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Symmetries of Black Hole Perturbations

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with

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Gravitational-wave astronomy

- The direct detection of gravitational waves from merging binary systems sparked an explosive growth in the field of gravitational-wave astronomy.
- Unique opportunity to test general relativity in the strong-field regime, shed light on the fundamental aspects of gravity and black holes, probe the fundamental nature of astrophysical compact objects.
- Extraordinary scientific potential of upgraded detectors and future facilities.





[[]Nature Reviews Physics, 3, 344-366 (2021)]

We are witnessing the dawn of the era of precision physics with gravitational waves.
[Berti et al. '15], [Barack et al. '18], [Cardoso and Pani '19], [Baibhav et al. '19], [Barausse et al. '20], [Perkins, Yunes and Berti '20], [Bailes et al. '21], [Berti et al. '22]...





Symmetries of black holes

- Black hole perturbation theory has a long history starting from the work of Regge and Wheeler, Zerilli, Teukolsky, Chandrasekhar...
- Interestingly, recent investigations suggest the subject has depths yet to be plumbed.



Symmetries of black holes

• "The black holes of nature are the most perfect macroscopic objects there are in the universe: the only elements in their construction are our concepts of space and time."

(S. Chandrasekhar, "The mathematical theory of black holes")

- Black holes are among the simplest and most robust objects in nature: uniquely determined by their mass and spin (and charge).
- This *simplicity* is inherited by the perturbations.
- Some aspects of this *simplicity* are well understood in terms of (hidden) symmetries of general relativity.



Outline

I will focus on static perturbations and tidal Love numbers of black holes in general relativity.





Static response and tidal deformability

• The Love numbers are the coefficients encoding the (conservative) tidal deformability of a compact object (analogous to the electric and magnetic susceptibilities in EM).



• In EM we solve $\overrightarrow{\nabla}^2 \Phi = 0$:

Φ

$$\operatorname{ext} = \sum_{\ell} A_{\ell} \left[r^{\ell} + k_{\ell} r^{-\ell-1} \right] P_{\ell}(\cos \theta), \qquad \Phi_{\operatorname{int}} = \sum_{\ell} B_{\ell} r^{\ell} P_{\ell}(\cos \theta)$$

- The boundary condition at $r = +\infty$ fixes A_{ℓ} , while k_{ℓ} and B_{ℓ} are determined by regularity conditions across the surface (continuity of \vec{E}_{\parallel} and \vec{D}_{\perp}).
- For instance, if $\vec{E}_0 = A_1 \hat{z}$, one finds $k_{\ell=1} = -\frac{\epsilon/\epsilon_0 1}{\epsilon/\epsilon_0 + 2}r_0^3$ (ϵ_0 and ϵ are the vacuum and dielectric permittivities).
- k_{ℓ} are the coefficients of the induced response.



Tidal deformability of compact objects

 One can distinguish between conservative response (Love numbers) and dissipative response (*tidal heating*).
[Fang and Lovelace '05], [Damour and Nagar '09], [Binnington and Poisson '05]

BH-BH

• Tidal effects change the dynamics during the inspiral.

BH-NS

[Credit: T. Hinderer]



 Love numbers and dissipative numbers carry relevant information about the object's structure and interior dynamics:

_ equation of state of neutron stars; [Flanagan and Hinderer '07], [Vines, Flanagan and Hinderer '11], [Bini, Damour and Faye '12], [Baiotti and Rezzolla '17], [...]

_ physics at the horizon of black holes and fundamental aspects of gravity in strong-field regime; [Hui, Joyce, Penco, LS and Solomon '21, '22], [Charalambous, Dubovsky and Ivanov '21], [...]

_ new physics and existence of new types of compact objects. [Franzin et al. '17], [Cardoso et al. '17], [Cardoso and Pani '19], [...]

Luca Santoni



Tidal deformability of compact objects

- The measurement of tidal deformation is challenging with current detectors.
- In the Post-Newtonian (PN) regime of the inspiral, leading-order tidal effects are associated with tidal heating: start from 2.5PN order for spinning objects and 4PN order for non-rotating ones. [Poisson and Sasaki '94], [Tagoshi et al. '97], [Blanchet '13], [...] Conservative effects start from 5PN. [Damour '83], [Porto '16], [...]
- Example of constraints on tidal heating from LKV O1-O3 data: [Chia, Zhou and Ivanov '24]. Constraints on black hole dissipative coefficients still 2 orders of magnitudes larger than theoretical value.
- We can search for exotic compact objects (e.g., boson stars, DM stars...) with large λ . Example of matched-filtering search for binaries with compact objects with $10^2 \leq \lambda \leq 10^6$: [Chia et al. '23].
- Precise measurements of tidal coefficients possible in the future. [Piovano, Maselli, Pani '22], [Maggiore et al '19], [lacovelli et al '23], [...]





Tidal Love numbers of black holes

- In linear perturbation theory, an explicit calculation in general relativity shows that Love numbers of black holes vanish, as opposed to other types of compact objects:
 - _ Schwarzschild BHs: [Fang and Lovelace '05], [Binnington and Poisson '09], [Damour and Nagar '09], [...]
 - _ Kerr BHs: [Le Tiec, Casals '20], [Le Tiec, Casals, Franzin '20], [Chia '20], [Charalambous, Dubovsky, Ivanov '21], [...]
 - _ Reissner-Nordström BHs: [Cardoso et al. '17], [Rai and LS '24]
- This is special of 4D general relativity: Love numbers are nonzero for different objects, modified gravity theories, BHs in higher spacetime dimensions.
- As opposed to the EM example, the calculation of the induced response in general relativity is affected by ambiguities in the choice of coordinate system, source/response split, and nonlinearities.

[Kol and Smolkin '11], [Hui, Joyce, Penco, LS, Solomon '20], [Le Tiec, Casals '20], [Charalambous, Dubovsky, Ivanov '21], [...]





Point-particle effective theory

- There is a completely unambiguous way of defining the tidal response coefficients based on an effective field theory. [Goldberger and Rothstein '04, '05, ...], [Kol and Smolkin '11], [Porto '16]
- Let us consider e.g. a scalar field around a black hole:

$$S = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^4 x \, (\partial \phi)^2 - M \int d\tau + \int d\tau \left[-g\phi + \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_\ell}{2\ell!} \left(\partial_{(a_1} \cdots \partial_{a_\ell)_T} \phi \right)^2 \right]$$

- λ_{ℓ} are the Love number coefficients.
- One generically expects: $\lambda_{\ell} \sim \mathcal{O}(1) r_s^{2\ell-1}$ and to find (classical) RG running.



• Following 't Hooft's naturalness principle, the vanishing of the Love numbers in D=4 is a naturalness puzzle from an EFT perspective. [Rothstein '14], [Porto '16]

$$S = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^4 x \, (\partial \phi)^2 - M \int d\tau + \int d\tau \left[-g\phi + \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{\lambda_\ell}{2\ell!} \left(\partial_{(a_1} \cdots \partial_{a_\ell)_T} \phi \right)^2 \right]$$

• Looks like something that can very likely follow from a symmetry in the theory.



- In [2105.01069] we showed that the vanishing of Love numbers is the consequence of linearly realized symmetries governing static perturbations around black holes.
- Take the Klein–Gordon equation with $\omega = 0$ (static limit):

$$\partial_r \left(\Delta \partial_r \phi_\ell \right) - \ell (\ell + 1) \phi_\ell = 0 , \qquad \Delta = r(r - r_s) .$$

- The raising and lowering operators $D_{\ell}^{+} \equiv -\Delta \partial_{r} + \frac{\ell+1}{2}(r_{s} - 2r), \qquad D_{\ell}^{-} \equiv \Delta \partial_{r} + \frac{\ell}{2}(r_{s} - 2r)$ are a symmetry of the static KG equation – they "commute" with the "Hamiltonian" $H_{\ell} \equiv -\Delta \partial_{r} \left(\Delta \partial_{r} \right) + \ell(\ell + 1)\Delta, \qquad H_{\ell} \phi_{\ell} = 0,$ $H_{\ell+1} D_{\ell}^{+} = D_{\ell}^{+} H_{\ell}, \qquad H_{\ell-1} D_{\ell}^{-} = D_{\ell}^{-} H_{\ell}.$
- This representation has a "ground state", $\ell = 0$, which satisfies $\partial_r (\Delta \partial_r \phi_0) = 0$. The good ground state (regular at the horizon) is $\phi_0 = \text{const.}$, s.t. $D_0^- \phi_0 = 0$.
- From this one, apply a string of raising operators to construct the solution at level ℓ , $\phi_{\ell} = D_{\ell-1}^+ D_{\ell-2}^+ \cdots D_0^+ \phi_0$. This is a *polynomial* in *r*.

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[Hui, Joyce, Penco, LS and Solomon '21]

$$\partial_r \left(\Delta \partial_r \phi_0 \right) = 0$$
, $\Delta = r(r - r_s)$.

• One could have chosen an $\ell = 0$ state such that it goes as $\frac{1}{r}$ as $r \to \infty$. This is not a good ground state: $\sim \log(r - r_s)$ as $r \to r_s$.

• The vanishing of the Love numbers (absence of $r^{-\ell-1}$ falloff) follows from two facts:

(a) the existence of a ladder structure (generalized special conformal symmetry) allowing one to connect any level- ℓ solution to the level-0 solution;

(b) the good level-0 solution obeys a first-order differential equation, thus connecting a single (regular) asymptotic behavior at the horizon with a single (r^{ℓ}) asymptotic behavior at large r.

[Hui, Joyce, Penco, LS and Solomon '21, '22], [Achour, Livine, Mukohyama, Uzan '22]





[Hui, Joyce, Penco, LS and Solomon '21]

• The symmetry has a geometric origin: it arises from the (E)AdS isometries of a dimensionally reduced black hole spacetime.

Static scalar action on a Schwarzschild background:

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int d\theta d\varphi dr \sqrt{g} \phi \Box \phi, \qquad ds^2 = dr^2 + \Delta \left(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2 \right).$$

After a Weyl rescaling, the metric becomes EAdS₃ with

$$\tilde{g}_{ij} = \Omega^2 g_{ij}, \qquad \tilde{\phi} = \Omega^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi, \qquad \text{where} \qquad \Omega \equiv L^2 / \Delta,$$

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \sqrt{\tilde{g}} \left(\tilde{\phi} \,\tilde{\Box} \,\tilde{\phi} + \frac{r_s^2}{4L^4} \tilde{\phi}^2 \right), \qquad d\tilde{s}^2 = dr_\star^2 + \frac{4L^4}{r_s^2} \sinh^2 \left(\frac{r_\star r_s}{2L^2} \right) \left(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta \, d\varphi^2 \right)$$

where $dr_{\star} = (L^2/\Delta)dr$. The space has 6 Killing vectors: 3 rotations and 3 translations (or "boosts"). The translation that mixes r_{\star} and θ acts on the original ϕ as

$$\delta\phi = -2\Delta\cos\theta\partial_r\phi + (r_s - 2r)\partial_\theta(\sin\theta\phi)$$

or, equivalently,

$$\delta\phi_{\ell} = c_{\ell+1} D_{\ell+1}^{-} \phi_{\ell+1} - c_{\ell} D_{\ell-1}^{+} \phi_{\ell-1} \,.$$

Luca Santoni



[Hui, Joyce, Penco, LS and Solomon '21]

- At large *r*, $\delta \phi$ reduces to a SCT, $\delta \phi = c_i (x^i \vec{x}^2 \partial^i + 2x^i \vec{x} \cdot \vec{\partial}) \phi$.
- We claim that this is the infrared symmetry that forbids Love number couplings in the point-particle effective action.
- Straightforward the generalization to Kerr and higher spins. [Hui, Joyce, Penco, LS and Solomon '21] Similar conclusions for Reissner–Nordström (although slightly more involved). [Rai and LS '24]





Outlook and conclusions





- Nonlinearities in the Einstein field equations affect the tidal response of a compact object.
- In electromagnetism, the nonlinear polarization of an optical medium can be studied in nonlinear polarization theory.
 - What is the nonlinear static response of a black hole?

- Are the symmetries of [Hui, Joyce, Penco, LS and Solomon '21, '22] an 'accident' of linear response theory, or do they admit an extension to nonlinear order?



Nonlinear tidal effects

- The worldline EFT naturally provides a framework for describing nonlinear deformation of compact objects.
 [Bern et al '20], [Riva, LS, Savić, Vernizzi '23], [Iteanu, Riva, LS, Savić, Vernizzi '24]
- In the scalar field example, one shall just add operators with more powers of ϕ :

$$S = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^4 x \, (\partial \phi)^2 - M \int d\tau + \int d\tau \, \lambda_{\ell,n} \partial^\ell \phi^n$$

For gravitational waves, one shall replace ϕ with metric perturbations.

 In [Riva, LS, Savić, Vernizzi '23], [Iteanu, Riva, LS, Savić, Vernizzi '24], we showed that quadratic Love numbers of Schwarzschild black holes are zero in general relativity.

(See also [Gürlebeck '15], [Poisson '20, '21], [De Luca, Khoury, Wong '23])

In [Combaluzier-Szteinsznaider, Hui, LS, Solomon, Wong '24], we showed that the ladder symmetries admit a fully nonlinear extension to all orders in perturbation theory (for axisymmetric and static spacetimes) and form an 𝔅𝔅(2,ℝ) algebra.

(See also [Kehagias, Riotto '24])





Conclusions and open directions

- What is the nonlinear tidal deformability of a Kerr black hole?
- Black holes with charge? Higher spacetime dimensions?
- Quantify importance of nonlinearities in late inspiral of compact objects with future interferometers.







Nonlinear tidal effects

 The worldline EFT naturally provides a framework for describing nonlinear deformation of compact objects.
[Bern et al '20], [Riva, LS, Savić, Vernizzi '23], [Iteanu, Riva, LS, Savić, Vernizzi '24]

 $S = S_{\rm EH} + S_{\rm pp} + S_{\rm int}$ $S_{\rm EH} = \frac{M_{\rm Pl}^2}{2} \int d^4 x \sqrt{-g} R , \qquad S_{\rm pp} = -M \int d\tau , \qquad S_{\rm int} = \sum_{\ell=2}^{\infty} \int d\tau \left(Q_E^{\mu_L} E_{\mu_L} + Q_B^{\mu_L} B_{\mu_L} \right) + \dots ,$

where $\mu_L \equiv \mu_1 \cdots \mu_\ell$ and, schematically,

• $Q_{E,B}^{\mu_L}$ carry information about the object's finite-size properties and microscopic physics: absorption across the horizon, dissipation, tidal response...



Nonlinear tidal Love numbers

• To define nonlinear response, we shall proceed as in EM. Focusing e.g. on *E*-sector:

$$\langle Q_{E}^{i_{L}}(\tau) \rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \int d\tau_{1} \cdots \int d\tau_{n} {}^{(n)} \mathscr{R}^{i_{L}|i_{L_{1}}\cdots i_{L_{n}}}(\tau - \tau_{1}, \dots, \tau - \tau_{n}) E_{i_{L_{1}}}(\tau_{1}) \cdots E_{i_{L_{n}}}(\tau_{n})$$

where ${}^{(n)}\mathcal{R}$ is the nth-order response function.

• To leading-order in the derivative expansion (quadrupole), considering non-rotating objects and conservative sector,

$${}^{(n)}\mathscr{R}^{ij|i_1j_1\cdots i_nj_n} \supset \delta^i_{j_n} \delta^j_{i_1} \delta^j_{i_2} \delta^j_{i_3} \cdots \delta^j_{i_n} \delta(\tau - \tau_1) \cdots \delta(\tau - \tau_n) + \text{perms.}$$

and S_{int} boils down to *local* contact operators:

$$S_{\text{int}} = \int \mathrm{d}\tau \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\lambda_n^{(E)} E_{\mu_1}^{\ \mu_2} \cdots E_{\mu_{n+1}}^{\ \mu_1} + \text{higher multipoles} \right] \sim \sum_{n,l} \int \mathrm{d}\tau \, \lambda_{l,n}^{(E)} \partial^l E^{n+1}$$



Nonlinear tidal Love numbers

$$S_{\text{int}} = \int d\tau \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\lambda_n^{(E)} E_{\mu_1}^{\ \mu_2} \cdots E_{\mu_{n+1}}^{\ \mu_1} + \text{higher multipoles} \right] \sim \sum_{n,l} \int d\tau \, \lambda_{l,n}^{(E)} \partial^l E^{n+1}$$

- $\lambda_{l,n}^{(E)}$ are the (nonlinear) Love numbers.
- As in any EFT, $\lambda_{l,n}^{(E)}$ can be either constrained experimentally or determined via matching to some explicit UV model.
- In [Riva, LS, Savić, Vernizzi '23], [Iteanu, Riva, LS, Savić, Vernizzi '24] we computed the quadratic Love numbers of BHs by matching with GR:

$$S_{\text{int}} = \int d\tau \left[\lambda_1^{(E)} E_{ij} E^{ij} + \lambda_1^{(B)} B_{ij} B^{ij} + \lambda_2^{(E)} E^i_{\ j} E^j_{\ k} E^k_{\ i} + \lambda_2^{(EB)} E^i_{\ j} B^j_{\ k} B^k_{\ i} + \text{higher multipoles} \right]$$



Feynman diagrams for the (a) linear and (b) nonlinear tidal deformation. These vertices scale as $\sim 1/r^{\ell+1}$.



Nonlinear equations for static perturbations

- There are two expansion parameters:
 - $\kappa \equiv 1/M_{\rm Pl}$ which controls nonlinearities of gravity;
 - $_$ $\ensuremath{\mathscr{E}}$: the amplitude of the external tidal field.
- At quadratic order, the (static) equations are schematically: $\mathscr{D}\delta g \sim \kappa \, \delta g^2$. Solving perturbatively as $\delta g_{\mu\nu} = \delta g_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + \kappa \delta g_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}$ and imposing regularity at the horizon, one can find the nonlinear solution for $\delta g_{\mu\nu}$.
- $\delta g_{\mu\nu} = \delta g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{even}} + \delta g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{odd}}$. As an example, let us focus on $\delta g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{even}}$. In the Regge–Wheeler gauge, the most general parametrization of $\delta g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{even}}$ is:

$$\delta g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{even}}(r,\theta,\phi) = \sum_{\ell m} \text{diag}\left[\left(1-\frac{r_s}{r}\right)H_0(r), H_2(r), K(r), \sin^2\theta K(r)\right] Y_{\ell}^m(\theta,\phi) \,.$$

• After some algebra, the Einstein equations boil down to

$$H_0'' + \frac{2r - r_s}{r(r - r_s)} H_0' - \frac{\ell(\ell + 1)r(r - r_s) + r_s^2}{r^2(r - r_s)^2} H_0 = S_{H_0}, \quad \text{where } S_{H_0} \sim O(\delta g^2).$$

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Nonlinear equations for static perturbations

- Let us assume that the external tidal field is a quadrupole: asymptotically, $H_0^{(\ell=2,m)} \sim \mathscr{E}r^2$.
- The solution to the linearized equation is $H_0^{(\ell=2,m)} = \mathscr{E}(r^2 r_s r)$, which is notoriously a polynomial (i.e., no induced linear static response).
- $S_{H_0} \sim O(\delta g^2)$ contains a product of 3 spherical harmonics: $\mathscr{G}_{m,m_1,m_2}^{\ell,\ell_1,\ell_2} \equiv \int Y_{\ell}^{m^*}(\theta,\phi) Y_{\ell_1}^{m_1}(\theta,\phi) Y_{\ell_2}^{m_2}(\theta,\phi) \sin \theta d\phi d\theta$, which enforces the standard angular momentum selection rule $\ell = \ell_1 \otimes \ell_2$, i.e. $|\ell_1 - \ell_2| \leq \ell \leq \ell_1 + \ell_2$ and $m = m_1 + m_2$.
- If $\ell_1 = \ell_2 = 2 \implies \ell = 0, 2, 4$. At the next order:

$$H_0^{(\ell=2,m')} = \mathcal{E}\left(r^2 - r_s r\right) \left[\delta_m^{m'} - \frac{\mathcal{E}}{4r_s^2} \mathcal{G}_{m',m,m}^{2,2,2} r(2r+3r_s)\right] \,.$$

• Note that the quadratic terms in \mathscr{E} are small corrections as long as $\mathscr{E}r^2 \ll r_s^2$.



Matching with point-particle EFT

• The full quadratic static solution

$$H_0^{(\ell=2,m')} = \mathscr{E}\left(r^2 - r_s r\right) \left| \delta_m^{m'} - \frac{\mathscr{E}}{4r_s^2} \mathscr{G}_{m',m,m}^{2,2,2} r(2r + 3r_s) \right|$$

should then be compared (after a suitable gauge transformation) with



• The result of the matching (in the region $r_s \ll r \ll r_s/\sqrt{\mathscr{C}}$) is:

$$\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 0$$
 . [Riva, LS, Savic, Vernizzi '23]





Vanishing of quadratic Love numbers

[Iteanu, Riva, LS, Savic, Vernizzi '24]

• The result can be extended to the odd sector and to all multipoles.

$$\begin{split} H_0'' + \frac{2r - r_s}{r(r - r_s)} H_0' - \frac{\ell(\ell + 1)r(r - r_s) + r_s^2}{r^2(r - r_s)^2} H_0 &= S_{H_0} \,, \\ h_0'' - \frac{\ell(\ell + 1)r - 2r_s}{r^2(r - r_s)} h_0 &= S_{h_0} \,, \end{split}$$
 where $S_{H_0}, S_{h_0} \sim O(\delta g^2).$

- We show that, for all ℓ 's, the structure of the eqs in GR is so special that, up to second order in PT, the solutions H_0 and h_0 are simple **polynomials** in r.
- This follows from: (a) the simple form of the source, and (b) the general properties of the homogeneous (hypergeometric) solutions:

$$h_0(r) = h_{0,1}(r) \int_1^{r/r_s} dy \, h_{0,2}(y) S_{h_0}(y) - h_{0,2}(r) \int_0^{r/r_s} dy \, h_{0,1}(y) S_{h_0}(y)$$





Vanishing of quadratic Love numbers

[Iteanu, Riva, LS, Savic, Vernizzi '24]

• In the EFT, all linear and quadratic Love number couplings vanish:

$$S_{\text{int}} \sim \int d\tau \left[\lambda_{1,n}^{(E)} (\partial^n E)^2 + \lambda_{1,n}^{(B)} (\partial^n B)^2 + \lambda_{2,nml}^{(E)} \partial^n E \,\partial^m E \,\partial^l E + \lambda_{2,nml}^{(EB)} \partial^n E \,\partial^m B \,\partial^l B + \dots \right]$$

$$\lambda_{1,n}^{(E)} = \lambda_{1,n}^{(B)} = \lambda_{2,nml}^{(E)} = \lambda_{2,nml}^{(EB)} = 0 .$$



Luca Santoni

Vanishing of quadratic Love numbers

- The point-particle EFT can be matched to the full solution without turning on Love number couplings.
 - Nonlinear corrections to the static solution in GR can be reconstructed from the EFT, to all orders in r_s , via just graviton bulk nonlinearities.



Feynman diagrams that reconstruct the Schwarzschild metric up to $O(r_s^2)$.

Diagram (a) yields the order- r_s correction to the linear tidal field solution.

Diagrams (b), (c) and (d) represent order- r_s corrections to the tidal source at second order in the external field amplitude.