{(0)}$  is the boundary value of  $s_k$  and  $\mathcal{O}_k = \mathcal{O}_{I_1...I_k} \mathcal{C}^{I_1...I_k}$ . From (3.3) and the standard relation  $\Delta(\Delta - d) = m^2 \ell^2$  (where d is the boundary dimension), we see that the spectrum of scaling dimensions of the operators dual to the scalars  $s_k$  is indeed k/2. We can make contact with the operators in (2.3) if we set

$$\mathcal{C}_{I_1\dots I_k}^k = t_{I_1}\dots t_{I_k}.\tag{3.6}$$

Note that this choice implies the normalization

$$\left\langle \mathcal{C}^{(k_1)} \mathcal{C}^{(k_2)} \right\rangle \equiv \mathcal{C}^{(k_1)}_{I_1 \dots I_{k_1}} \mathcal{C}^{(k_2)I_1 \dots I_{k_2}} = t_{12}^{k_1} \delta_{k_1, k_2},$$
(3.7)

where  $t_{12} \equiv t_1 \cdot t_2$ . In the rest of this paper, we will tacitly assume that this choice has been made. For more details, we refer the reader to [158, 160].

**Two-point functions.** The two-point function of the operators  $\mathcal{O}_k$  can be computed by evaluating the supergravity action (3.2) on-shell and differentiating it with respect to the scalars. This yields

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{k_1}(x_1, t_1) \mathcal{O}_{k_2}(x_2, t_2) \rangle = 243 A_k \frac{(2\ell)^7}{\kappa^2} \frac{(k-3)}{\pi^{\frac{3}{2}}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k-3}{2}\right)} \frac{w_{k_1}^2 t_{12}^{k_1} \delta_{k_1, k_2}}{(x_{12}^2)^{k_1}}$$
(3.8)

We choose the constants  $w_k$  such that the two-point function has the normalization

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{k_1}(x_1, t_1) \mathcal{O}_{k_2}(x_2, t_2) \rangle = \frac{\delta_{k_1, k_2} t_{12}^{k_1}}{(x_{12}^2)^{\frac{k_1}{2}}}.$$
 (3.9)

Plugging in the value of  $A_k$  from (3.3), replacing  $\kappa$  by the 11D Planck length and simplifying the resulting expression, we get

$$w_k = \frac{(2\pi)^{\frac{3}{2}}\sqrt{2\ell}}{9} \left(\frac{\ell_{11}}{2\ell}\right)^{\frac{9}{2}} \frac{(k+2)}{(k-3)(k-1)} \frac{\sqrt{\Gamma(2+k)}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}+1\right)}$$
(3.10)

**Three-point functions.** The three point function of  $\mathcal{O}_k$  derived from the supergravity action is [160]

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{k_1} \mathcal{O}_{k_2} \mathcal{O}_{k_3} \rangle = \left(\frac{\ell_{11}}{\ell}\right)^{\frac{9}{2}} R_{k_1,k_2,k_3} \frac{t_{12}^{\alpha_3} t_{23}^{\alpha_1} t_{13}^{\alpha_2}}{x_{12}^{\alpha_3} x_{23}^{\alpha_1} x_{13}^{\alpha_2}},\tag{3.11}$$

with

$$\left(\frac{\ell_{11}}{\ell}\right)^{\frac{9}{2}} R_{k_1,k_2,k_3} = \frac{7776(2\ell)^6}{\ell_{11}^9 (2\pi)^8} \Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha-3}{2}\right) \prod_{i=1}^3 \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha_i}{2}\right) w_{k_i}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k_i-3}{2}\right)} g_{123}.$$
(3.12)

Plugging in the value of  $w_{k_i}$  from (3.10) and simplifying, we get

$$\left(\frac{\ell_{11}}{\ell}\right)^{\frac{9}{2}} R_{k_1,k_2,k_3} = \frac{\pi}{2^{\frac{5}{2}}} \left(\frac{\ell_{11}}{\ell}\right)^{\frac{9}{2}} \frac{2^{-\alpha}}{\Gamma\left(1+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)} \prod_{i=1}^{3} \frac{\sqrt{\Gamma\left(k_i+2\right)}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha_i+1}{2}\right)} = \frac{\pi}{N^{\frac{3}{4}}} \frac{2^{-\alpha-\frac{1}{4}}}{\Gamma\left(1+\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)} \prod_{i=1}^{3} \frac{\sqrt{\Gamma\left(k_i+2\right)}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha_i+1}{2}\right)}.$$
(3.13)

In arriving at the last equality, we have used the relationship between  $\ell$  an N from (2.2) and set  $k_{\rm CS} = 1$  for simplicity. The numerator was obtained by evaluating the contraction

$$\left\langle \mathcal{C}^{k_1} \mathcal{C}^{k_2} \mathcal{C}^{k_3} \right\rangle = t_{12}^{\alpha_3} t_{23}^{\alpha_1} t_{13}^{\alpha_2}$$
(3.14)

In particular, note that the 3 point function is finite when  $k_i = 2$  or  $\Delta_i = \frac{k_i}{2} = 1$ . This is in contrast with the three point couplings considered in [90].

#### 3.2 Four-point functions

Four-point functions of the superconformal primaries in ABJM can be written as [99, 161]

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{k_1} \dots \mathcal{O}_{k_4} \rangle = \prod_{i < j} \left( \frac{t_{ij}^2}{x_{ij}^2} \right)^{\frac{\gamma_{ij}^0}{2}} \left( \frac{t_{12}^2 t_{34}^2}{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2} \right)^{\frac{\mathcal{E}}{2}} \mathcal{G}_{k_1,\dots,k_4} \left( U, V, \sigma, \tau \right).$$
(3.15)

Here  $t_{ij} = t_i \cdot t_j, x_{ij}^2 = -c^2 u_{ij}^2 + 2z_{ij} \bar{z}_{ij}$  and

$$U = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2} = Z\bar{Z}, \qquad V = \frac{x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2} = (1 - Z) \left(1 - \bar{Z}\right), \qquad \sigma = \frac{t_{13} t_{24}}{t_{12} t_{34}}, \qquad \tau = \frac{t_{14} t_{23}}{t_{12} t_{34}}.$$
(3.16)

The extremality  $\mathcal{E}$  is

$$\mathcal{E} = \begin{cases} \frac{k_1 + k_2 + k_3 - k_4}{2} & \text{Case I} : k_1 + k_4 \ge k_2 + k_3, \\ k_1 & \text{Case II} : k_1 + k_4 < k_2 + k_3, \end{cases}$$
(3.17)

and the exponents  $\gamma_{ij}^0$  are given by

$$\gamma_{12}^{0} = \gamma_{13}^{0} = 0, \qquad \gamma_{34}^{0} = \frac{\kappa_{s}}{2}, \quad \gamma_{24}^{0} = \frac{\kappa_{u}}{2}, \quad (3.18)$$
  
Case I:  $\gamma_{14}^{0} = \frac{\kappa_{t}}{2}, \qquad \gamma_{23}^{0} = 0, \qquad \text{Case II: } \gamma_{14}^{0} = 0, \qquad \gamma_{23}^{0} = \frac{\kappa_{t}}{2},$ 

where

$$\kappa_s = |k_1 + k_2 - k_3 - k_4|, \qquad \kappa_t = |k_1 + k_4 - k_2 - k_3|, \qquad \kappa_u = |k_2 + k_4 - k_1 - k_3|.$$
(3.19)

These correlators admit a large  $c_T$  expansion of the form

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_1,\dots,k_4} = \mathcal{G}^0_{k_1,\dots,k_4} + \frac{1}{c_T} \mathcal{G}^R_{k_1,\dots,k_4} + \dots, \qquad (3.20)$$

where  $\mathcal{G}_{k_1,\ldots,k_4}^0$  is the disconnected part of the correlator which is described by generalized free fields. We will ignore this contribution for the rest of this paper and focus only on the connected part. The leading contribution in the large  $c_T$  limit comes from tree-level supergravity in the bulk and has been computed in [99]. The stress tensor belongs to the k = 2 multiplet and these correlators are of particular interest. Corrections in  $\frac{1}{c_T}$  arise from higher derivative and loop corrections to supergravity in the bulk. These have been computed in [101]. In [99], the authors exploit the ambiguity inherent in the definition of exchange diagrams to absorb all contact terms into them and write

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4}^R = \mathcal{G}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4,s}^R + \mathcal{G}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4,t}^R + \mathcal{G}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4,u}^R,$$
(3.21)

where the subscripts stand for s-, t- and u-channels. All of these correlators have been computed in Mellin space. The connected 4-point correlator

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_1,\dots,k_4}^c\left(U,V,\sigma,\tau\right) \equiv \mathcal{G}_{k_1,\dots,k_4}\left(U,V,\sigma,\tau\right) - \mathcal{G}_{k_1,\dots,k_4}^0\left(U,V,\sigma,\tau\right)$$
(3.22)

admits the following Mellin representation:

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_1,\dots,k_4}^c\left(U,V,\sigma,\tau\right) = \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{ds\,dt}{(4\pi i)^2} U^{\frac{s}{2}-a_s} V^{\frac{t}{2}-a_t} \mathcal{M}_{k_1,\dots,k_4}\left(s,t;\sigma,\tau\right) \Gamma_{\{k_i\}},\tag{3.23}$$

where

$$\Gamma_{\{k_i\}} = \Gamma\left(\frac{k_1 + k_2}{4} - \frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{k_3 + k_4}{4} - \frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{k_1 + k_4}{2} - \frac{t}{2}\right)$$

$$\Gamma\left(\frac{k_2 + k_3}{4} - \frac{t}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{k_1 + k_3}{4} - \frac{u}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{k_2 + k_4}{4} - \frac{u}{2}\right),$$

$$a_s = \frac{1}{4} \left(k_1 + k_2\right) - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{E}, \qquad a_t = \frac{1}{4} \operatorname{Min}\left\{k_1 + k_4, k_2 + k_3\right\}, \qquad s + t + u = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^4 k_i.$$
(3.24)
$$(3.25)$$

We have relegated the discussion of the details of the ABJM Mellin amplitudes to appendix A. We will convert these expressions to position space by recognizing certain pieces in them as  $\overline{D}$  functions by comparing with their Mellin representation [162–164]

$$\bar{D}_{\Delta_1 \Delta_2 \Delta_3 \Delta_4}(U,V) = \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{dj_1 dj_2}{(2\pi i)^2} U^{j_1} V^{j_2} \Gamma(j_1 + j_2 + \Delta_2) \Gamma(j_1 + j_2 + \Delta - \Delta_4) \times \Gamma(-j_1) \Gamma(-j_2) \Gamma(-j_1 - \Delta + \Delta_3 + \Delta_4) \Gamma(-j_2 + \Delta - \Delta_2 - \Delta_3), \quad (3.26)$$

where  $2\Delta = \sum_{i=1}^{4} \Delta_i$ . This definition holds for zero, half-integer and negative integer weights.

In the rest of the paper, we will focus on connected correlators (3.22) and drop the superscript c. Furthermore, we will focus on the  $\frac{1}{c_T}$  contributions and drop the superscript R. Hence, we denote  $\mathcal{G}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4}^{c,R} \equiv \mathcal{G}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4}$ .

#### 3.2.1 $\mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2}$

The four-point function involving operators with weight  $\Delta_i = \frac{k_i}{2} = 1$  is of particular interest since they are at the bottom of the stress tensor multiplet. The definition of the Mellin

amplitude (3.23) adapted to the case  $k_1 = k_2 = k_3 = k_4 = 2$  gives

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2}\left(U,V,\sigma,\tau\right) \equiv \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{ds \, dt}{\left(4\pi i\right)^2} U^{\frac{s}{2}} V^{\frac{t}{2}-1} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2} \Gamma^2\left(\frac{2-s}{2}\right) \Gamma^2\left(\frac{2-t}{2}\right) \Gamma^2\left(\frac{s+t-2}{2}\right).$$
(3.27)

The contact contributions are polynomials in s, t and can be directly written as  $\overline{D}$  functions in position space. The *s*-channel contribution to the position space correlator can be evaluated by starting from (A.3), plugging it into (3.27), cancelling the s(s + 2) poles by shifting the arguments of various  $\Gamma$  functions, comparing with (3.26) and writing it as a sum of  $\overline{D}$ functions. In doing so, we arrive at the following expression:

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2,s} = -\frac{6}{\sqrt{8N^3\pi^3}} \left[ \left( 3\sqrt{\pi}U\bar{D}_{3,1,0,0} - \sqrt{\pi}U^2\bar{D}_{4,2,0,0} - 2\sqrt{U}\bar{D}_{\frac{5}{2},\frac{1}{2},0,0} \right) + \sigma \left( 3\sqrt{\pi}U\bar{D}_{2,1,0,1} - \sqrt{\pi}U^2\bar{D}_{3,2,0,1} - 2\sqrt{U}\bar{D}_{\frac{3}{2},\frac{1}{2},0,1} \right) + \tau \left( 3\sqrt{\pi}U\bar{D}_{2,1,1,0} - \sqrt{\pi}U^2\bar{D}_{3,2,1,0} - 2\sqrt{U}\bar{D}_{\frac{3}{2},\frac{1}{2},1,0} \right) \right].$$
(3.28)

The t, u channel contributions can be expressed in terms of the s channel one by using (this follows from (A.4))

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2,t}^{R}(U,V,\sigma,\tau) = \tau^{2} \frac{U}{V} \mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2,s}^{R}\left(V,U,\frac{\sigma}{\tau},\frac{1}{\tau}\right),$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2,u}^{R}(U,V,\sigma,\tau) = \sigma^{2} U \mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2,s}\left(\frac{1}{U},\frac{V}{U},\frac{1}{\sigma},\frac{\tau}{\sigma}\right),$$
(3.29)

along with the  $\overline{D}$  function identities

$$\bar{D}_{\Delta_1,\Delta_2,\Delta_3,\Delta_4}(V,U) = \bar{D}_{\Delta_3,\Delta_2,\Delta_1,\Delta_4}(U,V), \qquad (3.30)$$
$$\bar{D}_{\Delta_1,\Delta_2,\Delta_3,\Delta_4}\left(\frac{1}{U},\frac{V}{U}\right) = U^{\Delta_2}\bar{D}_{\Delta_4,\Delta_2,\Delta_3,\Delta_1}(U,V).$$

We can now write down the position space correlator from (3.15). Since  $k_1 = k_2 = k_3 = k_4 = 2$ , equations (3.17), (3.18) and (3.19) give

$$\mathcal{E} = 2, \quad \kappa_s = \kappa_t = \kappa_u = 0, \qquad \gamma_{ij}^0 = 0, \tag{3.31}$$

and we have

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_2(x_1, t_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_2(x_4, t_4) \rangle = \frac{t_{12}^2 t_{34}^2}{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2} \mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2}(U, V, \sigma, \tau)$$
 (3.32)

# 3.2.2 $\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k}$

We will follow a similar procedure to evaluate the position space correlator  $\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k}$  whose Mellin representation is

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k}(U,V,\sigma,\tau) = \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{ds \, dt}{(4\pi i)^2} U^{\frac{s}{2}} V^{\frac{t}{2} - \frac{k}{4} - \frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,k,k}$$

$$\times \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{k - s}{2}\right) \Gamma^2\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{k}{4} - \frac{t}{2}\right) \Gamma^2\left(\frac{s + t - 1}{2} - \frac{k}{4}\right)$$
(3.33)

The s-channel contribution from (A.6) is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k,s} = & \frac{6}{\sqrt{8\pi^3 N^3}} \left[ \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)} \left( (1-k)U\partial_U - k \right) \left( \frac{V}{U}\bar{D}_{-1,1,\frac{k}{2}+1,\frac{k}{2}+1} + \sigma V\bar{D}_{0,1,\frac{k}{2}+1,\frac{k}{2}} + \tau\bar{D}_{0,1,\frac{k}{2},\frac{k}{2}+1} \right) \right. \\ & \left. + k \left( \frac{V}{U}\bar{D}_{-1,1,\frac{3}{2},\frac{3}{2}} + V\sigma\bar{D}_{0,1,\frac{3}{2},\frac{1}{2}} + \tau\bar{D}_{0,1,\frac{1}{2},\frac{3}{2}} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$
(3.34)

While this can be simplified and expressed fully in terms of  $\overline{D}$  functions, we will not do so here as the above form is more suitable for taking the Carrollian limit. The *t*-channel contribution is more complicated even in Mellin space and is given in (A.10). Upon converting to position space, we get

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k,t} = (-1)^{\frac{k}{2}} \frac{12k\tau U}{\sqrt{2N^3}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}+1\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}-\frac{1}{2}\right)} \left[ \frac{1}{4\pi} \left( \bar{D}_{\frac{1}{2},2-\frac{k}{2},0,\frac{1+k}{2}} + \sigma \bar{D}_{\frac{1}{2},1-\frac{k}{2},1,\frac{1+k}{2}} + \tau \bar{D}_{\frac{1}{2},1-\frac{k}{2},0,\frac{3+k}{2}} \right) \right] - \sum_{i=0}^{\lceil \frac{k-1}{2} \rceil} 2^{i} x_{i}(k) \left( V \partial_{V} + \frac{k}{4} + \frac{1}{2} \right)^{i} \left( \bar{D}_{1,2-\frac{k}{2},0,1+\frac{k}{2}} + \sigma \bar{D}_{1,1-\frac{k}{2},1,1+\frac{k}{2}} + \tau \bar{D}_{1,1-\frac{k}{2},0,2+\frac{k}{2}} \right) \right],$$

$$(3.35)$$

where  $x_i(k)$  is defined in (A.9). Finally, the *u*-channel contribution can be obtained from the *t*-channel one by

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k,u}\left(U,V,\sigma,\tau\right) = \mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k,t}\left(\frac{U}{V},\frac{1}{V},\tau,\sigma\right).$$
(3.36)

We can now write down the position space correlator from (3.15). Since  $k_1 = k_2 = 2$  and  $k_3 = k_4 = k$ , equations (3.17), (3.18), (3.19) give

$$\mathcal{E} = 2, \quad \kappa_s = 2k - 4, \, \kappa_t = \kappa_u = 0, \qquad \gamma_{12}^0 = \gamma_{13}^0 = \gamma_{14}^0 = \gamma_{23}^0 = \gamma_{24}^0 = 0, \, \gamma_{34}^0 = k - 2, \tag{3.37}$$

and (3.15) reduces to

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_k \mathcal{O}_k \rangle = \left(\frac{t_{34}^2}{x_{34}^2}\right)^{\frac{k-2}{2}} \left(\frac{t_{12}^2 t_{34}^2}{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}\right) \mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k}\left(U, V, \sigma, \tau\right).$$
(3.38)

# 3.2.3 $\mathcal{G}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4}$

The full correlator for generic  $k_i$  cannot be expressed as a finite sum of  $\overline{D}$  functions in position space and we will restrict our attention to the leading high energy term of the Mellin amplitude (cf. (A.11)). As shown in appendix B, this is sufficient to compute the Carrollian limit.<sup>4</sup> We begin by assuming that  $k_1 + k_2$ ,  $k_1 + k_3$ ,  $k_1 + k_4 \in 2\mathbb{Z}^+$ . The final result will be valid in all cases. We can use the formula

$$\frac{1}{s}\Gamma\left(\frac{k_1+k_2}{4}-\frac{s}{2}\right) = -\frac{1}{2}\Gamma\left(-\frac{s}{2}\right)\prod_{n=1}^{\frac{k_1+k_2}{4}-1}\left[\frac{k_1+k_2}{4}-\frac{s}{2}-n\right],$$
(3.39)

 $<sup>{}^{4}</sup>$ We have presented a working proof of this in appendix[ B]. We will address the connection more completely in a future publication.

and analogous ones for t, u to express (A.11) in position space as

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_{1},k_{2},k_{3},k_{4}}^{\text{HE}} = -\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{N}_{k_{i}} P_{k_{i}}(\sigma,\tau) (-1)^{\frac{k_{1}+k_{2}}{2} + \frac{k_{1}+k_{4}}{2} + \frac{k_{1}+k_{3}}{4}} ((1-\alpha)U\partial_{U} + V\partial_{V})^{2} ((1-\bar{\alpha})U\partial_{U} + V\partial_{V})^{2} \\ \sum_{r} \binom{k_{1}+k_{3}}{4} - 1}{r} U^{\frac{k_{1}+k_{2}}{4} - 1 - a_{s}+r} V^{\frac{2k_{1}+k_{3}+k_{4}}{4} - 2 - a_{t}-r} \bar{D}_{a_{1}+r-1,a_{2}-3,a_{3}-r-2,a_{4}},$$

$$(3.40)$$

where

$$a_1 = \frac{k_2 - k_4}{4}, \quad a_2 = \frac{2k_1 + k_2 + k_4}{2}, \quad a_3 = \frac{k_1 - k_2 + k_3 + k_4}{4}, \quad a_4 = \frac{-k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4}{4}.$$
(3.41)

The superscript serves as a reminder that this is not the full position space correlator but merely the one corresponding to the leading high energy (HE) behaviour of the Mellin amplitude. With this, we have

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{k_1} \dots \mathcal{O}_{k_4} \rangle^{\text{HE}} = \prod_{i < j} \left( \frac{t_{ij}^2}{x_{ij}^2} \right)^{\frac{\gamma_{ij}^0}{2}} \left( \frac{t_{12}^2 t_{34}^2}{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2} \right)^{\frac{\mathcal{E}}{2}} \mathcal{G}_{k_1,\dots,k_4}^{\text{HE}} \left( U, V, \sigma, \tau \right).$$
(3.42)

#### 4 Carrollian limit of ABJM correlators

In this section, we implement the Carrollian limit of the ABJM correlators derived in the previous sections. We will follow the procedure presented in [90] and reviewed in section 2.2. The flat space limit of the full  $AdS_4 \times S^7$  line element,

$$ds_{\text{AdS}_4 \times S^7}^2 = ds_{\text{AdS}_4}^2 + 4\ell^2 ds_{S^7}^2 \tag{4.1}$$

is more subtle than the flat space limit of the  $AdS_4$  factor alone described around (2.8). Indeed, the  $S^7$  factor decompactifies, so that  $\lim_{\ell \to \infty} ds^2_{AdS_4 \times S^7} = ds^2_{\mathbb{R}^{10,1}}$ , yielding an infinite tower of massless KK modes. One of the objectives of our analysis is to understand how the decompactification of  $S^7$  is seen from the 3D boundary perspective when taking the Carrollian limit.

Throughout this section, we will work with the coordinates  $(u, z, \bar{z})$  for which the metric on 3D Minkowski space, where the ABJM theory is living, is given by (2.10), and we will implement the Carrollian limit  $c \equiv \frac{1}{\ell} \to 0$  on the CFT correlators. We define the electric Carrollian operators  $\Phi_k$  by

$$\mathcal{O}_k = \sigma_k \,\ell^{\frac{k}{2}-1} \,\Phi_k, \qquad \sigma_k = \frac{2\pi}{\sqrt{\Gamma(k-1)}}. \tag{4.2}$$

The normalization  $\sigma_k$  has been chosen so that the Carrollian limit of the two point function agrees with the 2 point Carrollian amplitude (5.5). In particular, the scaling with  $\ell$  in (4.2) is consistent with the one used in section 2.2, upon identification (2.12).

#### 4.1 Two and three-point functions

We start off by computing the Carrollian limit of the two and three-point functions. The electric limit of (3.9), after analytic continuation to Lorentzian signature, is

$$\lim_{\ell \to \infty} \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_{k_1}(x_1) \, \mathcal{O}_{k_2}(x_2) \rangle}{\ell^{\frac{k_1 + k_2}{2} - 2} \sigma_{k_1} \sigma_{k_2}} = \langle \Phi_{k_1} \Phi_{k_2} \rangle = \frac{\delta_{k_1, k_2}}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{(-1)^{\frac{k_1}{2} - 1} \Gamma(k_1 - 2)}{(u_{12} - i\epsilon)^{k_1 - 2}} t_{12}^{k_1} \, \delta^2\left(z_{12}\right), \tag{4.3}$$

which is the electric two-point Carrollian amplitude (5.5) whose precise relation with a two-point flat space amplitude will be discussed in section 5.1. The dependence of three-point correlators in ABJM (3.11) on  $\ell$  is different from the scalar correlators considered in [90]. This reflects the fact that these arise from a theory on  $AdS_4 \times S^7$  rather than  $AdS_4$ . Applying the analysis of section 4.3 of [90] and reviewed in section 2.2, which involves analytic continuation to (2, 2) Kleinian signature in the bulk of  $AdS_4$ , we see that

$$\frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_{k_1}\mathcal{O}_{k_2}\mathcal{O}_{k_3}\rangle}{\ell^{\frac{k_1+k_2+k_3}{2}-3}} \xrightarrow{\ell \to \infty} \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\ell^{\frac{11}{2}}}\right). \tag{4.4}$$

While this might seem troubling, this behaviour must be compared with Carrollian amplitudes of appropriately normalized scalars. We will show in section 5.1 that such amplitudes also vanish at an identical rate with respect to an IR cut-off. It is thus useful to compute the leading order term in the limit:

$$\lim_{\ell \to \infty} \ell^{\frac{11}{2}} \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_{k_1} \mathcal{O}_{k_2} \mathcal{O}_{k_3} \rangle}{\ell^{\frac{k_1 + k_2 + k_3}{2} - 3} \prod_{i=1}^3 \sigma_{k_i}} = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha}{2} - 2\right) \Theta\left(z_{12} z_{31}\right) \Theta\left(z_{13} z_{23}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha_1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha_2}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\alpha_3}{2}\right)} \pi^2 R_{k_1, k_2, k_3} \prod_{i=1}^3 \frac{1}{\sigma_{k_i}}$$

$$\times \delta(\bar{z}_{12}) \delta(\bar{z}_{23}) \frac{t_{12}^{\alpha_1} t_{23}^{\alpha_1} t_{13}^{\alpha_2} z_{12}^{\frac{k_3}{2} - 2} z_{23}^{\frac{k_1}{2} - 2} z_{13}^{\frac{k_2}{2} - 2}}{(u_1 z_{23} + u_2 z_{31} + u_3 z_{12} + i\varepsilon)^{\frac{k_1 + k_2 + k_3}{2} - 4}}.$$

$$(4.5)$$

#### 4.2 Four-point functions

In section 3.2, we expressed all four-point functions<sup>5</sup> in terms of  $\overline{D}$  functions. We will start by analyzing the Carrollian limits of  $\mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2}$  and  $\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k}$  before moving on to the generic case. As in the previous section, we will restrict out attention to the leading term in the  $\frac{1}{N}$ expansion, treating higher derivative corrections in appendix (D).

#### 4.2.1 Carrollian limit of $\mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2}$

In order to compute the Carrollian limit, we will use the following formula [90]:<sup>6</sup>

$$U^{a}V^{b}\bar{D}_{\Delta_{1},\Delta_{2},\Delta_{3},\Delta_{4}} \xrightarrow{\ell \to \infty} \frac{\ell^{-4+\Sigma_{\Delta}}\mathcal{K}}{\mathcal{U}^{\Sigma_{\Delta}-4}} \left(\frac{|z_{23}|^{2}}{|z_{34}|^{2}|z_{24}|^{2}}\right)^{\frac{4-\Sigma_{\Delta}}{2}} \frac{(1-z)^{\Delta_{1}+\Delta_{4}-2+2b}}{z^{\Delta_{1}+\Delta_{2}-2-2a}} \delta(z-\bar{z})\Theta(z)\Theta(1-z),$$

$$(4.6)$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>For the case of generic  $k_i$ , we mean the part relevant for the flat space limit  $\mathcal{G}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4}^{\text{HE}}$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>This formula was previously derived assuming integer scaling dimensions. We extend this result to non-integer values by analytic continuation.

where  $z = \frac{z_{12}z_{34}}{z_{13}z_{24}}$  is the is the 2*d* cross-ratio,  $\mathcal{U}$  was defined in (2.22) and

$$\mathcal{K} = (-1)^{\Delta_1 + \Delta_3} 2^{\frac{\Sigma_\Delta}{2}} \pi^2 \Gamma\left(\frac{\Sigma_\Delta - 4}{2}\right). \tag{4.7}$$

As we explained in section (2.2), this formula involves a choice of analytic continuation. In writing (4.6), we have chosen a particular one such that 0 < z < 1. The leading terms in the Carrollian limit are those which have  $\overline{D}$  functions with the highest weight. Applying the above formula to (3.28), the leading terms are

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2,s} \xrightarrow{\ell \to \infty} \frac{48\pi \,\ell^2}{\sqrt{2N^3} \mathcal{U}^2} \,\left(\frac{|z_{34}|^2 \,|z_{24}|^2}{|z_{23}|^2}\right) (1-z) \,(1-\alpha z)^2 \,(1-\bar{\alpha} z)^2 \,\delta\left(z-\bar{z}\right) \Theta\left(z\right) \Theta\left(1-z\right),\tag{4.8}$$

where we have set  $\sigma = \alpha \bar{\alpha}, \tau = (1 - \alpha) (1 - \bar{\alpha})$ . Combining the results of the other two channels and accounting for the pre-factor in (3.32) we get

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{2}(x_{1},t_{1})\dots\mathcal{O}_{2}(x_{4},t_{4})\rangle \xrightarrow{\ell \to \infty} \frac{3\ell_{11}^{9}\pi}{8\ell^{7}\mathcal{U}^{2}} \left(\frac{|z_{24}|^{2}}{|z_{12}|^{2}|z_{23}|^{2}}\right) t_{12}^{2} t_{34}^{2} (1-\alpha z)^{2} (1-\bar{\alpha}z)^{2} \delta(z-\bar{z})\Theta(z)\Theta(1-z),$$

$$(4.9)$$

where we have used the relation (2.2) with  $k_{\rm CS} = 1$ . As we will see in section 5, the flat space counterpart of this correlator also vanishes at an identical rate. In order to get a non-zero result as  $\ell \to \infty$ , we multiply by the volume of  $S^7$ ,  $V_7 = \frac{(2\ell)^7 \pi^4}{3}$ :

$$\lim_{\ell \to \infty} \frac{V_7}{(2\pi)^4} \langle \mathcal{O}_1(x_1, t_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_1(x_4, t_4) \rangle 
= \langle \Phi_2(u_1, z_1, \bar{z}_1) \dots \Phi_2(u_4, z_4, \bar{z}_4) \rangle 
= \frac{\pi \ell_{11}^9}{2\mathcal{U}^2} \left( \frac{|z_{24}|^2}{|z_{12}|^2 |z_{23}|^2} \right) t_{12}^2 t_{34}^2 (1 - \alpha z)^2 (1 - \bar{\alpha} z)^2 \delta(z - \bar{z}) \Theta(z) \Theta(1 - z).$$
(4.10)

# 4.2.2 Carrollian limit of $\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k}$

We will compute the Carrollian limit of the correlators  $\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k}$  by once again applying the formula (4.6). The terms from the s- and t-channel contributions that will dominate in the Carrollian limit are

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k,s} \xrightarrow{\ell \to \infty} \frac{-3U}{\sqrt{2N^3}\pi} \frac{(1-k)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)} \left( V \bar{D}_{0,2,\frac{k}{2}+1,\frac{k}{2}+1} + \sigma U V \bar{D}_{1,2,\frac{k}{2}+1,\frac{k}{2}} + \tau U \bar{D}_{1,2,\frac{k}{2},\frac{k}{2}+1} \right)$$

$$(4.11)$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k,t} \xrightarrow{\ell \to \infty} \frac{12k \,\tau \, U}{\sqrt{2N^3}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}+1\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}-\frac{1}{2}\right)} 2^{\frac{k}{2}} \, x_{\frac{k}{2}} \left(\bar{D}_{1,2,\frac{k}{2},1+\frac{k}{2}} + \sigma \bar{D}_{1,1,1+\frac{k}{2},1+\frac{k}{2}} + \tau \bar{D}_{1,1,\frac{k}{2},2+\frac{k}{2}}\right),$$

with  $x_{\frac{k}{2}}$  being given by (A.9). The dominant term in the u- channel can be simply obtained from the *t*-channel one by using the relation (3.36). Combining all of this, accounting for the prefactor in (3.38), the relations in (4.2) and (2.2) and multiplying by the volume of  $S^7$  we find,

$$\lim_{\ell \to \infty} V_7 \left[ \ell^{2-k} \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_k \mathcal{O}_k \rangle}{\sigma_k^2} \right] = \frac{\pi \ell_{11}^9}{2} (1 - \alpha z)^2 (1 - \bar{\alpha} z)^2 (-1)^{\frac{k}{2} - 1} t_{34}^k t_{12}^2 \qquad (4.12)$$
$$\times \frac{|z_{24}|^k}{|z_{12}|^2 |z_{23}|^k} \frac{\Gamma(k) (1 - z)^{\frac{k}{2} - 1} \delta(z - \bar{z})}{\mathcal{U}^k}.$$

# 4.2.3 Carrollian limit of $\mathcal{G}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4}$

Following a similar procedure starting from (3.40), we arrive at

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_{1},k_{2},k_{3},k_{4}}^{\text{HE}} \xrightarrow{\ell \to \infty} \frac{\mathcal{N}_{k_{i}}\mathcal{P}_{k_{i}}}{N^{\frac{3}{2}}\mathcal{U}^{\frac{\sum_{i}k_{i}}{2}-2}} (-1)^{\frac{k_{1}+k_{3}}{2}} z^{-2a_{s}} (1-z)^{\frac{\sum_{i}k_{i}}{2}-2-2a_{t}} \pi^{\frac{5}{2}} 2^{4-\frac{\sum_{i}k_{i}}{4}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{\sum_{i}k_{i}}{2}-5\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{\sum_{i}k_{i}}{4}-1\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\sum_{i}k_{i}}{4}-4\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{\sum_{i}k_{i}}{4}-\frac{1}{2}\right)} \times (1-\alpha z)^{2} (1-\bar{\alpha} z)^{2} \left(\frac{|z_{23}|^{2}}{|z_{34}|^{2}|z_{24}|^{2}}\right)^{1-\frac{\sum_{i}k_{i}}{4}} \delta(z-\bar{z}) \left(\frac{1}{\ell}\right)^{2-\frac{\sum_{i}k_{i}}{2}}.$$
(4.13)

We can use this to compute the Carrollian limit of the correlator (3.15). Accounting for all the prefactors, using (4.2) and (2.2), we get

$$\lim_{\ell \to \infty} V_7 \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_{k_1} \dots \mathcal{O}_{k_4} \rangle}{\prod_{i=1}^4 \ell^{\frac{k_i}{2} - 1} \sigma_k} = \tilde{\mathcal{N}} \left[ \prod_{i < j} \left( \frac{t_{ij}}{|z_{ij}|} \right)^{\gamma_{ij}^0} \left( \frac{t_{12} t_{34}}{|z_{12}||z_{34}|} \right)^{\mathcal{E}} \left( \frac{|z_{2t3}|^2}{|z_{34}|^2|z_{24}|^2} \right)^{1 - \frac{\sum_i k_i}{4}} \right]$$

$$\times \left[ z^{-2a_s} (1 - z)^{\frac{\sum_i k_i}{2} - 2 - 2a_t} \frac{\delta(z - \bar{z})}{\mathcal{U}^{\frac{\sum_i k_i}{2} - 2}} \right] \times \left[ (1 - \alpha z)^2 (1 - \bar{\alpha} z)^2 \mathcal{P}_{k_i}(\sigma, \tau) \right],$$

$$(4.14)$$

where

$$\tilde{\mathcal{N}} = \frac{V_7 \ell_{11}^9}{(2\pi)^4} \mathcal{N}_{k_i} \pi^{\frac{5}{2}} 2^{-\frac{1+\sum_i k_i}{2}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{\sum_i k_i}{2} - 5\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\sum_i k_i}{4} - 1\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{\sum_i k_i}{4} - 4\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\sum_i k_i}{4} - \frac{1}{2}\right)} (-1)^{\frac{k_1 + k_3}{2}}.$$
(4.15)

#### 4.2.4 Carrollian limit of superconformal Ward identities

In this section, we will compute the Carrollian limit of the superconformal Ward identities satisfied by correlators of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS operators [161], which for ABJM take the form

$$\left( Z\partial_{Z} - \frac{\alpha}{2}\partial_{\alpha} \right) \mathcal{G}_{k_{1},k_{2},k_{3},k_{4}} \left( Z,\bar{Z},\alpha,\bar{\alpha} \right) \Big|_{\alpha = \frac{1}{\bar{Z}}} = \left( \bar{Z}\partial_{\bar{Z}} - \frac{\alpha}{2}\partial_{\alpha} \right) \mathcal{G}_{k_{1},k_{2},k_{3},k_{4}} \left( Z,\bar{Z},\alpha,\bar{\alpha} \right) \Big|_{\alpha = \frac{1}{\bar{Z}}} = 0,$$

$$(4.16)$$

$$\left( Z\partial_{Z} - \frac{\bar{\alpha}}{2}\partial_{\bar{\alpha}} \right) \mathcal{G}_{k_{1},k_{2},k_{3},k_{4}} \left( Z,\bar{Z},\alpha,\bar{\alpha} \right) \Big|_{\bar{\alpha} = \frac{1}{\bar{Z}}} = \left( \bar{Z}\partial_{\bar{Z}} - \frac{\bar{\alpha}}{2}\partial_{\bar{\alpha}} \right) \mathcal{G}_{k_{1},k_{2},k_{3},k_{4}} \left( Z,\bar{Z},\alpha,\bar{\alpha} \right) \Big|_{\bar{\alpha} = \frac{1}{\bar{Z}}} = 0.$$

Since the Carrollian limit is obtained from the leading singularity of the four point function as  $Z \to \overline{Z}$ , we first expand

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4}\left(Z,\bar{Z},\alpha,\bar{\alpha}\right) = \frac{\mathcal{G}^0\left(Z,\alpha,\bar{\alpha}\right)}{\left(Z-\bar{Z}\right)^p} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\left(Z-\bar{Z}\right)^{p-1}}\right).$$
(4.17)

Here,  $\mathcal{G}^0$  is the expression that eventually turns into the numerator of the Carrollian amplitude. Plugging this into (4.16) and retaining only the leading piece leads to

$$\mathcal{G}^0\left(z,\alpha = \frac{1}{z},\bar{\alpha}\right) = \mathcal{G}^0\left(z,\alpha,\bar{\alpha} = \frac{1}{z}\right) = 0.$$
(4.18)

This is easily seen to be satisfied by the Carrollian limit of  $\mathcal{G}_{2,2,2,2}$  in (4.9), of  $\mathcal{G}_{2,2,k,k}$  in (4.12) and of  $\mathcal{G}_{k,k,k,k}$  in (4.14). It would be interesting to find an intrinsically Carrollian derivation of these identities.

#### 5 Bulk perspective in flat space

In this section we will explain how to obtain the Carrollian ABJM correlators derived in the previous section from a bulk point of view. At two and three points, we will follow the strategy of expanding the supergravity action in  $AdS_4 \times S^7$  in modes on 7-sphere, truncating the sum over modes, integrating out the 7-sphere to obtain a four-dimensional effective action in  $AdS_4$ , and taking the flat space limit. The resulting Lagrangian can then be used to derive scattering amplitudes which reproduce the results of the previous section after performing a modified Mellin transform. At four points, we follow a different strategy: starting from the 11d supergravity amplitude in flat space we will take the external kinematics to be four dimensional and the polarisation vectors to point along the other seven directions. After performing a modified Mellin transform, we obtain the lowest-charge (k = 2) 4-point correlator. We can then obtain higher-charge correlators by conformally compactifying the internal space to a seven-sphere and making an appropriate choice of external states. This approach can also be used to obtain 2 and 3-point Carrollian ABJM correlators, as we explain in appendix C.

#### 5.1 Two and three-point amplitudes

In this section, we will provide an interpretation of the Carrollian limit of ABJM correlators in terms of flat space physics. First, we will compute the two and three-point amplitudes from the flat limit of the SUGRA action in (3.2) and compare them to those obtained from the Carrollian limit of ABJM. Kaluza-Klein modes  $s_k$  whose conformal dimensions scale with the AdS radius become massive in the flat space limit, consistently with  $\Delta (\Delta - 3) = m^2 \ell^2$ . Since the scaling dimension of  $s_k$  is k/2, where k is the R-charge of the dual CFT operator, we will truncate the sum over KK modes in (3.2) to a finite maximum value  $k_{\text{max}}$  in order to ensure that the scalars become massless when we take  $\ell \to \infty$ . On taking the flat limit  $\ell \to \infty$  of (3.2) and rescaling the fields such that the kinetic terms are canonical we then get

$$S = \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3,1}} d^4 x \left\{ \sum_{k=2}^{k_{\text{max}}} \frac{t_{12}^k}{2} s_k \Box s_k + \sum_{k_1,k_2,k_3=2}^{k_{\text{max}}} \frac{t_{12}^{\alpha_3} t_{23}^{\alpha_1} t_{13}^{\alpha_2}}{2\ell} \left(\frac{\ell_{11}}{2\ell}\right)^{\frac{9}{2}} \frac{\tilde{g}_{123}}{3} s_{k_1} s_{k_2} s_{k_3} \right\},$$
(5.1)

where

$$\tilde{g}_{123} = \frac{144\sqrt{3}\,2^{\alpha}\left(\alpha^2 - 9\right)\,\left(\alpha^2 - 1\right)\,\left(\alpha + 2\right)}{(2\alpha + 6)!!\pi^2} \prod_{i=1}^{3} \frac{\Gamma\left(k_i - 1\right)}{\Gamma\left(\alpha_i\right)} \sqrt{(k_i + 1)k_i(k_i - 1)}.$$
(5.2)

Parametrizing the null momenta as in (2.4), the two point amplitude of two massless scalars computed from the action (5.1) is

$$\mathcal{A}_{k_1,k_2} = \frac{t_{12}^{k_1} \delta_{k_1,k_2}}{\omega_1} \,\delta_{\epsilon_1,-\epsilon_2} \delta\left(\omega_1 - \omega_2\right) \delta^2\left(z_{12}\right). \tag{5.3}$$

The corresponding Carrollian amplitude is obtained by computing the following modified Mellin transform (2.5):

$$\mathcal{C}_{k_{1},k_{2}}^{\Delta_{1},\Delta_{2}} = \int \prod_{j=1}^{2} \frac{d\omega_{j}}{2\pi} \omega_{j}^{\Delta_{j}-1} e^{iu_{j}\omega_{j}\epsilon_{j}} \mathcal{A}_{k_{1},k_{2}} \Big|_{\epsilon_{1}=-\epsilon_{2}=-1} = \frac{\delta_{k_{1},k_{2}}}{(2\pi)^{2}} \frac{(-1)^{\Delta_{1}-1}\Gamma(\Delta_{1}+\Delta_{2}-2)}{(u_{12}-i\epsilon)^{\Delta_{1}+\Delta_{2}-2}} t_{12}^{k_{1}} \delta^{2}(z_{12}).$$

$$(5.4)$$

This is in agreement with (4.3) only if we set  $\Delta_k = \frac{k}{2}$ , in which case we get

$$\mathcal{C}_{k_{1},k_{2}}^{\frac{k_{1}}{2},\frac{k_{2}}{2}} = \frac{\delta_{k_{1},k_{2}}}{(2\pi)^{2}} \frac{(-1)^{\frac{k_{1}}{2}-1} \Gamma(k_{1}-2)}{(u_{12}-i\epsilon)^{k_{1}-2}} t_{12}^{k_{1}} \delta^{2}(z_{12}).$$
(5.5)

It is interesting to note that we have to use the modified Mellin transform with a fixed value of  $\Delta_k$  which differs for each operator field  $s_k$ . The three point amplitude can be read off from the cubic term to be

$$\mathcal{A}_{k_1,k_2,k_3} = \frac{\tilde{g}_{123}}{2\ell} \left(\frac{\ell_{11}}{2\ell}\right)^{\frac{9}{2}} t_{12}^{\alpha_3} t_{23}^{\alpha_1} t_{13}^{\alpha_2} \,\delta^{(4)} \left(p_1 + p_2 + p_3\right).$$
(5.6)

Note that this amplitude vanishes in the strict  $\ell \to \infty$  limit. This is consistent with the behaviour of the 11D three-point graviton amplitude after dimensional reduction to 4D, (see appendix C for more details). Three-point amplitudes are non-trivial only in (2, 2) signature. We can obtain the Carrollian amplitude from (5.6) by parametrizing the momentum in (2, 2) signature, found by Wick rotating (2.4), and applying the modified Mellin transform (2.5):

$$\mathcal{C}_{k_1,k_2,k_3}^{\Delta_1,\Delta_2,\Delta_3} = \int \prod_{j=1}^3 \frac{d\omega_j}{2\pi} \omega_j^{\Delta_j - 1} e^{i \, u_j \omega_j \epsilon_j} \mathcal{A}_{k_1,k_2,k_3}.$$
(5.7)

This gives

$$C_{k_{1},k_{2},k_{3}}^{\Delta_{1},\Delta_{2},\Delta_{3}} = \frac{-i\epsilon_{1}\epsilon_{2}\epsilon_{3}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \frac{\tilde{g}_{123}}{2\ell} \left(\frac{\ell_{11}}{2\ell}\right)^{\frac{9}{2}} t_{12}^{\alpha_{3}} t_{23}^{\alpha_{1}} t_{13}^{\alpha_{2}} (z_{12})^{\Delta_{1}-2} (z_{13})^{\Delta_{2}-2} (z_{23})^{\Delta_{3}-2} \delta(\bar{z}_{12}) \delta(\bar{z}_{23}) \\ \times \Theta\left(-\frac{z_{13}}{z_{23}}\epsilon_{1}\epsilon_{2}\right) \Theta\left(\frac{z_{12}}{z_{23}}\epsilon_{1}\epsilon_{3}\right) \frac{\Gamma\left(\sum_{i=1}^{3}\Delta_{i}-4\right)}{(z_{23}u_{1}+z_{31}u_{2}+z_{12}u_{3}-i\varepsilon\epsilon_{1}\operatorname{sign}(z_{23}))^{\sum_{i=1}^{3}\Delta_{i}-4}},$$

$$(5.8)$$

which can be matched with (4.5) with the exact factor by taking again  $\Delta_k = \frac{k}{2}$  and setting  $\epsilon_1 = -\epsilon_2 = -\epsilon_3 = 1$ .

#### 5.2 Four-point amplitudes

In the previous section, we first computed the flat limit of the effective action (3.2) for scalar fluctuations around  $AdS_4 \times S^7$  to obtain (5.1). The 2 and 3 point amplitudes in flat space followed directly from the quadratic and cubic terms in it. However, the generalization of (3.2) to the quartic level is not known. We will instead start from the tree-level, 4 point graviton amplitude in 11D  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  supergravity and make contact with the Carrollian limits (4.10), (4.12), (4.14) by evaluating the amplitude in certain special configurations. The amplitude is [165, 166]

$$A_{4} = \frac{-a_{4}\ell_{11}^{9}}{stu} \left( \frac{1}{2} e_{2} \cdot e_{3} (se_{1} \cdot P_{3}e_{4} \cdot P_{2} + te_{1} \cdot P_{2}e_{4} \cdot P_{3}) + \frac{1}{2} e_{1} \cdot e_{4} (se_{2} \cdot P_{4}e_{3} \cdot P_{1} + te_{2} \cdot P_{1}e_{3} \cdot P_{4}) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2} e_{2} \cdot e_{4} (se_{1} \cdot P_{4}e_{3} \cdot P_{2} + ue_{1} \cdot P_{2}e_{3} \cdot P_{4}) + \frac{1}{2} e_{1} \cdot e_{3} (se_{2} \cdot P_{3}e_{4} \cdot P_{1} + ue_{2} \cdot P_{1}e_{4} \cdot P_{3}) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2} e_{3} \cdot e_{4} (te_{1} \cdot P_{4}e_{2} \cdot P_{3} + ue_{1} \cdot P_{3}e_{2} \cdot P_{4}) + \frac{1}{2} e_{1} \cdot e_{2} (te_{3} \cdot P_{2}e_{4} \cdot P_{1} + ue_{3} \cdot P_{1}e_{4} \cdot P_{2}) \right. \\ \left. - \frac{1}{4} ste_{1} \cdot e_{4}e_{2} \cdot e_{3} - \frac{1}{4} sue_{1} \cdot e_{3}e_{2} \cdot e_{4} - \frac{1}{4} tue_{1} \cdot e_{2}e_{3} \cdot e_{4} \right)^{2} \delta^{(11)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{4} P_{i} \right),$$
 (5.9)

where s, t, u are the Mandelstam variables (s + t + u = 0),  $e_{\mu\nu,i} = e_{\mu,i}e_{\nu,i}$  are the polarization vectors for the gravitons and  $a_4$  is a normalization constant.

We need to choose the momenta and polarizations in a specific way to make contact with the Carrollian limits of ABJM correaltors. As we will see, this choice leads to divergences which need to be regulated. A natural way of doing this is by introducing a sphere of radius  $2\ell$  with  $\ell \to \infty$ . We explain the various choices involved below. A similar procedure has been utilized in Mellin space [98, 167].

**Momenta.** We first pick four directions which will later be identified as arising from the flat limit of  $AdS_4$ . The momentum of the particle *i* decomposes as

$$P_i^{\alpha} = \left( p_i^{\mu}, \tilde{p}_i^I \right), \qquad p_i \in \mathbb{R}^{1,3}, \tilde{p}_i \in \mathbb{R}^7, \qquad p_i^{\mu} \sim \mathcal{O}\left(1\right), \tilde{p}_i^I \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\ell}\right) \approx 0.$$
(5.10)

Here  $\ell$  is a large parameter with dimensions of length. We expect to land on such a configuration on taking the flat limit of  $AdS_4 \times S^7$  with  $\ell$  being the AdS radius.  $\alpha = 0, 1, ..., 10$ ,  $\mu = 0, ..., 3$  and I = 4, ..., 10.

**Polarizations.** We are interested in massless scalars in  $\mathbb{R}^{1,3}$  arising from dimensional reduction of the 11D graviton. We will set

$$e_i^{\alpha} = \left(0, 0, 0, 0, \xi_i^I\right), \tag{5.11}$$

where  $\xi_i^2 = 0$  since  $e_i^2 = 0$ . Later on we will conformally compactify  $\mathbb{R}^7$  to S<sup>7</sup> and express the latter in terms of 8D embedding coordinates  $Z \cdot Z = 1$ . We can then embed the 7D null vector  $\xi_i$  into an 8D vector and identify

$$t_i = (0, \xi_i),$$
 (5.12)

where  $t_i^A$  is the *R*-symmetry null vector. This has the property

$$e_i \cdot e_j = t_i \cdot t_j \equiv t_{ij}, \qquad e_i \cdot p_j \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\ell}\right) \approx 0,$$
(5.13)

**Wavefunctions.** Since the fields on  $AdS_4 \times S^7$  are expanded in spherical harmonics, a natural choice for the wavefunctions of the level k KK mode of the 11D graviton is

$$h_j^{\alpha\beta}(X) = \mathcal{N}_j e_j^{\alpha} e_j^{\beta} e^{ip_j \cdot x} \left(\xi_j \cdot \tilde{x}\right)^{k_j - 2}, \qquad (5.14)$$

with  $X = (x, \tilde{x}) \in \mathbb{R}^{1,10}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^{1,3}$  and  $\tilde{x} \in \mathbb{R}^7$ . It is easy to see that this wavefunction solves the equations of motion for a free, massless spin-2 field in 11D flat space in de Donder gauge  $(\partial^{\alpha} \bar{h}_{\alpha\beta} = 0)$ ,

$$\Box \bar{h}_{\alpha\beta} = 0, \qquad \bar{h}_{\alpha\beta} = h_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{2} \eta_{\alpha\beta} h_{\gamma}^{\gamma}, \qquad (5.15)$$

since  $p_i^2 = \xi_i^2 = 0$ . However, it is not normalizable and leads to divergences when computing amplitudes as seen simply by computing the inner product

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{1,3}} d^4x \int_{\mathbb{R}^7} d^7 \tilde{x} h_1^{\alpha\beta} h_{2,\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{N}_1 \mathcal{N}_2 t_{12}^2 (2\pi)^4 \,\delta^{(4)} \left(P_1 + P_2\right) \int_{\mathbb{R}^7} d^7 \tilde{x} \left(\xi_1 \cdot \tilde{x}\right)^{k_1 - 2} \left(\xi_2 \cdot \tilde{x}\right)^{k_2 - 2} \\ = \mathcal{N}_1 \mathcal{N}_2 t_{12}^2 (2\pi)^4 \,\delta^{(4)} \left(P_1 + P_2\right) \times \frac{2\pi^{\frac{7}{2}} t_{12}^{2k_1 - 2} \delta_{k_1, k_2}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{7}{2}\right)} \int_0^\infty d\left|\tilde{x}\right| \left|\tilde{x}\right|^{k_1 + k_2 + 2}.$$

$$(5.16)$$

We evaluated the integral using the methods in [158, 159, 168] and replaced  $\xi_1 \cdot \xi_2$  by  $t_{12}$ . It is easy to see that such divergences will also occur in the four point function. We will regulate these divergences by replacing the integral over  $\mathbb{R}^7$  by an integral over  $S^7$  of radius  $2\ell$ .<sup>7</sup> Choosing an appropriate normalization and replacing  $\xi_i \cdot \tilde{x} \to t_i \cdot Z$ , where  $Z \in \mathbb{R}^8$  are embedding coordinates for the sphere and  $Z \cdot Z = 1$ , the wavefunction is

$$h_j^{\alpha\beta}(X) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V_7}} e_i^{\alpha} e_i^{\beta} e^{ip_j \cdot x} \frac{(t_j \cdot Z)^{k_j - 2}}{(2\ell)^{k_j - 2}}.$$
(5.17)

This wavefunction now solves the free equations of motion on  $\mathbb{R}^{1,3} \times S^7$  and is a solution of the free field equations on  $\mathbb{R}^{1,3} \times \mathbb{R}^7$  in the limit  $\ell \to \infty$ . To see this, note that the scalar Laplacian in  $S^7$  takes the same form in embedding coordinates as a Laplacian in flat space. With this, we are now in a position to connect the 11D supergravity amplitude with the Carrollian limit of ABJM correlators. It is instructive to understand this connection separately for correlators involving operators with k = 2 and k > 2.

#### 5.2.1 Amplitudes of k = 2 KK modes

The Carrollian limit of  $\langle \mathcal{O}_2 \dots \mathcal{O}_2 \rangle$  in (4.10) corresponds to the amplitude for in/out states with the wavefunctions

$$h_j^{\alpha\beta}(X) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{V_7}} e_i^{\alpha} e_i^{\beta} e^{ip_j \cdot x}, \qquad (5.18)$$

with  $p_j$  being a null momentum parametrized by (2.4). The dimensional reduction can be carried out by plugging in (5.13). In addition to this, since the wavefunction in (5.18) does

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>The choice of  $2\ell$  for the radius is arbitrary. The exact numerical factor is irrelevant since we only match with the Carrollian limit up to a numerical factor.

not involve plane waves in the  $\tilde{x}^I$  directions, the amplitude for these states does not produce  $\delta^{(11)}\left(\sum_{i=1}^4 P_i\right)$ . We should replace the  $\delta$  function by

$$\delta^{(11)}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{4} P_{i}\right) \to \frac{1}{\left(2\pi\right)^{7} V_{7}^{2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{3,1}} \frac{d^{4}x}{\left(2\pi\right)^{4}} e^{i\sum_{j=1}^{4} p_{j} \cdot x} \int_{S^{7}} d^{8}Z \,\delta\left(Z \cdot Z - 4\ell^{2}\right) = \frac{\delta^{(4)}\left(\sum_{i=1}^{4} p_{i}\right)}{\left(2\pi\right)^{7} V_{7}} \tag{5.19}$$

Putting all of this together, we get

$$\mathcal{A}_{4}^{2,2,2,2} = \frac{-a_4 \ell_{11}^9 t_{12}^2 t_{34}^2}{(2\pi)^7 V_7 stu} \left(s \, t \, \tau + s \, u\sigma + t \, u\right)^2 \times \delta^{(4)} \left(\sum_{i=1}^4 p_i\right). \tag{5.20}$$

This amplitude can also be derived from the 4D  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  supergravity amplitude. We refer the reader to appendix C of [98] for this connection. Note that this amplitude vanishes as  $\ell \to \infty$  as mentioned in section 4. The Carrollian amplitude corresponding to this can be obtained simply via a Fourier transform (2.7). Setting  $\epsilon_1 = -\epsilon_2 = \epsilon_3 = -\epsilon_4 = 1$ , we get

$$V_7 \mathcal{C}_4^{1,\dots,1} \Big( \{ u_j, z_j, \bar{z}_j \}^{\epsilon_j} \Big) = \frac{a_4 \ell_{11}^9}{2(2\pi)^{11} \mathcal{U}^2} \left( \frac{|z_{24}|^2}{|z_{12}|^2 |z_{23}|^2} \right) t_{12}^2 t_{34}^2 (1 - \alpha z)^2 (1 - \bar{\alpha} z)^2 \delta(z - \bar{z}) \Theta(z) \Theta(1 - z),$$
(5.21)

where  $\mathcal{U}$  was defined in (2.22). This agrees with (4.10) up to a normalization. We only find this agreement if we choose to perform the Fourier transform or equivalently, the modified Mellin transform (2.5) with  $\Delta_i = 1$ .

## 5.2.2 Amplitudes of k > 2 KK modes

We can also make contact with the Carrollian limit of ABJM correlators involving operators with k > 2 by dimensionally reducing 11D supergravity amplitude using the wavefunction (5.17) which implies that  $\delta^{(11)}(\sum_i P_i)$  is replaced by

$$\delta^{(11)} \left( P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + P_4 \right) \longrightarrow \delta^{(4)} \left( \sum_{k=1}^4 p_k \right) \frac{1}{(2\pi)^7 V_7^2} \int d^8 Z \delta \left( Z \cdot Z - 4\ell^2 \right) \prod_{j=1}^4 \frac{(t_j \cdot Z)^{k_j - 2}}{(2\ell)^{k_j - 2}}$$

$$(5.22)$$

$$= \frac{\tilde{N}_{k_i}}{V_7} \prod_{i < j} t_{ij}^{\gamma_{ij}^0} \left( t_{12} t_{34} \right)^{\mathcal{E} - 2} \mathcal{P}_{k_i} \left( \sigma, \tau \right) \delta^{(4)} \left( \sum_{j=1}^4 p_j \right),$$

where  $\mathcal{P}_{k_i}(\sigma, \tau)$  is a polynomial defined in (A.12) which depends on ratios of polarization vectors which are equal to the *R*-symmetry cross ratios  $\sigma, \tau$  due to (5.13),

$$\frac{\epsilon_1 \cdot \epsilon_3 \epsilon_2 \cdot \epsilon_4}{\epsilon_1 \cdot \epsilon_2 \epsilon_3 \cdot \epsilon_4} = \frac{t_{13} t_{24}}{t_{12} t_{34}} \equiv \sigma, \qquad \frac{\epsilon_2 \cdot \epsilon_3 \epsilon_1 \cdot \epsilon_4}{\epsilon_1 \cdot \epsilon_2 \epsilon_3 \cdot \epsilon_4} = \frac{t_{23} t_{14}}{t_{12} t_{34}} \equiv \tau.$$
(5.23)

Implementing these changes in the 11D graviton amplitude (5.9), we get for the 4D amplitude of higher KK modes  $(k_i > 2)$ ,

$$\mathcal{A}_{4}^{k_{1},k_{2},k_{3},k_{4}} = -\frac{\tilde{N}_{k_{i}}}{V_{7}} \prod_{i < j} t_{ij}^{-\gamma_{ij}^{0}} \frac{(t_{12}t_{34})^{2-\mathcal{E}}}{4\ell_{11}^{9}s\,t\,u} (t\,u + s\,u\,\sigma + s\,t\,\tau)^{2} \,\mathcal{P}_{k_{i}}(\sigma,\tau)$$
(5.24)

From this, we can compute the Carrollian amplitude using the modified Mellin transform (2.5). Setting  $\epsilon_1 = -\epsilon_2 = \epsilon_3 = -\epsilon_4 = 1$  and  $\Delta_i = \frac{k_i}{2}$  gives

$$\mathcal{C}_{k_{1},k_{2},k_{3},k_{4}}^{\frac{k_{1}}{2},\frac{k_{2}}{2},\frac{k_{3}}{2},\frac{k_{4}}{2}} = \int_{0}^{+\infty} \prod_{j=1}^{4} \frac{d\omega_{j}}{2\pi} (-i\epsilon_{j}\omega_{j})^{\frac{k_{j}}{2}-1} e^{-i\epsilon_{j}\omega_{j}u_{j}} \mathcal{A}_{4}^{k_{1},k_{2},k_{3},k_{4}}$$

$$= -\frac{\tilde{N}_{k_{i}}(-1)^{\frac{k_{1}+k_{3}}{2}} i\sum_{i=1}^{4}\frac{k_{i}}{2} \Gamma\left(-2+\sum_{i=1}^{4}\frac{k_{i}}{2}\right)}{V_{7}4\ell_{11}^{9}(2\pi)^{4}} \left[ (t_{12}t_{34})^{2-\mathcal{E}} \prod_{i$$

which agrees with (4.14) up to an overall k dependent normalization factor.

#### 6 Super conformal Carrollian correlators

In the previous sections, we obtained position space correlators at null infinity, which are interpreted as scalar correlators in a Carrollian ABJM theory. In this section, we discuss some basic kinematic properties of this theory by (i) deriving the superconformal Carrollian algebra, (ii) defining super conformal Carrollian primaries, (iii) relating the correlators of these operators with the above position space correlators at  $\mathscr{I}$ .

#### 6.1 Superconformal Carrollian algebra

The Carrollian limit of the superconformal algebra has been studied in [169, 170]. In this section, we revisit this discussion by keeping  $\mathcal{N}$  arbitrary and carefully treating the Majorana reality conditions for d = 3. We start from the superconformal algebra and follow the conventions of [171].

The bosonic generators are given by the Lorentz transformations  $J_{\mu\nu} = J_{[\mu\nu]}$  ( $J_{ij}$  are the spatial rotations and  $B_i = J_{0i}$  the boosts), the translations  $P_{\mu} = (-H, P_i)$ , the dilation D, and the special conformal transformations  $K_{\mu} = (-K, K_i)$ . They form the standard conformal algebra  $\mathfrak{so}(3, 2)$ . Furthermore, the fermionic generators  $Q_{\alpha}^{I}$  and  $S_{\alpha}^{I}$  ( $I = 1, \ldots, \mathcal{N}$ ,  $\alpha = 1, 2$ ) satisfy the anticommutation relations

$$\{Q^{I\alpha}, \bar{Q}_{J\beta}\} = 2\delta^{I}{}_{J}\gamma^{\mu\alpha}{}_{\beta}P_{\mu}, \quad \{S^{I\alpha}, \bar{S}_{J\beta}\} = 2\delta^{I}{}_{J}\gamma^{\mu\alpha}{}_{\beta}K_{\mu}, \{Q^{\alpha I}, \bar{S}_{\beta J}\} = -i\delta^{I}{}_{J}(2\delta^{\alpha}{}_{\beta}D + (\gamma^{[\mu}\gamma^{\nu]})^{\alpha}{}_{\beta}M_{\mu\nu}) + 2i\delta^{\alpha}{}_{\beta}R^{I}{}_{J}$$

$$(6.1)$$

where we defined the Majorana conjugation

$$\bar{Q}_J = (Q^J)^{\dagger} \gamma^0 = -(Q^J)^T \epsilon, \quad \bar{S}_J = (S^J)^{\dagger} \gamma^0 = -(S^J)^T \epsilon.$$
 (6.2)

Here  $\epsilon = (\epsilon_{\alpha\beta}) = (\epsilon_{[\alpha\beta]})$  with  $\epsilon_{01} = 1$  is the charge conjugation matrix. The 2 × 2 matrices  $\gamma^{\mu}$ ,  $\mu = 0, 1, 2$ , are given by

$$\gamma^0 = \sigma^3, \quad \gamma^1 = i\sigma^1, \quad \gamma^2 = i\sigma^2 \tag{6.3}$$

with  $\sigma^1, \sigma^2, \sigma^3$  the Pauli matrices, and satisfy the Clifford algebra  $\{\gamma^{\mu}, \gamma^{\nu}\} = 2\eta^{\mu\nu}$ . Thus, there are  $2\mathcal{N}$  independent fermionic generators. Finally, the *R*-symmetry generators  $R_{IJ} = R_{[IJ]}$  form an  $\mathfrak{so}(\mathcal{N})$  algebra,

$$[R_{IJ}, R_{KL}] = i(\delta^{IK} R^{JL} + \delta^{JL} R^{IK} - \delta^{IL} R^{JK} - \delta^{JK} R^{IL}).$$
(6.4)

They commute with the bosonic generators, and rotate the fermionic generators

$$[R_{IJ}, Q^K] = i(\delta_I^K \delta_{JD} - \delta_J^K \delta_{ID})Q^D, \qquad [R_{IJ}, S^K] = i(\delta_I^K \delta_{JD} - \delta_J^K \delta_{ID})S^D.$$
(6.5)

All the above generators constitute the superconformal algebra,  $\mathfrak{osp}(\mathcal{N}|4,\mathbb{R})$ .

We now implement the Carrollian limit of this algebra, corresponding to an İnönü-Wigner contraction. We start with the bosonic sector. We rescale the generators

$$H \to \frac{1}{c}H, \quad B_i \to \frac{1}{c}B_i, \quad K \to \frac{1}{c}K$$
 (6.6)

and keep the other bosonic generators untouched. Taking  $c \to 0$ , the  $\mathfrak{so}(3,2)$  algebra contracts into the global conformal Carrollian algebra  $\mathfrak{CCarr}_{3}^{\mathrm{glob}}$ . This algebra admits an infinitedimensional enhancement with supertranslations (and possibly superrotations), leading to the conformal Carrollian algebra,  $\mathfrak{CCarr}_{3} \simeq \mathfrak{bms}_{4}$ . In this work, we focus on the finite-dimensional global subalgebra. Possible extensions of the above contractions to the fermionic sector have been discussed in [169]. Here, we consider the symmetric (or "democratic") rescaling,

$$Q^{I\alpha} \to \frac{1}{\sqrt{c}} Q^{I\alpha}, \quad S^{I\alpha} \to \frac{1}{\sqrt{c}} S^{I\alpha}.$$
 (6.7)

Furthermore, we do not rescale the *R*-symmetry generators,  $R \to R$ , to keep a non-trivial *R*-symmetry algebra in the limit. Taking the  $c \to 0$  limit on (6.1), (6.4) and (6.5), we get

$$\{Q^{I\alpha}, \bar{Q}_{J\beta}\} = -2\delta^{I}{}_{J}\gamma^{0\alpha}{}_{\beta}H, \qquad \{S^{I\alpha}, \bar{S}_{J\beta}\} = -2\delta^{I}{}_{J}\gamma^{0\alpha}{}_{\beta}K, \tag{6.8}$$

$$\{Q^{\alpha I}, \bar{S}_{\beta J}\} = -2i\delta^{I}{}_{J}(\gamma^{[0}\gamma^{i]})^{\alpha}{}_{\beta}B_{i}, \qquad (6.9)$$

$$[R_{IJ}, R_{KL}] = i(\delta^{IK} R^{JL} + \delta^{JL} R^{IK} - \delta^{IL} R^{JK} - \delta^{JK} R^{IL}), \qquad (6.10)$$

$$[R_{IJ}, Q^K] = i(\delta_I^K \delta_{JD} - \delta_J^K \delta_{ID})Q^D, \qquad [R_{IJ}, S^K] = i(\delta_I^K \delta_{JD} - \delta_J^K \delta_{ID})S^D.$$
(6.11)

This defines the global superconformal Carrollian algebra in d = 3,  $\mathfrak{sCCarr}_{3}^{\mathrm{glob},\mathcal{N}}$ . Analogously to the bosonic case, this algebra admits an infinite-dimensional enhancement with both bosonic and fermionic supertranslations,  $\mathfrak{sCCarr}_{3}^{\mathcal{N}}$  [169], and also with (bosonic) superrotations [14, 172, 173]. Here we focus on the finite-dimensional global subalgebra.

We now show that  $\mathfrak{sCCarr}_3^{\mathrm{glob},\mathcal{N}}$  is isomorphic to the  $\mathcal{N}$ -extended super-Poincaré algebra in four dimensions,  $\mathfrak{spoin}(\mathcal{N}, 4)$ . To show that, let us recall the isomorphism between the global conformal Carrollian algebra in three dimensions and the Poincaré algebra in four dimensions,

. .

$$\mathfrak{CCarr}_3^{\mathrm{glob}} \simeq \mathfrak{iso}(3,1) \tag{6.12}$$

(see e.g. appendix B of [25] or section 3 of [115]). Hence, the bosonic sector of  $\mathfrak{sCCarr}_3^{\mathrm{glob},\mathcal{N}}$  is already taken care of. For the fermionic sector, the  $2\mathcal{N}$  bulk supersymmetry generators satisfy the algebra

$$\{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{Q}}_{\alpha}^{I}, \bar{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{Q}}}_{\dot{\alpha}}^{J}\} = 2\delta^{IJ}\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^{\mu}\boldsymbol{\mathcal{P}}_{\mu}$$
(6.13)

where  $\sigma^{\mu} = (\mathbb{I}, \sigma^i)$ ,  $\bar{\mathbf{Q}}^I = (\mathbf{Q}^I)^{\dagger}$  and  $\mathcal{P}_{\mu}$  the four-dimensional translation generator. Matching the *R*-symmetry structure between the two algebras is non-trivial an deserves further comments. The *R*-symmetry of  $\mathfrak{spoin}(\mathcal{N}, 4)$  is typically  $\mathfrak{u}(\mathcal{N})$  or  $\mathfrak{su}(\mathcal{N})$  with the supercharges transforming in the fundamental representation. There appears to be a mismatch with the  $\mathfrak{so}(\mathcal{N})$  *R*-symmetry of  $\mathfrak{sCCarr}_{3}^{\mathrm{glob},\mathcal{N}}$  induced from the  $c \to 0$  limit, and we do not have an obvious isomorphism. It would be interesting to investigate whether the *R*-symmetry at the boundary is enhanced beyond the naive  $\mathfrak{so}(\mathcal{N})$  to  $\mathfrak{su}(\mathcal{N})$  in holographic theories. Here, in order to make contact with the algebra at the boundary, we simply project onto  $\mathfrak{so}(\mathcal{N})$ . This projection is similar to the one done at the amplitude level in appendix C of [98]. One can then show that (6.13) reproduces (6.8) and (6.9) by performing the identifications

$$\mathcal{P}_0 = -\frac{1}{2}(H+K), \ , \mathcal{P}_1 = -B_1, \quad \mathcal{P}_2 = -B_2, \quad \mathcal{P}_3 = \frac{1}{2}(H-K)$$
 (6.14)

together with

$$\boldsymbol{\mathcal{Q}}_{1}^{I} = S^{I1} = -\bar{S}_{I2}, \quad \bar{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{Q}}}_{1}^{I} = \bar{S}^{I1} = S^{I2}, \quad \boldsymbol{\mathcal{Q}}_{2}^{I} = \bar{Q}_{I1} = Q^{I2}, \quad \bar{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{Q}}}_{2} = Q^{I1} = -\bar{Q}_{I2} \tag{6.15}$$

where in the second equalities, we used the Majorana reality conditions (6.2). Upon the above mentioned projection of the *R*-symmetry representation from  $\mathfrak{su}(\mathcal{N})$  to  $\mathfrak{so}(\mathcal{N})$ , the *R*-symmetry generators of the two algebras can simply be identified as  $\mathcal{R}_{IJ} \equiv R_{IJ}$ , ensuring that they satisfy the  $\mathfrak{so}(\mathcal{N})$  algebra (6.10). It is then straightforward to show that

$$[\boldsymbol{\mathcal{R}}_{IJ}, \boldsymbol{\mathcal{Q}}^{K}] = i(\delta_{I}^{K}\delta_{JD} - \delta_{J}^{K}\delta_{ID})\boldsymbol{\mathcal{Q}}^{D}, \qquad [\boldsymbol{\mathcal{R}}_{IJ}, \bar{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{Q}}}^{K}] = i(\delta_{I}^{K}\delta_{JD} - \delta_{J}^{K}\delta_{ID})\bar{\boldsymbol{\mathcal{Q}}}^{D}, \qquad (6.16)$$

together with (6.15) reproduce correctly (6.11). Therefore, upon the *R*-symmetry projection  $\mathfrak{su}(\mathcal{N}) \to \mathfrak{so}(\mathcal{N})$  in the right-hand side, we have established the important isomorphism

$$\mathfrak{sCCarr}_3^{\mathrm{glob},\mathcal{N}} \simeq \mathfrak{spoin}(\mathcal{N},4)$$
 (6.17)

generalizing the isomorphism (6.12) to the supersymmetric case. This matching of supersymmetries between the four-dimensional bulk and the three-dimensional boundary constitutes a strong hint towards Carrollian holography. Again, this isomorphism can be lifted to the infinite-dimensional algebras, where  $\mathfrak{sCarr}_{3}^{\mathcal{N}}$  is isomorphic to the super BMS algebra discussed in [169, 174–176] for  $\mathcal{N} = 1$ .

#### 6.2 Superconformal Carrollian primaries and correlators

Massless flat space amplitudes have been shown to be encoded in terms of boundary correlators of Carrollian CFT primaries at null infinity (we refer to [23-25, 62, 90, 95, 112-121] for recent developments). In this section and the next, we extend this statement to supersymmetric correlators. Conformal Carrollian primaries have been defined in [21, 23, 26, 115]. This definition is naturally found by taking the Carrollian limit of the definition of a conformal primary in CFT and rescaling the operators consistently (see (4.2)). Here we focus on singlets of scalar primaries, which are relevant to encode correlators of bulk scalar fields considered in the previous section. They are defined through the action of the subalgebra of operators preserving the origin:

$$[J_{ij}, \phi_{\Delta}(0)] = 0, \quad [B_i, \phi_{\Delta}(0)] = 0, [D, \phi_{\Delta}(0)] = -i\Delta\phi_{\Delta}(0), \quad [K, \phi_{\Delta}(0)] = 0, \quad [K_i, \phi_{\Delta}(0)] = 0$$
(6.18)

where  $\Delta$  is the conformal dimension. We can extend this definition to superconformal Carrollian primaries by replacing the two last conditions in (6.18) by

$$[S^{I\alpha}, \phi_{\Delta}(0)] = 0 = [\bar{S}_{I\alpha}, \phi_{\Delta}(0)]$$
(6.19)

where second equality automatically follows from the first one via the Marjorana condition (6.2). They transform in spin-s  $\mathfrak{so}(\mathcal{N})$  representations of the *R*-symmetry algebra:

$$[R_{IJ}, \phi_{\Delta}(0)] = \mathcal{R}^{(s)} \cdot \phi_{\Delta}(0). \tag{6.20}$$

Analogously to (2.3), we can contract the *R*-symmetry indices with null vectors  $t_I$  to obtain *R*-symmetry scalars

$$\phi_k = \phi^{I_1 \dots I_k} t_{I_1} \dots t_{I_k} \tag{6.21}$$

and, for the case of interest arising from the Carrollian limit of ABJM, we will have  $\Delta_k = \frac{k}{2}$ .

It is convenient to introduce fermionic coordinates  $\theta^{I\alpha}$  and  $\bar{\theta}_{I\alpha}$  satisfying the Majorana reality condition (6.2), i.e.  $\bar{\theta}_{I\alpha} = -\epsilon(\theta^I)^T$ . Superconformal Carrollian primaries can be seen as fields on the superspace,  $\phi_{\Delta}(u, z, \bar{z}, \theta^{I\alpha})$ . Using the translation operator on the superspace,

$$\phi_{\Delta}(x,\theta) = U\phi_{\Delta}(0,0)U^{-1}, \qquad U = e^{-i(-Hu + P_i x^i + Q_{I\alpha}\theta^{I\alpha})}$$
(6.22)

and following similar steps than those presented in [169] (but keeping  $\mathcal{N}$  general), one can deduce the action of all the super conformal Carrollian operators on the fields at any point of the superspace  $(x, \theta) = (u, z, \overline{z}, \theta^{I\alpha})$ . Denoting the infinitesimal variation of the field as the commutator

$$\delta\phi_{\Delta}(x,\theta)$$

$$= i \left[ aH + b^{j}B_{j} + kK + a^{j}P_{j} + \frac{1}{2}r^{jk}J_{jk} + \lambda D + k^{j}K_{j} + \epsilon^{I}\bar{Q}_{I} + \kappa^{I}\bar{S}_{I} + \frac{1}{2}\omega^{IJ}R_{IJ}, \phi_{\Delta}(x,\theta) \right]$$
(6.23)

where  $a, b^j, k, a^j, r^{jk} = r^{[jk]}, \lambda, k^j, \epsilon^I, \kappa^I$ , and  $\omega^{IJ} = \omega^{[IJ]}$  are the transformation parameters, the superconformal Carrollian Ward identities read as

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n} \langle \phi_{\Delta_1}(x_1, \theta_1^I) \dots \delta \phi_{\Delta_j}(x_j, \theta_j^I) \dots \phi_{\Delta_n}(x_n, \theta_n^I) \rangle = 0.$$
(6.24)

These Ward identities are associated with the global superconformal Carrollian algebra  $\mathfrak{sCCarr}_{3}^{\mathrm{glob},\mathcal{N}}$ . One could also write Ward identities for the infinite-dimensional algebra  $\mathfrak{sCCarr}_{3}^{\mathcal{N}}$ . The additional constraints on the correlators would be related to soft physics in the bulk (the fermionic supertranslation Ward identities have been shown to be equivalent to the leading soft gravitino theorem in the bulk [174]).

The superconformal Carrollian primary encode the information of a superconformal multiplet. One could expand it in terms of the fermionic coordinates as follows:

$$\phi_{\Delta}(x^{a},\theta^{I\alpha}) = \Phi_{\Delta}(x^{a}) + \theta^{I\alpha}\bar{\Psi}_{I\alpha}(x^{a}) + \dots$$
(6.25)

Each component  $\Phi_{\Delta}$ ,  $\overline{\Psi}_{I\alpha}$ , ... is a standard conformal Carrollian primary with a certain spin. In this paper, we were interested by the scalar components  $\phi_{\Delta}(x^a, 0) = \Phi_{\Delta}(x^a)$  and their associated correlators  $\langle \Phi_{\Delta_1}(x_1) \dots \Phi_{\Delta_n}(x_n) \rangle$ . These are the type of correlators found in the Carrollian limit of holographic correlators in section 4, or by modified Mellin transform in section 5. Indeed, this discussion provides an intrinsic Carrollian CFT definition for what the operators appearing in the left-hand side of the following integral transform are:

$$\langle \Phi_{k_1}(x_1)\dots\Phi_{k_n}(x_n)\rangle = \int_0^{+\infty} \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{d\omega_j}{2\pi} \left(-i\epsilon_j\omega_k\right)^{\frac{k_j}{2}-1} e^{-i\epsilon_j\omega_j u_j} \mathcal{A}_n^{k_1,\dots,k_n}.$$
 (6.26)

In the right-hand side,  $k_1, \ldots, k_n$  label the scalar KK modes. As discussed in the previous sections, the conformal dimension is completely fixed for each operator:  $\Delta_i = \frac{k_i}{2}$ .

## 7 Conclusion

In this paper we have taken the first step towards the ambitious goal of deriving a flat space Carrollian hologram from a canonical example of AdS/CFT, which relates the ABJM theory to M-theory in AdS<sub>4</sub>× S<sup>7</sup>. Our strategy was to take the  $c \rightarrow 0$  limit of ABJM correlators of protected operators and match them against the flat space limit of bulk supergravity calculations after integrating out the 7-sphere. Crucially, when doing so we worked at fixed KK mode number (corresponding to operators of fixed *R*-charge in the dual CFT), yielding four-dimensional bulk scattering amplitudes of  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  supergravity, dual to three dimensional Carrollian correlators. We also showed that the superconformal algebra of ABJM,  $\mathfrak{osp}(4|8)$ contracted to a subalgebra of super Poincaré algebra of  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  supergravity.

This paper opens up a number of new directions worth pursuing. Perhaps the most pressing of all is that it is still unclear how to obtain the scattering amplitudes of this paper from a 3D Carrollian boundary theory from first principles. As a first step, we may take the  $c \to 0$  limit of the ABJM theory, but various conceptual difficulties arise. As shown in [177], the Carrollian limit of 3D Chern-Simons matter theories contain kinetic terms of the form  $(\partial_u \phi)^2$ , where we restrict to scalar fields for simplicity. The resulting propagators are therefore of the form  $u \delta^2(z)$ , leading to a proliferation of delta functions which are incompatible with the structure of Carrollian correlators obtained by performing a modified Mellin transform of 4D supergravity amplitudes. A related problem is that the Carrollian correlators in (4.5) and (4.14) have non-local poles and branch cuts in the *u*-variables whose origin from Carrollian Feynman rules is completely unclear. We can simultaneously resolve these two issues by uplifting the Carrollian propagator to a 3D Lorentz-invariant propagator  $1/(-c^2u^2+2z\bar{z})$  and carefully taking  $c \to 0$ , effectively treating c as a regulator. On the other hand if we restore the *c*-dependence of the propagators, nothing prevents us from doing so for the interaction vertices. Another motivation for restoring c-dependence is to note that in the  $c \to 0$  limit, Chern-Simons matter theories have infinite dimensional Carrollian conformal symmetry (or  $BMS_4$  symmetry), but this symmetry must be broken to the global Carroll group in order to probe bulk physics beyond universal soft limits [178]. The question would then be how to do this in a minimal way such that the resulting theory encodes 4D scattering amplitudes in flat space without the additional baggage of an infinite series of curvature corrections. This naturally raises the question of whether Carrollian theories can be defined without resorting to a limiting procedure. Investigating the Carrollian analogues of conformal blocks and crossing symmetry would be an obvious place to start. We hope to address these question more systematically in the future.

Another important question is how to think about the flat space limit. In this paper we have treated AdS and the 7-sphere asymmetrically by holding charges of the dual operators fixed and integrating out the 7-sphere when taking the flat space limit, yielding 4D scattering amplitudes. This was motivated by the desire to understand how holography might work in 4d flat space. On the other hand, the radius of AdS and the 7-sphere cannot be taken to infinity independently, so when we take the flat space limit the bulk theory really becomes 11D flat space, which may be dual to a 10D Carrollian CFT. In principle, this should be visible from the CFT side if we take the charges to infinity at the appropriate rate. Alternatively, we could describe the resulting 11D amplitudes in terms of 4D amplitudes with massive kinematics. Perhaps the nicest context to explore such questions would be in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM, whose correlators exhibit a hidden 10D symmetry (at least in the supergravity limit [179–182]) which allows them to be repackaged into 10D master correlators whose Carrollian limit can in principle then be matched with 10D supergravity amplitudes in the flat space limit.

We hope that this paper sharpens the questions that need to be answered in order to realise the ambitious goal of deriving a concrete example of Carrollian holography from AdS/CFT and provides crucial data that any such proposal must satisfy.

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#### A Mellin amplitudes in ABJM

In this appendix, we will summarize the known tree-level Mellin amplitudes in ABJM while providing some of the explicit details needed for the computations in the main body of the paper.

#### A.1 $\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}$

The best understood case is the one with  $k_1 = \ldots k_4 = 2$  corresponding to  $\Delta_1 = \ldots \Delta_4 = 1$ . The Mellin amplitude admits an expansion in  $c_T$ 

$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2} = \frac{1}{c_T} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^R + \frac{1}{c_T^{\frac{5}{3}}} B^{R^4} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(4)}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{c_T^{\frac{7}{3}}} \left( B_4^{D^6 R^4} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(4)} + B_6^{D^6 R^4} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(6)} + B_7^{D^6 R^4} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(7)} \right) + \dots$$
(A.1)

 $\mathcal{M}^{R}_{2,2,2,2}$  is the tree-level supergravity term and is given by [99, 183]

$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{R}(s,t;\sigma,\tau) = \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2,s}^{R} + \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2,t}^{R} + \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2,u}^{R}$$
$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2,s}^{R}(s,t;\sigma,\tau) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} -\frac{3\left((t-2)(u-2) + (s+2)((t-2)\sigma + (u-2)\tau)\right)}{\sqrt{2\pi}N^{\frac{3}{2}}\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - m\right)^{2} m!\Gamma\left(m + \frac{5}{2}\right)(s-1-2m)}.$$
(A.2)

The sum over m in (A.2) can be performed to get

$$\mathcal{M}^{R}_{2,2,2,2,s}(s,t;\sigma,\tau) = \frac{3}{\sqrt{8\pi^{3}N^{3}}} \frac{1}{s(s+2)} [(t-2)(s+t-2) - \sigma(s+2)(t-2) + \tau(s+2)(s+t-2)] \\ \times \left[\sqrt{\pi}(s+4) - 4\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1-s}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(1-\frac{s}{2}\right)}\right]$$
(A.3)

The t, u channel Mellin amplitudes can be obtained from the s channel one via

$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2,t}^{R}(s,t;\sigma,\tau) = \tau^{2} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2,s}^{R}\left(t,s;\frac{\sigma}{\tau},\frac{1}{\tau}\right), \quad \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2,u}^{R}(s,t;\sigma,\tau) = \sigma^{2} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2,s}^{R}\left(u,t;\frac{1}{\sigma},\frac{\tau}{\sigma}\right).$$
(A.4)

 $\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^4, \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^6, \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^7$  are correction  $\frac{1}{N}$  to the Supergravity approximation. These are discussed in more detail in appendix (D). large polynomials in s, t.

# A.2 $\mathcal{M}_{2,2,k,k}$

We will also be interested in the amplitude with  $k_1 = k_2 = 2, k_3 = k_4 = k$ . This also admits a large  $c_T$  expansion but we will only focus on the leading term,

$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,k,k} = \frac{1}{c_T} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,k,k}^R. \tag{A.5}$$

The leading contributions are presented explicitly in [99]. Performing the sum over m, the s- channel Mellin amplitude is

$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,k,k,s} = \frac{3}{8\sqrt{2}\pi^{3/2}N^{3/2}s(s+2)} [(k-2t+2)(k-2u+2)-2(s+2)\sigma(k-2t+2)-2(s+2)\tau(k-2u+2)] \\ \times \left(\frac{\sqrt{\pi}(s-k(s+2))}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}\right)} + \frac{2k\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{s}{2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{k-s}{2}\right)}\right)$$
(A.6)

The t- channel Mellin amplitude is more complicated and is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,k,k,t} = \frac{-3k\tau\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}+1\right)\left[(k+2t+2)(k-2u+2)+2\sigma(k-s)(k+2t+2)-2\tau(k-s)(k-2u+2)\right]}{4\sqrt{2}\pi\sqrt{N^3}(k-2t)\Gamma\left(\frac{k-1}{2}\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{3+k}{2}\right)} \times {}_{3}F_{2}\left(\frac{1}{2},\frac{1}{2},\frac{k}{4}-\frac{t}{2};\frac{k}{2}+\frac{3}{2},\frac{k}{4}-\frac{t}{2}+1;1\right)$$
(A.7)

For even k, we can replace the hypergeometric function by (see the Mathematica file supplied with [100])

$${}_{3}F_{2}\left(\frac{1}{2},\frac{1}{2},\frac{k}{4}-\frac{t}{2};\frac{k}{2}+\frac{3}{2},\frac{k}{4}-\frac{t}{2}+1;1\right) = \frac{\pi\left(k-2t\right)\Gamma\left(\frac{3+k}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{2-k+2t}{4}\right)_{\frac{2+k}{2}}} \left[\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{4}-\frac{t}{2}\right)}{4\pi\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{4}+\frac{1}{2}-\frac{t}{2}\right)} - \sum_{i=0}^{\lceil\frac{k-1}{2}\rceil}x_{i}t^{i}\right],\tag{A.8}$$

with the coefficients  $x_i$  being determined in the Mathematica file. For our purposes, we will only need the coefficient of the highest power of t. For even k, since  $\lfloor \frac{k-1}{2} \rfloor = \frac{k}{2}$ , this is

$$x_{\frac{k}{2}} = \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1+k}{2}\right)}{4\pi 2^{\frac{k}{2}}\Gamma^2\left(1+\frac{k}{2}\right)} \tag{A.9}$$

Plugging this into  $\mathcal{M}_{2,2,k,k,t}$ , we get

$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,k,k,t} = \frac{-3k\tau\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{2}+1\right)\left[-(k+2t+2)(k-2u+2)+2\sigma(k-s)(k+2t+2)-2\tau(k-s)(k-2u+2)\right]}{4\sqrt{2}\sqrt{N^3}\Gamma\left(\frac{k-1}{2}\right)\left[\prod_{n=0}^{\frac{k}{2}}\left(\frac{t}{2}+\frac{k}{4}+\frac{1}{2}-n\right)\right]} \times \left[\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{4}-\frac{t}{2}\right)}{4\pi\Gamma\left(\frac{k}{4}+\frac{1}{2}-\frac{t}{2}\right)} - \sum_{i=0}^{\lceil\frac{k-1}{2}\rceil}x_it^i\right]$$
(A.10)

Finally,  $\mathcal{M}_{2,2,k,k,u}(s,t,\sigma,\tau) = \mathcal{M}_{2,2,k,k,t}(s,u,\tau,\sigma).$ 

# A.3 $\mathcal{M}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4}$

It is not possible to easily express correlator for general  $k_i$  as a sum over a finite number of  $\overline{D}$  functions. In this case, we appeal to the equivalence of the Carrollian and high energy limits shown in appendix [B] and just present the leading high energy behavior in Mellin space which can be easily converted to position space. From [99], we have

$$\lim_{s,t\to\infty} \mathcal{M}_{k_1,k_2,k_3,k_4} = \frac{\mathcal{N}_{k_i}}{N^{\frac{3}{2}}} \frac{(tu+st\sigma+\tau su)^2}{stu} \mathcal{P}_{k_i}(\sigma,\tau) = \frac{\mathcal{N}_{k_i}}{N^{\frac{3}{2}}} \frac{(s+t-s\alpha)^2(s+t-s\bar{\alpha})^2}{stu} \mathcal{P}_{k_i}(\sigma,\tau),$$
(A.11)

where

$$\mathcal{P}_{k_i}\left(\sigma,\tau\right) = \sum_{\substack{i+j+k=\mathcal{E}-2\\0\le i,j,k\le \mathcal{E}-2}} \frac{\left(\mathcal{E}-2\right)! \sigma^i \tau^j}{i! j! \left(i+\frac{\kappa_u}{2}\right)! \left(j+\frac{\kappa_t}{2}\right)! \left(\frac{\kappa_u}{2}\right)!},\tag{A.12}$$

and in the final equality in (A.11), we have defined new variables  $\alpha, \bar{\alpha}$  by

$$\sigma = \alpha \bar{\alpha}, \qquad \tau = (1 - \alpha) \left(1 - \bar{\alpha}\right), \tag{A.13}$$

and used the fact that s + t + u = 0.

# B High energy limit versus Carrollian limit

An efficient way of computing the flat space limit starting from the Mellin amplitude is to take its high energy limit  $(s, t \to \infty)$  [164, 184, 185].<sup>8</sup> In this section, we will demonstrate that this is equivalent to taking the Carrollian limit in position space. We will do this by showing that the following procedures yield identical results:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>This procedure results in a flat space amplitude with massless external particles. We will restrict to this case in this paper.

- ▷ First compute the leading term in the high-energy limit of a generic Mellin amplitude. Convert this to position space using (B.2).
- ▷ First compute the position space correlator using (B.2) and then take the Carrollian limit.

We will show this equivalence for tree-level contact and exchange diagrams involving external scalars. The internal operator in the case of exchange diagrams could have any spin. The following definitions will come in handy.

$$\langle O_1(x_1)\dots O_4(x_4)\rangle = \frac{1}{(x_{12}^2)^{\frac{\Delta_1+\Delta_2}{2}}(x_{34}^2)^{\frac{\Delta_3+\Delta_4}{2}}} \left(\frac{x_{14}^2}{x_{24}^2}\right)^a \left(\frac{x_{14}^2}{x_{13}^2}\right)^b \mathcal{G}(U,V), \tag{B.1}$$

where

$$a = \frac{1}{2}(\Delta_2 - \Delta_1), \quad b = \frac{1}{2}(\Delta_3 - \Delta_4),$$

and

$$\mathcal{G}(U,V) = \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{ds \, dt}{(4\pi i)^2} U^{\frac{s}{2}} V^{\frac{t}{2} - \frac{\Delta_2 + \Delta_3}{2}} \mathcal{M}(s,t) \, \Gamma_{\{\Delta_i\}},\tag{B.2}$$

with

$$\Gamma_{\{\Delta_i\}} = \Gamma\left(\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\Delta_3 + \Delta_4 - s}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_4 - t}{2}\right)$$
(B.3)  
$$\Gamma\left(\frac{\Delta_2 + \Delta_3 - t}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_3 - u}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\Delta_2 + \Delta_4 - u}{2}\right).$$

# **B.1** Contact diagrams

In Mellin space, contact diagrams are just polynomials in s, t. Let

$$\mathcal{M}^{c}(s,t) = \sum_{a=a_{0},b=b_{0}}^{a_{1},b_{1}} \chi_{a,b} s^{a} t^{b}.$$
 (B.4)

**Position space correlator.** The position space correlator can be written as a sum of  $\overline{D}$  functions in a straightforward manner.

$$\mathcal{G}^{c}\left(U,V\right) = \sum_{a=a_{0},b=b_{0}}^{a_{1},b_{1}} \chi_{a,b} \left(2U\partial_{U}\right)^{a} \left(2V\partial_{V} + \Delta_{2} + \Delta_{3}\right)^{b} \left(U^{\frac{\Delta_{1}+\Delta_{2}}{2}} \bar{D}_{\Delta_{1},\Delta_{2},\Delta_{3},\Delta_{4}}\right)$$
(B.5)

For the Carrollian limit, we are only interested in the leading singular term as  $Z \to \overline{Z}$  which is

$$\mathcal{G}^{c,l.s}\left(U,V\right) = (-1)^{a_1+b_1} \chi_{a_1,b_1} \left(2U\right)^{a_1} \left(2V\right)^{b_1} U^{\frac{\Delta_1+\Delta_2}{2}} \phi^{l.s}_{\Delta_1+a_1,\Delta_2+a_1+b_1,\Delta_3+b_1,\Delta_4}, \quad (B.6)$$

where  $\phi_{\Delta_1+a_1,\Delta_2+a_1+b_1,\Delta_3+b_1,\Delta_4}^{l.s}$  is the leading singularity of the  $\overline{D}$  function (2.19).

**High energy limit of**  $\mathcal{M}^{\mathbf{c}}(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{t})$ . In the limit  $s, t \to \infty$ ,  $\mathcal{M}^{c}(s, t) \xrightarrow{s, t \to \infty} \chi_{a_1, b_1} s^{a_1} t^{b_1}$ . It is easy to see that the position space correlator corresponding to this agrees with (B.6), thus proving the equivalence of two limits for scalar contact diagrams.

#### **B.2** Exchange diagrams

Exchange diagrams in Mellin space take the form

$$\mathcal{M}_{\Delta_E,\ell_E}^{\mathrm{ex}}\left(s,t\right) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{f_{m,\ell_E} Q_{\ell_E}\left(t,u\right)}{s - \tau_E - 2m},\tag{B.7}$$

where  $\tau_E = \Delta_E - \ell_E$  is the twist of the exchanged operator, with  $\Delta_E, \ell_E$  being its conformal dimension and spin respectively.  $f_{m,\ell_E}$  is a coefficient independent of s, t, u and  $Q_{\ell_E}$  is a polynomial of degree  $\ell_E$  in t, u. Explicit expressions for these can be found in appendix B of [99].<sup>9</sup>

**Position space correlator.** As shown in [90], the flat space limit of an exchange diagram is independent of the conformal dimension of the exchanged operator.<sup>10</sup> We can therefore freely assume  $\tau_E = \Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - 2m_0$  and write

$$\mathcal{M}_{\Delta_{E},\ell_{E}}^{\mathrm{ex}}\left(s,t\right) = \sum_{m=0}^{m_{0}} \frac{f_{m,\ell_{E}} Q_{\ell_{E}}\left(t,u\right)}{s - (\Delta_{1} + \Delta_{2}) + 2k_{m}},\tag{B.8}$$

where  $k_m = (m_0 - m)$ . The sum truncates since  $f_{m,\ell_E}$  vanishes for  $m > m_0$ . We can write this as a finite sum of  $\overline{D}$  functions in position space by using the identity (valid when  $k_m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ).

$$\frac{1}{s - (\Delta_1 + \Delta_2) + 2k_m} \Gamma\left(\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - s}{2}\right) = -\frac{1}{2} \Gamma\left(\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - s}{2} - k_m\right) \prod_{n=1}^{k_m - 1} \left[\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - s}{2} - n\right],\tag{B.9}$$

in (B.2) and arriving at

$$\mathcal{G}_{\Delta_{E},\ell_{E}}^{\mathrm{ex}}(U,V) = -\sum_{m=0}^{m_{0}} \frac{f_{m,\ell_{E}}}{2} \hat{Q}_{\ell_{E}} \prod_{n=1}^{k_{m}-1} \left[ \frac{\Delta_{1}+\Delta_{2}}{2} - U \partial_{U} - n \right] \left( U^{\frac{\Delta_{1}+\Delta_{2}r}{2} - k_{m}} \bar{D}_{\Delta_{1}-k_{m},\Delta_{2}-k_{m},\Delta_{3},\Delta_{4}} \right), \tag{B.10}$$

where  $\hat{Q}_{\ell_E}$  is a differential operator obtained from  $Q_{\ell_E}$  by the replacements

$$t \to \mathcal{D}_t = 2V\partial_V + \Delta_2 + \Delta_3, \qquad u \to \mathcal{D}_u = \Delta_1 + \Delta_4 - 2U\partial_U - 2V\partial_V.$$
 (B.11)

The most singular term in (B.10) arises from the terms of degree  $\ell_E$  in  $Q_{m,\ell_E}(t,u)$ . To this end, let us write

$$\mathcal{Q}_{\ell_E}(s,t) = \tilde{\mathcal{Q}} + \sum_{a+b=\ell_E} \chi_{a,b} t^a u^b$$
(B.12)

where  $\hat{Q}$  is a lower degree polynomial and  $\chi_{a,b}$  are coefficients which are independent of t, u. Their explicit form can be easily extracted from appendix B of [99]. We now have

$$\mathcal{G}_{\Delta_E,\ell_E}^{\text{ex},l.s}(U,V) = -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_{m=0}^{m_0} f_{m,\ell_E} \right] \sum_{a+b=\ell_E} (-1)^a \chi_{a,b} 2^{a+b} V^a U^{\frac{\Delta_1+\Delta_2}{2}-1} \Phi_{\Delta_1-1,\Delta_2-1+a+b,\Delta_3+a,\Delta_4+b}^{l.s}.$$
(B.13)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Note that here these polynomials are called  $Q_{m,\ell_E}$ . However, they are independent of m and we have chosen to drop the subscript m here in order to avoid confusion.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>We remind the reader that we are assuming that the conformal dimension doesn't scale with  $\ell$  in this limit.

**High energy limit of**  $\mathcal{M}_{\Delta_{\mathbf{E}},\ell_{\mathbf{E}}}^{\mathbf{ex}}$  (s, t). We will take the high energy limit by first writing  $u = \Sigma_{\Delta} - s - t$  and then taking  $s, t \to \infty$  which yields

$$\mathcal{M}_{\Delta_{E},\ell_{E}}^{\mathrm{ex}}\left(s,t\right) \xrightarrow{s,t\to\infty} \frac{\sum_{a+b=\ell_{E}} \chi_{a,b} t^{a} u^{b}}{s} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} f_{m,\ell_{E}}.$$
(B.14)

We can use the identity<sup>11</sup>

$$\frac{1}{s}\Gamma\left(\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - s}{2}\right) = -\frac{1}{2}\Gamma\left(-\frac{s}{2}\right)\prod_{n=1}^{k-1}\left[\frac{k-s}{2} - n\right],\tag{B.15}$$

and (B.2) to convert the above expression to position space to get

$$\mathcal{G}_{\Delta_E,\ell_E}^{\text{ex},l.s}(U,V) = -\frac{1}{2} \left[ \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} f_{m,\ell_E} \right] \sum_{a+b=\ell_E} (-1)^a \chi_{a,b} 2^{a+b} V^a U^{\frac{\Delta_1+\Delta_2}{2}-1} \Phi_{\Delta_1-1,\Delta_2-1+a+b,\Delta_3+a,\Delta_4+b}^{l.s}$$
(B.16)

which is in agreement with (B.13) thus showing equivalence of the two limits for scalar exchange diagrams.

#### C Lower-point Carrollian amplitudes

In section (5.2), we obtained the Carrollian limit of 4-point ABJM correlators from a bulk perspective by dimensionally reducing the 11d gravity amplitude and performing a modified Mellin transform. In this appendix, we will describe an analogous calculation at two and three points.

Let us start with the 2-point amplitude:

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = (e_1 \cdot e_2)^2 \ 2P_1^0 \ (2\pi)^{10} \ \delta^{(10)} \ (P_1 + P_2) \,. \tag{C.1}$$

We will dimensionally reduce this to 4D by setting the momenta along all but four directions to zero. This results in  $\delta^{(7)}(0)$  which we regulate by replacing it by  $V_7$ , the volume of the  $S^7$  with radius  $\ell$ , with  $\ell \to \infty$ . Furthermore taking  $\epsilon_1 \cdot \epsilon_2 = t_{12}$  gives

$$\mathcal{A}_2 = t_{12}^2 \, 2P_1^0 V_7 \left(2\pi\right)^3 \delta^{(3)} \left(P_1 + P_2\right),\tag{C.2}$$

which is in agreement with (5.3). We may then perform the Fourier transform (2.7) as described in section (2.2) to obtain the expression in (4.3) with  $k_1 = k_2 = 2$ . Moreover, to get the higher charge 2-point functions, we dress with external states given in (5.17), regulate the resulting divergent integral by placing it on  $S^7$  and perform the modified Mellin transform (5.25) with  $\Delta_i = \frac{k_i}{2}$ .

Now let us consider 3-point amplitude:

$$\mathcal{A}_{3} = (e_{1} \cdot e_{2}e_{3} \cdot P_{1} + \text{cyclic})^{2} \, \delta^{(11)}(\sum_{i} P_{i})$$
  
=  $(e_{1} \cdot e_{2}e_{3} \cdot P_{1} + e_{2} \cdot e_{3}e_{1} \cdot P_{2} - e_{3} \cdot e_{1}e_{2} \cdot P_{1})^{2} \, \delta^{(11)}(\sum_{i} P_{i}),$  (C.3)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Even though this identity is valid only when  $\frac{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2}{2} \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the final result in terms of  $\overline{D}$  functions holds for all values of  $\Delta_1, \Delta_2$ .

where we used momentum conservation and  $e_2 \cdot P_2 = 0$  to obtain third term in the second line. Now write out the terms in the product explicitly:

$$\mathcal{A}_{3} = \Big[ (e_{1} \cdot e_{2} e_{3} \cdot P_{1})^{2} + (e_{2} \cdot e_{3} e_{1} \cdot P_{2})^{2} + (e_{3} \cdot e_{1} e_{2} \cdot P_{1})^{2} + 2e_{1} \cdot e_{2} e_{3} \cdot P_{1} e_{2} \cdot e_{3} e_{1} \cdot P_{2} \\ - 2e_{2} \cdot e_{3} e_{1} \cdot P_{2} e_{3} \cdot e_{1} e_{2} \cdot P_{1} - 2e_{1} \cdot e_{2} e_{3} \cdot P_{1} e_{3} \cdot e_{1} e_{2} \cdot P_{1} \Big] \delta^{(11)} (\sum_{i} P_{i}).$$
(C.4)

Repeating the dimensional reduction procedure we performed for the two point-case and setting  $e_i \cdot P_j = 0$ , we find that amplitude scales as  $\ell^5$  which is consistent with the cubic term in the action (3.2). Let us next fix the magnitude of the 7d momenta and integrate over their directions [2]:

$$P_i^A P_j^B \to \frac{1}{\ell^2} \int d^6 \hat{p}_i^A d^6 \hat{p}_j^B = \frac{1}{\ell^2} \delta_{ij} \delta^{AB} \tag{C.5}$$

where  $\hat{p}_i^A$  is a unit vector and we take the magnitude to be  $1/\ell$  up to a numerical factor which we ignore. After performing this integral, the terms in the first line of (C.4) vanish because they are proportional to  $e_i^2 = 0$ , the terms in the second line vanish because they are proportional to  $\delta_{ij} = 0$  for  $i \neq j$ , and the third line yields

$$\mathcal{A}_3 \to -\frac{2V_7}{\ell^2} e_1 \cdot e_2 \, e_2 \cdot e_3 \, e_3 \cdot e_1 \delta^{(4)}(\sum_i P_i) = -\frac{2V_7}{\ell^2} t_{12} t_{23} t_{13} \delta^{(4)}(\sum_i P_i). \tag{C.6}$$

Which reproduces the *R*-symmetry structure found in (4.5) for  $k_i = 2$ . To get higher charge correlators, we dress with external states in (5.17) and regulate the divergence by integrating over  $S^7$ . We may then perform the modified Mellin transform with  $\Delta_i = \frac{k_i}{2}$  to obtain (4.5).

# D Carrollian amplitudes of higher derivative corrections

In this appendix, we will compute the Carrollian amplitudes corresponding to  $\frac{1}{N}$  corrections to  $\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}$ . These correspond to higher derivative corrections to supergravity arising from M-theory. The Mellin amplitudes can be found in [98, 186] and also in the Mathematica file accompanying [101].

$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2} = \frac{1}{c_T} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^R + \frac{1}{c_T^{\frac{5}{3}}} B^{R^4} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(4)}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{c_T^{\frac{7}{3}}} \left( B_4^{D^6 R^4} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(4)} + B_6^{D^6 R^4} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(6)} + B_7^{D^6 R^4} \mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(7)} \right) + \dots,$$
(D.1)

where

$$B_4^{R^4} = 1120 \left(\frac{2}{9\pi^8 k_{\rm CS}^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}, \qquad B_4^{D^6 R^4} = -\frac{1352960}{9} \left(\frac{36}{\pi^{10} k_{\rm CS}^4}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}, \\ B_6^{D^6 R^4} = -220528 \left(\frac{36}{\pi^{10} k_{\rm CS}^4}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}, \qquad B_7^{D^6 R^4} = 16016 \left(\frac{36}{\pi^{10} k_{\rm CS}^4}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}}.$$
(D.2)

Since we are only interested in the Carrollian limit, it suffices to consider the leading high energy terms in the Mellin amplitudes, following appendix (B):

$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(4),\text{HE}} = (s+t-s\alpha)^2 (s+t-s\bar{\alpha})^2, \qquad (D.3)$$
  
$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(6),\text{HE}} = 2 \left(s^2+t^2+st\right) (s+t-s\alpha)^2 (s+t-s\bar{\alpha})^2, \qquad (D.3)$$
  
$$\mathcal{M}_{2,2,2,2}^{(7),\text{HE}} = stu \left(s+t-s\alpha\right)^2 \left(s+t-s\bar{\alpha}\right)^2.$$

This  $\frac{1}{N}$  expansion of the Mellin amplitude neatly organizes into a *u*-derivative expansion of the Carrollian amplitude as shown below:

$$\lim_{\ell \to \infty} \frac{V_7}{(2\pi)^4} \langle \mathcal{O}_2 \dots \mathcal{O}_2 \rangle = \left[ 1 + f_1 \left( \ell_{11} \partial_{u_4} \right)^6 + f_2 \left( \ell_{11} \partial_{u_4} \right)^{10} + f_3 \left( \ell_{11} \partial_{u_4} \right)^{11} \right] \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_4.$$
(D.4)

The  $f_i$  are functions depending on the coordinates on the celestial sphere and are given by

$$f_{3} = \mathcal{N}_{3}f_{1}^{2}, \qquad f_{2} = \mathcal{N}_{2} \left| \frac{z_{24}}{z_{12}} \right|^{4} \left( (1-z)^{2} \left| \frac{z_{34}}{z_{23}} \right|^{4} - z(1-z) \left| \frac{z_{34}}{z_{23}} \right|^{2} + z^{2} \right) f_{1},$$
  
$$f_{1} = \mathcal{N}_{1}z^{2} \left| z_{24} \right|^{2} \left| z_{34} \right|^{2} \left| z_{14} \right|^{4}, \qquad (D.5)$$

where  $\mathcal{N}_i$  are numerical constants. This expansion is reminiscent of how the  $\alpha'$  expansion of Carrollian string amplitudes is converted to a *u*-derivative expansion [118].

**Data Availability Statement.** This article has no associated data or the data will not be deposited.

**Code Availability Statement.** This article has no associated code or the code will not be deposited.

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