

Title: Kerr self-force via elliptic PDEs: Background and theory (part 1)

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Collection: The 24th Capra meeting on Radiation Reaction in General Relativity

Date: June 07, 2021 - 9:15 AM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/21060007>

Abstract: Our long-term goal is to calculate the Lorenz gauge gravitational self-force for an extreme mass-ratio binary system in Kerr spacetime. Past work in the time-domain has encountered time instabilities for the two lowest modes $m=0$ and $m=1$. In order to overcome this problem, we enter the frequency-domain, which introduces elliptic PDEs. To develop an appropriate scheme, we first investigate the scalar self-force in Kerr spacetime by separating the \hat{r} and t variables. To calculate the self-force, we use the effective source method. This presentation discusses the background and theory, which will be followed by a discussion of numerical methods in a later presentation.

A 3D visualization of a gravitational well, showing a grid of blue and green lines that curves inward to form a central well. Two bright blue spheres are positioned near the center of the well, representing black holes. The background is dark blue with a grid pattern.

Scalar Kerr self-force via elliptic PDEs: Background and theory (Part 1)

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in collaboration with Dr. Thomas Osburn

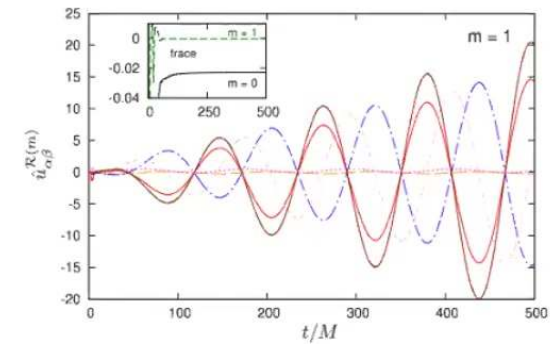
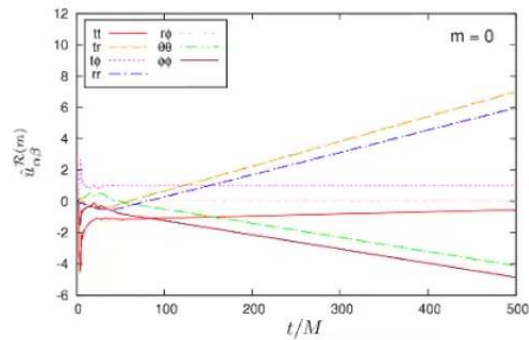
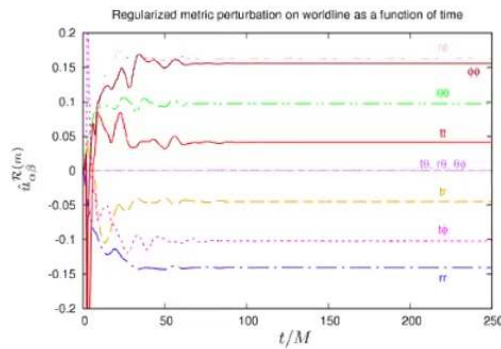
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Past works and our long-term goal

Gravitational self-force in EMRIs (Extreme Mass Ratio Inspirals) has been calculated....

1. In time-domain in Lorenz gauge

→ Instabilities for $m=0, 1$ (Monopole and dipole cannot be evolved stably using time-domain method)



Regularized metric perturbation (MP) for $m=0$ and $m=1$ does not converge

L.Barack and S.R.Dolan.Phys.Rev.D87,084066(2013)

Past works and our long-term goal

Gravitational self-force in EMRIs (Extreme Mass Ratio Inspirals) has been calculated....

1. **In time-domain in Lorenz gauge** → Instabilities for $m=0, 1$ (Monopole and dipole cannot be evolved stably using time-domain method)

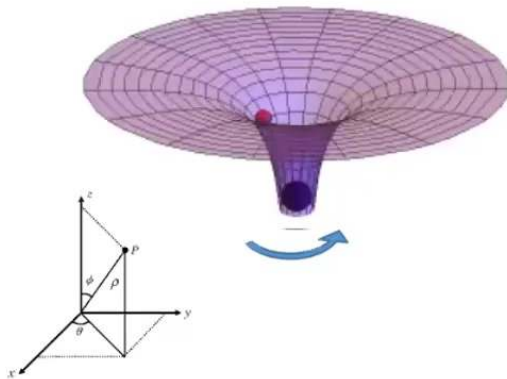
Difference in domain	
Time domain	Frequency domain
Involves a direct numerical time-integration of the Hyperbolic PDEs	Involves numerical computations of Elliptic PDEs with Fourier transform in time
Can accommodate arbitrary particle orbits	Accurate for circular or near-circular particle orbits, but not for high eccentricity orbit
Catastrophic instability in Lorenz gauge for $m=0$ and $m=1$	

Our Long-term goal and theoretical model

Our long-term goal : calculate the Lorenz gauge gravitational self-force in Kerr spacetime for an extreme mass-ratio binary system in frequency domain.



We first investigate the scalar self-force



Our Theoretical Model

- A point particle with a scalar charge q moving in a circular orbit around a Kerr black hole
- Extreme mass ratio binary system
- Kerr background shows azimuthal symmetry
- Separate t and ϕ variables

The Scalar-Field Equation

- Boyer-Lindquist coordinate ϕ is pathological at the event horizon

New coordinate \rightarrow

$$d\phi = d\phi + \frac{a}{\Delta} dr \quad \varphi(\phi, r) = \phi + \frac{a}{r_+ - r_-} \ln \left| \frac{r - r_+}{r - r_-} \right|$$

$\Delta\phi(r)$

$a = J/M \quad |a| > 0$
 $a > 0$ for the prograde
 $a < 0$ for the retrograde

- We decompose the field equation into azimuthal modes to reduce the dimensionality

$$\Phi(t, r, \theta, \phi) = e^{-i\omega t} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \Phi^m e^{im\phi} \quad \xleftrightarrow{\text{Fourier Series}} \quad \Phi^m(t, r, \theta) = \frac{e^{-i\omega t}}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{-im\phi} \Phi(t, r, \theta, \phi) d\phi$$

- Kerr tortoise coordinate r^*

$$\frac{dr_*}{dr} = \frac{r^2 + a^2}{\Delta} \quad r_* = r + \frac{2M}{r_+ - r_-} \left(r_+ \ln \left| \frac{r - r_+}{2M} \right| - r_- \ln \left| \frac{r - r_-}{2M} \right| \right)$$

... r^* maps the interval (r_+, ∞) to the interval $(-\infty, \infty)$, where r_+ is the event horizon.

The Scalar-Field Equation

The scalar field is governed by Klein-Gordon equation

$$\square \Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \delta(\sqrt{-g} g^{\mu\nu} \delta_\nu \Phi) = S$$

Kerr metric determinant: $g = -\rho^2 \sin^2 \theta$

m -mode scalar wave operator



$\Psi^m = r \Phi^m$ We introduce the radial-factored field Ψ^m

$$\square_\Psi^m \Psi^m = S_\Psi^m$$

$$\square_\Psi^m = -\omega^2 + \frac{4amMr}{\Sigma^2} \omega - \frac{(r^2 + a^2)}{\Sigma^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial r_*^2} - \left[\frac{2iamr(r^2 + a^2) - 2a^2 \Delta}{r \Sigma^2} \right] \frac{\partial}{\partial r_*}$$

$$- \frac{\Delta}{\Sigma^2} \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} + \cot \theta \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} - \frac{m^2}{\sin^2 \theta} - \frac{2M}{r} \left(1 - \frac{a^2}{Mr} \right) - \frac{2iam}{r} \right]$$

$$\Sigma^2 = (r^2 + a^2)^2 - a^2 \Delta \sin^2 \theta$$

Effective Source

We introduce a “puncture” scalar field Φ_p , the local approximation of the divergent singular field Φ_s near the particle’s worldline.

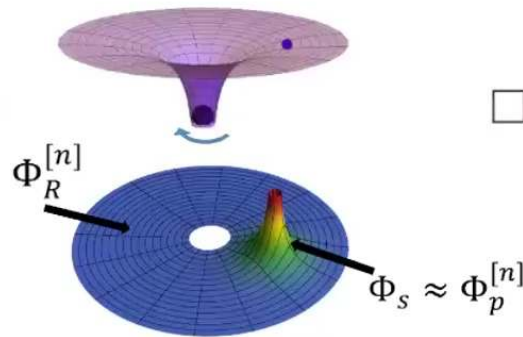


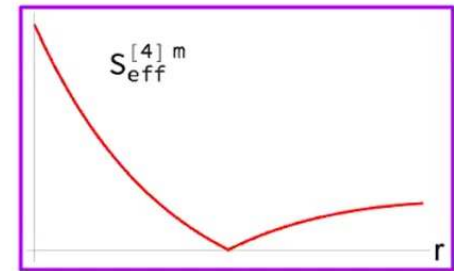
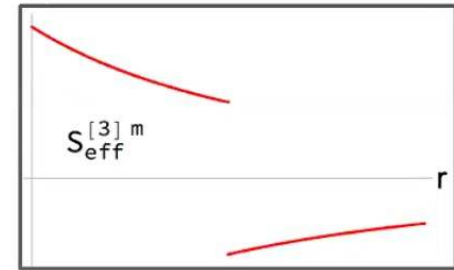
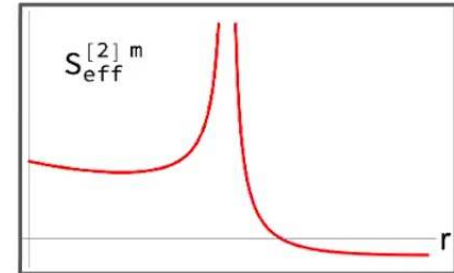
Image: B.Wardell, I.Vega, J.Thornburg and P.Diener(2012)

$$\Phi_R^{[n]} = \Phi - \Phi_p^{[n]} \quad \Phi_R^{[n]} : \text{Residual field}$$

$$\square \Phi = \square \Phi_R^{[n]} + \square \Phi_p^{[n]} \equiv S_{eff}^{[n]}$$

$$S_{eff}^{[n]m} = \square \Phi_p^{[n]m} \quad \text{Inverse Form of Fourier Expansions}$$

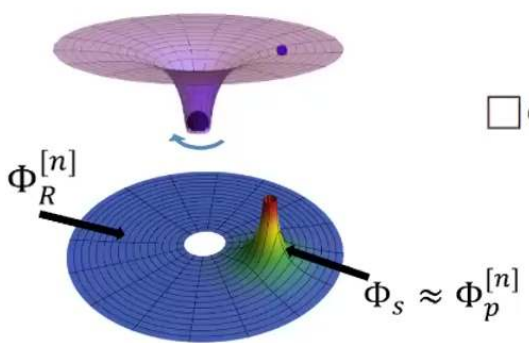
$$S_{eff}^{[n]m} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \square \Phi_p^{[n]} e^{-im\varphi} d\varphi$$



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Effective Source

We introduce a “puncture” scalar field Φ_p , the local approximation of the divergent singular field Φ_s near the particle’s worldline.



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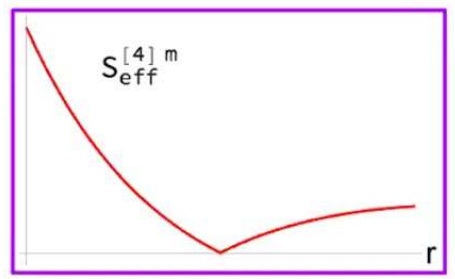
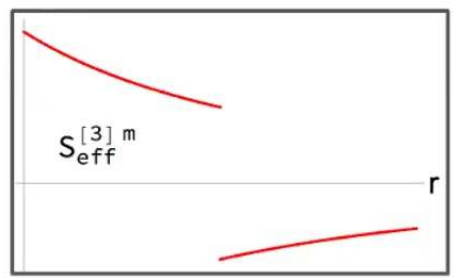
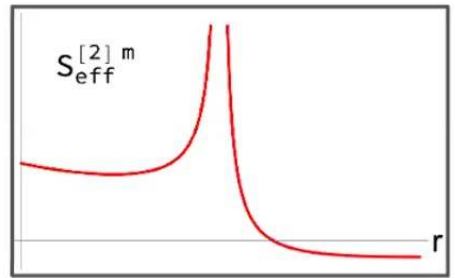
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Image: B.Wardell, I.Vega, J.Thornburg and P.Diener(2012)

...We expand the singular field up to 4th order by using Taylor Expansion to gain finite Effective Source (B.Wardell, “kerr-circular.c”, <https://github.com/barrywardell/EffectiveSource>)



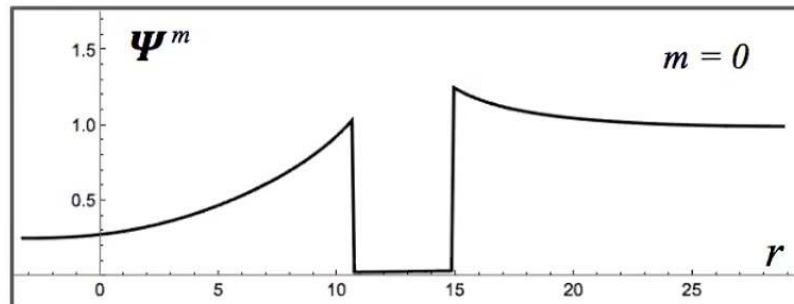
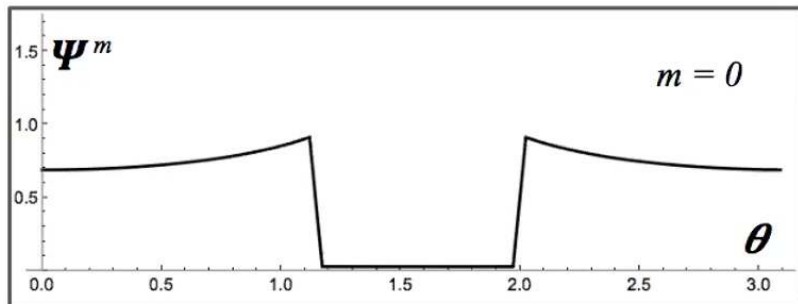
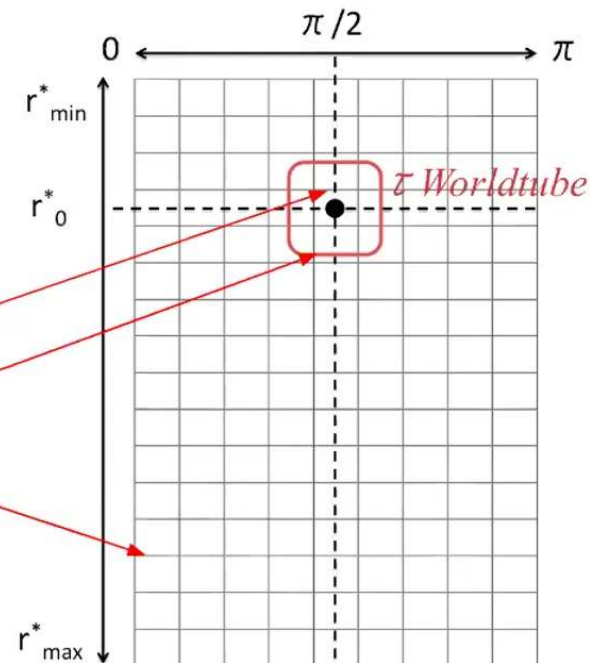
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Worldtube Scheme

Boundary conditions only apply to the retarded field Ψ^m

$$\begin{cases} \square_{\Psi}^m \Psi^m = 0 & \text{outside } \mathcal{T} \\ \square_{\Psi}^m \Psi_R^m = S_{\Psi_{eff}}^m & \text{inside } \mathcal{T} \\ \Psi_R^m = \Psi^m - r\Phi_P^m & \text{across } \delta\mathcal{T} \end{cases}$$

where Ψ_R^m is the residual field mode
and Ψ^m is the full field mode



Boundary Condition

θ Boundary Conditions

$$\frac{\partial \Psi^{m=0}}{\partial \theta} (\theta \in \{0, \pi\}) = 0 \quad \Psi^{m \neq 0} (\theta \in \{0, \pi\}) = 0$$

r^* Boundary Conditions

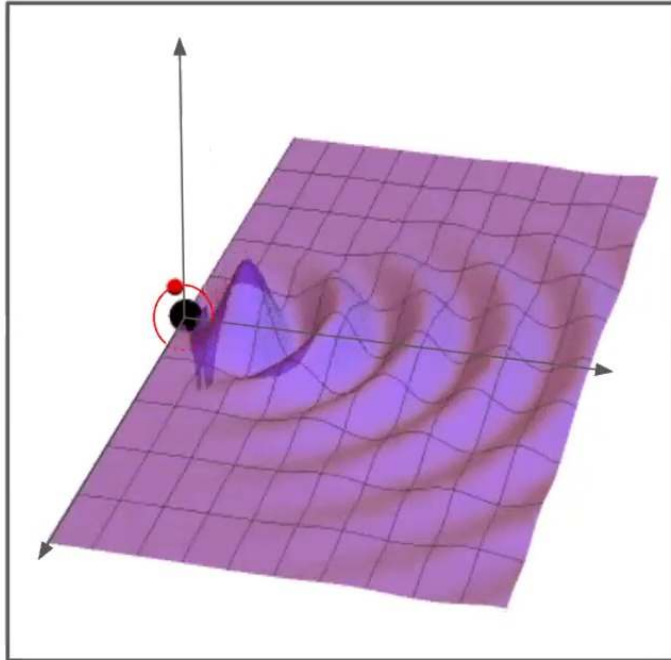
... At $r^* = \pm \infty$, we assume that the waves are only propagating radially outward from the source

$$\Psi^\pm = f(\theta) e^{-i(\omega t \mp \omega r^*)}$$



$$\frac{d\Psi_{r^*=\infty}^+}{dr_*} - i \omega \Psi_{r^*=\infty}^+ = 0 \quad \frac{d\Psi_{r^*=-\infty}^-}{dr_*} + i \omega \Psi_{r^*=-\infty}^- = 0$$

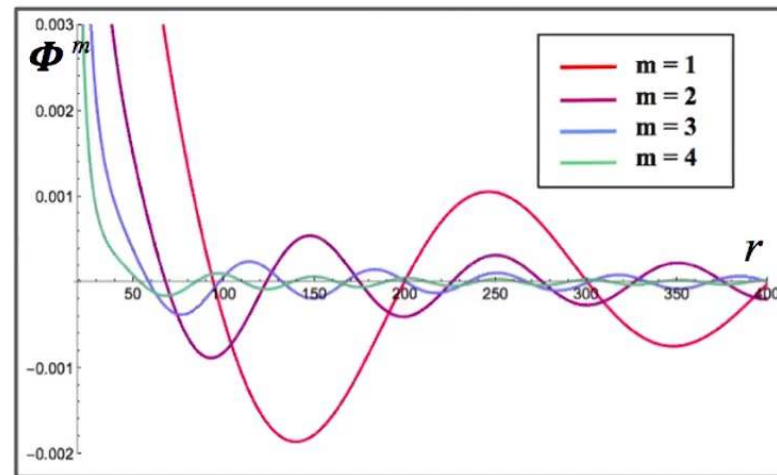
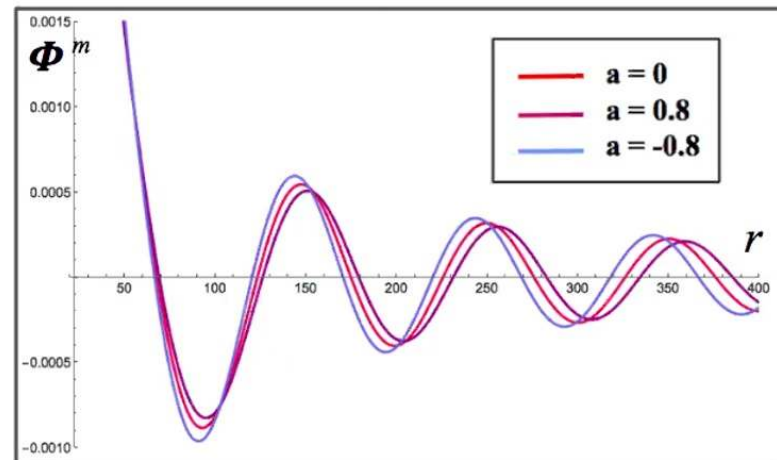
Results



Left: 3-D animation of the field

Upper right: m -mode contribution to the field, sliced at $\theta=\pi/2$

Lower right: a contribution to the field, sliced at $\theta=\pi/2$



Work Cited

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