

Master UAB - *High Energy Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology*

NSs, **BHs** and GWs

BLACK HOLES

Feb 28th, 2023

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Recap I:

Covered last lecture: **equivalence principles, Einstein equations**

- The **weak equivalence principle** has multiple forms, reflecting the fact that we cannot distinguish between gravitational & inertial forces with any local experiment using test particles.
- The **strong equivalence principle** generalises the WEP to self-gravitating bodies and gravitational experiments.
- The **Einstein equations** are a set of tensor equations that completely control the **dynamics of gravitation**.

Recap II:

Covered last lecture: Einstein equations, Schwarzschild solution

- The essence of the Einstein equations is that “Spacetime tells matter how to move, while matter tells spacetime how to curve.” as summarised by John Wheeler.
- In General Relativity, **gravitational phenomena** arise not from forces or fields but from the curvature of spacetime itself.
- The (unique) **spherically symmetric & static solution** of the vacuum Einstein Equations is **Schwarzschild’s solution**.

Overview:

**Covered so far: special relativity, tensor calculus,
equivalence principles, Einstein equations,
Schwarzschild solution**

- 1. A general introduction**
- 2. Non-rotating black holes**
- 3. Charged & rotating black holes**

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1.1 Video

- In today's lecture, we will start with a little video to provide a general introduction to the topic of black holes. It will set the stage for our more mathematical discussion in the remainder of this lecture.
 - **The Ultimate Guide to Black Holes** by *Kurzgesagt*
www.youtube.com/watch?v=QqsLTNkzvaY
 - To break things up, we will watch in **two blocks** and have 2 rounds of questions.



1.2 Questions

- Watch **until 5:32** & go to www.menti.com & enter 55 28 91 5.
 - 1. The majority of BHs form when very **massive stars die** and undergo **gravitational collapse**.
 - Incorrect
 - Correct
 - 2. Although light cannot escape from inside a BH's event horizon, can we observe them indirectly via effects on external particles, e.g., those forming an accretion disk?
 - Yes
 - No

1.3 Questions

- Watch the rest & go to www.menti.com & enter 3115 2377.
 - 3. Which of these quantities completely describe a BH?
 - Its mass, spin and charge.
 - Its event horizon.
 - The amount of matter that crossed its event horizon.
 - 4. An object within the **ergosphere** around a rotating BH cannot appear at rest for a distant observer.
 - Incorrect
 - Correct

1.2 Answers

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 - No

1.3 Answers

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Overview:

**Covered so far: special relativity, tensor calculus,
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Schwarzschild solution**

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- 2. Non-rotating black holes (NRBHs)**
- 3. Charged & rotating black holes**

2.1 NRBHs - Singularities

- Last lecture, we encountered the **Schwarzschild solution** of the vacuum Einstein Equations. Our choice of coordinates, i.e., (t, r, θ, ϕ) , reflected the spherical symmetry of the spacetime.

$$ds^2 = (1 - 2m/r)dt^2 - (1 - 2m/r)^{-1}dr^2 - r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2)$$

- However, our coordinate system does **not cover the entire manifold**, e.g., the points $\theta = 0, \pi$ are **not uniquely defined**.
- These are so-called **coordinate singularities**, which are an **artefact** of the choice of coordinate system. They can be **removed** using a different system, e.g., Cartesian coordinates.

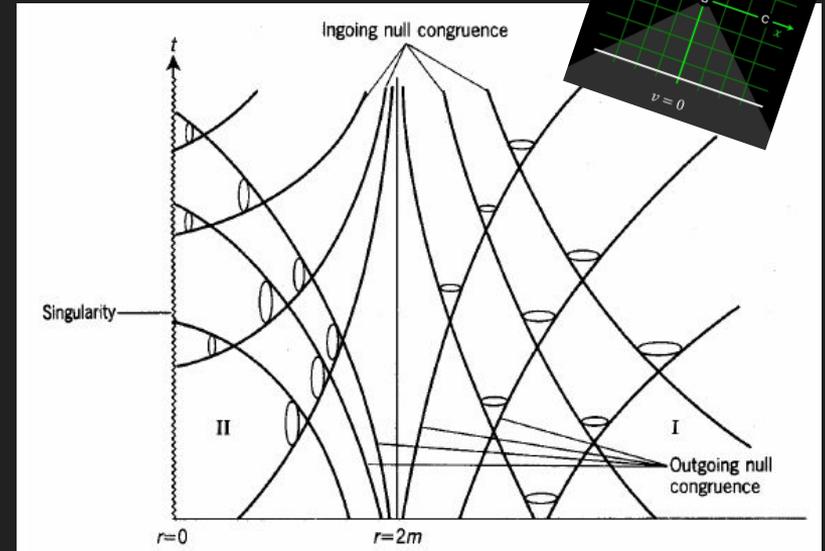
2.2 NRBHs - Schwarzschild radius

$$ds^2 = (1 - 2m/r)dt^2 - (1 - 2m/r)^{-1}dr^2 - r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2)$$

- The SS solution is degenerate at **two other points** $r_1 = 2m$ and $r_2 = 0$. r_2 cannot be removed & is a **true (physical) singularity**.
- r_1 is called the **Schwarzschild radius** r_s . It is a removable coordinate singularity but **separates the manifold** into two disconnected regions, where **t & r invert** their character:
 - $2m < r < \infty$: the exterior with $r =$ spacelike and $t =$ timelike.
 - $0 < r < 2m$: the interior with $r =$ timelike and $t =$ spacelike.

2.3 NRBHs - Spacetime diagrams

- To illustrate this, we look at the **local light cone** at different points. We construct these via **lightlike** (null) lines, $ds^2 = 0$.
- Fixing θ & ϕ , we recover curves $t(r)$ that satisfy this constraint, i.e., the **null congruences**.
- As **observers** move along **timelike worldlines**, they ‘move into’ their future light cones. Inside r_s the light cone is flipped and an observer will **ALWAYS fall into the singularity**.



2.4 Questions

- Go to www.menti.com & enter 4406 6489.
 - 1. Which of the following are **coordinate singularities** of the **SS solution**, i.e., removable with a transformation?
 - $r = 0$
 - $r = 2m$
 - $\theta = \pi$
 - 2. There is **one clear problem** with the diagram on the previous page. Can you think of what this might be? Please type out your answer in **1 or 2** sentences, but not more.

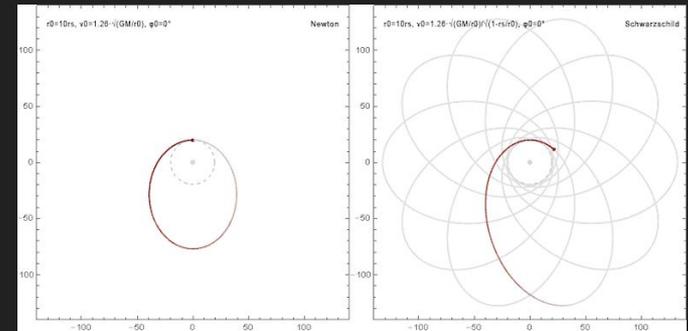
2.4 Answers

- Go to www.menti.com & enter 4406 6489.
 - 1. Which of the following are **coordinate singularities** of the **SS solution**, i.e., removable with a transformation?
 - $r = 0$
 - $r = 2m$
 - $\theta = \pi$
 - 2. The spacetime diagram seems to suggest that an observer outside the Schwarzschild radius (or an ingoing light ray) would require infinite time to reach r_s and cannot cross it.

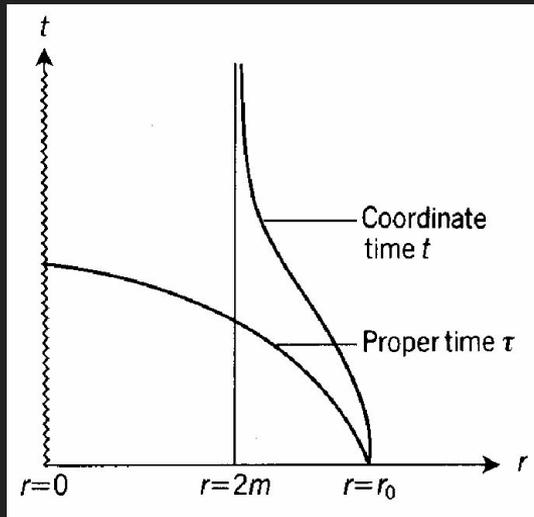
2.5 NRBHs - Particle orbits

- The motion of a massive particle around a BH is described by the **geodesic equation** parameterised by τ . As the SS metric is symmetric about $\theta = \pi/2$, it's convenient to consider particle motion in the **equatorial plane**.
- As this motion conserves the particle's **total energy E** and its **specific angular momentum l**, the equation of motion is

$$\left(\frac{dr}{d\tau}\right)^2 = \frac{E^2}{m^2 c^2} - \left(1 - \frac{r_s}{r}\right) \left(c^2 + \frac{l^2}{r^2}\right)$$



2.6 Eddington-Finkelstein coordinates



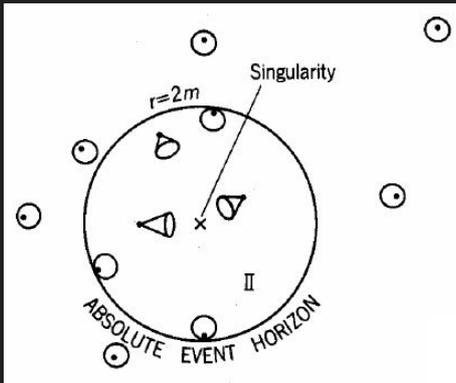
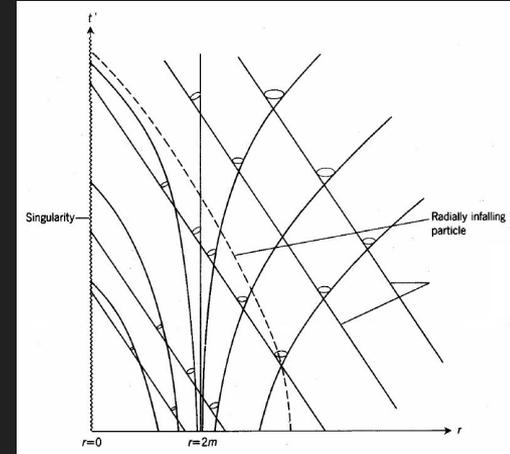
- The issue is that the **motion of a test particle** is not determined by the Schwarzschild coordinate t but instead the **proper time τ** . When determining the trajectory of an infalling particle $\tau(r)$, we find that it falls continuously towards $r = 0$ **in finite time**.

- Ingoing congruences become **straight lines** when transforming $t' = t + 2m \ln(r - 2m)$. The Eddington-Finkelst. **line element** is

$$ds^2 = (1 - 2m/r)dt'^2 - 4m/r dt' dr - (1 + 2m/r)^{-1}dr^2 - r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2)$$

2.7 NRBHs - Event horizons

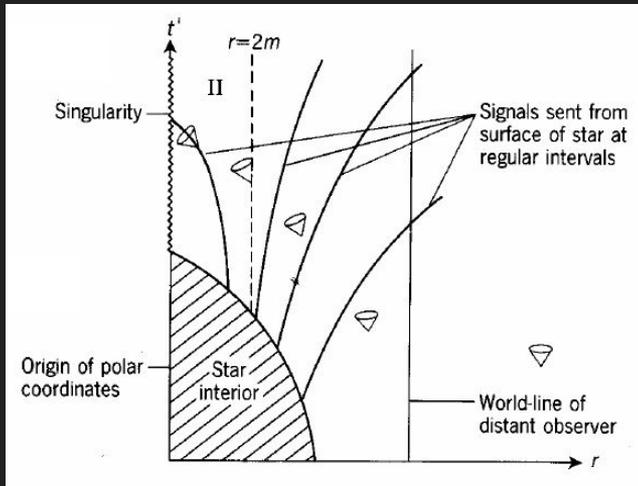
- The **2D spacetime diagram** in Eddington-Finkelstein coordinates looks now like this:
- With angular information, we can use a different perspective and look at the **equatorial plane** to visualise light-cone cross sections.



- Approaching r_s from infinity, the cone apexes (black dots) move from the circle centres to outer boundary. Once we reach r_s , the **cones** start to **tilt** and all timelike & null geodesics point towards $r = 0$. r_s is the **event horizon**.

2.8 The black hole concept

- We introduced the SS solution as a mathematically **abstract concept**. To make this concrete, consider the **gravitational collapse** of a spherically symmetric star. The star will contract until all its matter is contained in the singularity.



- Imagine an observer on the surface sending out **regular light signals**. A **distant observer** sees these with larger and larger time gaps until the surface contracts beyond r_s & no more signals appear. It becomes **'black'**.

2.9 Exercise

- The idea that light cannot escape a gravitational field has a **classical analogue** (assuming its particle nature). Consider a particle of mass m , moving away radially from a uniform, symmetric matter distribution of mass M and radius R .
- Show that R is the **Schwarzschild radius** for an **escape velocity** (the velocity at the surface of M , so that $v \rightarrow 0$ for $r \rightarrow \infty$) equal to the speed of light c .

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 - GMm/r$$

$$r_s = 2GM/c^2$$

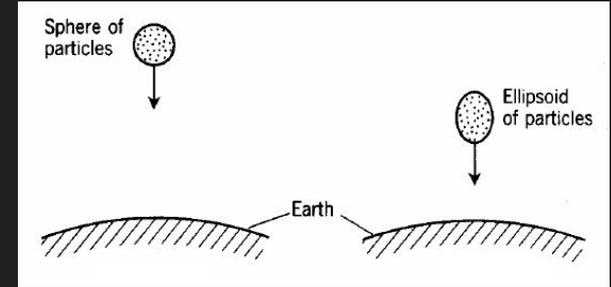
2.9 Solution

- The constraint $v \rightarrow 0$ for $r \rightarrow \infty$ implies that the total energy vanishes, i.e., $E = 0$. Solving for the velocity, we then find $v^2 = 2 GM/r$, so that the **escape velocity** is $v^2 = 2 GM/R$.
- If a particle at $r = R$ has less than v' , it will eventually be pulled back by the gravitational attraction of the mass distribution. Now if we want a photon escape velocity at infinity that is equal to the speed of light, we require $c^2 = 2 GM/R$.
- Rearranging leads exactly to

$$r_s = 2GM/c^2$$

2.10 NRBHs - Tidal effects

- If we go beyond point particles in spacetime to objects with **extended mass distribution**, spacetime curvature will result in tidal effects.



- These will cause **elongation** in the direction of motion & **compression** in the transverse direction. In the case of a BH, this **effect** becomes **infinite** as we reach the singularity.
- An astronaut falling into a black hole will thus experience ***spaghettification***.

2.11 NRBHs - Orbital stability

- Earlier, we considered purely radial motion of massive particles. Similarly, we could ask how a particle moves along **circular orbits** in the equatorial plane, i.e., $r = \text{const}$ but $\phi = \phi(\tau \text{ or } r)$.
- From the resulting equations, it's possible to **deduce that**
 - $r_{\text{ISCO}} = 3 r_s$: this is the smallest marginally stable circular orbit in which a test particle can stably orbit a SS BH; it's called the innermost stable circular orbit (**ISCO**).
 - $2 r_s < r < r_{\text{ISCO}}$: particles can still be bound but they are unstable; $2 r_s$ is also called the **marginally bound orbit**.

2.12 NRBHs - Photon orbits

- Orbits for massless particles cannot be parameterised by the proper time. Opting for a **general affine parameter** u , the equation of motion that follows from the geodesic equations is

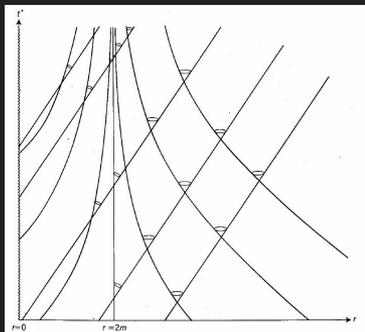
$$\left(\frac{dr}{du}\right)^2 = \frac{E^2}{m^2 c^2} - \left(1 - \frac{r_s}{r}\right) \frac{l^2}{r^2}$$

- Looking at **circular orbits**, we find a single possible (although unstable) solution at $r_{\text{ph}} = 1.5 r_s$. This orbit is referred to as the **photon sphere**. Gravity is so strong that light is forced onto a circle. This effect does not have a Newtonian analogue.

2.13 NRBHs - White holes

$$4m/r dt' dr$$

- While the SS solution in Eddington-Finkelstein coordinates highlights that r_s is not a true singularity, our redefinition of $t \rightarrow t'$ causes the solution to **no longer** be **time-symmetric**.
- In principle, we can introduce the **time-reversed (retarded) solution** by making another transition $t^* = t - 2m \ln(r - 2m)$. In this case, the outgoing congruences would become straight.

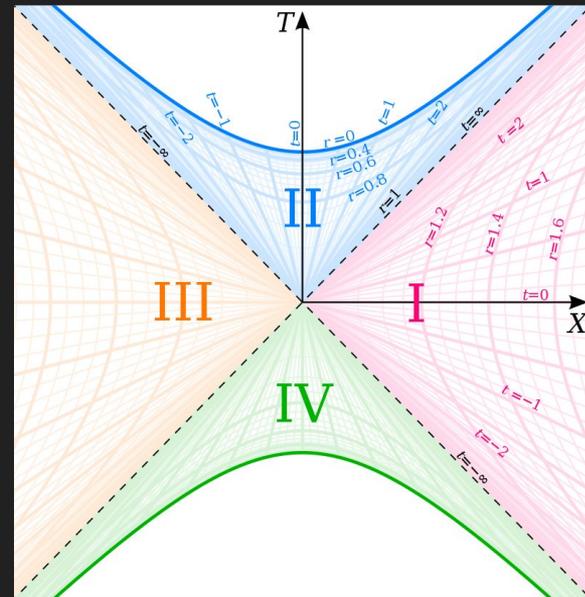


- The solution is again **regular** for $0 < r < \infty$, with $r = 2m$ acting as a special surface. BUT now only past-directed timelike or null lines can cross. This is essentially a **white hole**.

2.14 NRBHs - Kruskal & beyond

- It is possible to extend the EF solutions in such a way that all geodesics can either be extended to ∞ or terminate at a true singularity. A spacetime that satisfies this is called **maximal**.
- For this, a **new** choice of coordinates is **needed**. The **maximal extension** of the SS metric is the **Kruskal metric**:

$$ds^2 = \frac{16m^2}{r} e^{-r/2m} (dT^2 - dX^2) - r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2)$$



2.15 Questions

- Go to www.menti.com & enter 5842 0251.
 - 3. The apparent issue of SS coordinates, i.e., test particles taking infinite time to cross the event horizon, is resolved by considering the object's motion with proper time τ .
 - Correct
 - Incorrect
 - 4. Are white holes, the (hypothetical) 'inverse' of BHs, mathematically valid solutions of the Einstein Equations?
 - No
 - Yes

2.15 Answers

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- 1. A general introduction**
- 2. Non-rotating black holes**
- 3. Charged & rotating black holes (CRBHs)**

3.1 CRBHs - Charged BHs

- To go beyond the simple non-rotating BH picture, we will first consider **electrically charged solutions**, although BHs of large charge are **unlikely to exist** in nature.
- In contrast to the Schwarzschild solution, which is derived from the vacuum Einstein Equations, charged BHs cannot satisfy the same equations. Presence of an electric field causes $T_{ab} \neq \mathbf{0}$.
- We again look for a **static, asymptotically flat & spherically symmetric solution** to the Einstein-Maxwell equations:

$$ds^2 = e^{\nu(t,r)} dt^2 - e^{\lambda(t,r)} dr^2 - r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2)$$

3.2 CRBHs - Reissner-Nordstøm solution

- The full solution obtained from Einstein's equations has **two integration constants**, m & q , (which we interpret as geometric **mass & charge** located at $r = 0$). The line element reads

$$ds^2 = (1 - 2m/r + q^2/r^2)dt^2 - (1 - 2m/r + q^2/r^2)^{-1}dr^2 - r^2d\Omega^2$$

- Looking at the **element g_{tt}** , we can use the Newtonian limit to determine q as well as derive the **horizon** of a charged BH:

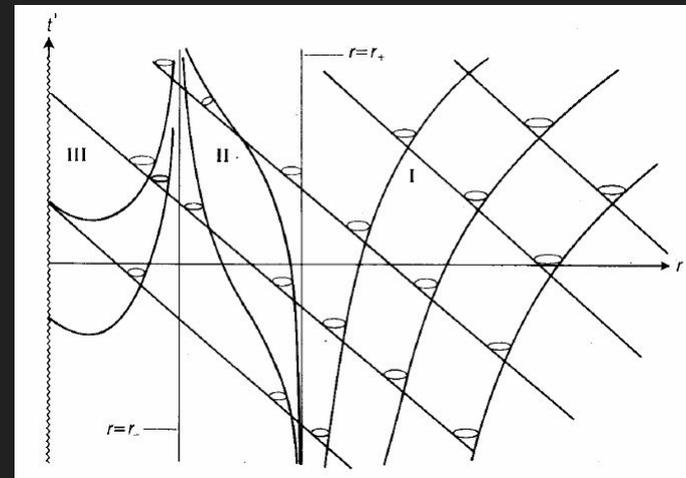
$$q^2 = \frac{1}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \frac{G}{c^4} Q^2$$

$$r_{\pm} = m \pm \sqrt{m^2 - q^2}$$

3.3 CRBHs - Observations

$$r_{\pm} = m \pm \sqrt{m^2 - q^2}$$

- The physical spacetime realisations depend on the roots in r_{\pm} . For $q > m$ (super-extremal BHs), we cannot have physical solutions as no event horizon exists, while for $q = m$ (extremal BHs) the horizons are degenerate. We typically focus on $q < m$.
- We distinguish **three regions** in which the metric remains **regular**: (I) $r_+ < r < \infty$, (II) $r_- < r < r_+$, (III) $0 < r < r_-$. The situation at r_+ is similar to that at r_s . However, the existence of r_- alters the role of singularity at $r = 0$.



3.4 CRBHs - Rotating BHs

- As BHs form via gravitational collapse of rotating massive stars the study of rotating BH is **important for astrophysics**.
- However, the solution of the **vacuum EEs** for rotating BHs is rather **tedious** (it was only discovered in 1963), so we will only refer to results here. The line element can be expressed in different forms. In **Boyer-Lindquist coordinates** it reads

$$ds^2 = \frac{\Delta}{\rho^2} (dt - a \sin^2 \theta d\phi)^2 - \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\rho^2} \left[(r^2 + a^2) d\phi - a dt \right]^2 - \frac{\rho^2}{\Delta} dr^2 - \rho^2 d\theta^2$$

$$\Delta = r^2 - 2mr + a^2, \quad \rho^2 = r^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \theta$$

3.5 CRBHs - Kerr solution

- In Boyer-Lindquist form, (r, θ, ϕ) are standard oblate spheroidal coordinates, which are related to Cartesian coordinates (x, y, z) . Because of this, it's possible to rewrite the line element in terms of Cartesian-type coordinates as originally done by Kerr.
- We can rewrite the solution in a **more convenient way** to directly read off the metric:

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

$$ds^2 = \frac{(\Delta - a^2 \sin^2 \theta)}{\rho^2} dt^2 + \frac{\rho^2}{\Delta} dr^2 + \rho^2 d\theta^2 - \frac{A \sin^2 \theta}{\rho^2} d\phi^2 + \frac{4ma}{\rho^2} r \sin^2 \theta d\phi dt$$

3.6 CRBHs - Basic properties

$$+ \frac{4ma}{\rho^2} r \sin^2 \theta d\phi dt$$

- We observe that the Kerr solution depends on two parameters **m and a**, where the latter is the so-called **Kerr parameter** $a = J/Mc$ representing the **angular momentum** of the BH. For $a = 0$ ($r \rightarrow \infty$), we recover the SS (Minkowski) solution.
- As the metric coefficients are independent of t & ϕ , the Kerr solution is **stationary & axially symmetric** but **not static**, i.e., $t \rightarrow -t$ does not reproduce the same solution. However, ds^2 is **invariant** under **simultaneous inversion** of t & ϕ .
- We also note the final term, $dt \times d\phi$, implies the **coupling** between time and motion in the rotational plane for $a \neq 0$.

3.7 CRBHs - Singularities & horizons

- The Kerr solution has one **physical singularity** at $\rho = 0$. This occurs for $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$ and $z = 0$, suggesting that the singularity is not a point but a **ring** of radius a in the equatorial plane.
- When $\Delta = 0$, the g_{rr} component of the metric diverges. We recover the following **two roots**:

$$r_{\pm} = m \pm \sqrt{m^2 - a^2}$$

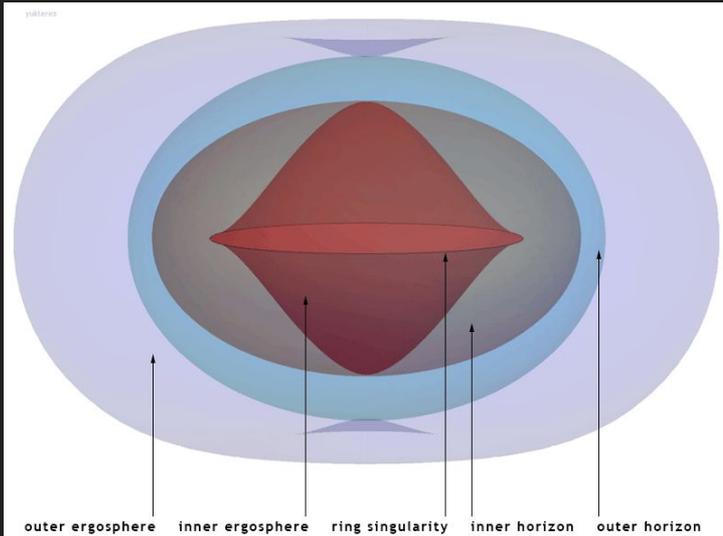
$$\frac{\rho^2}{\Delta} dr^2$$
- These have the same structure as the RN solution, so we conclude that $a > m$ is unphysical & physical solutions correspond to $a \leq m$. We again recover **3 regular regions** of the Kerr solution with coordinate singularities / **event horizons** at r_{\pm} .

3.8 CRBHs - Ergosphere I

$$\frac{(\Delta - a^2 \sin^2 \theta)}{\rho^2} dt^2$$

- In addition, we observe **special behaviour** arising from the g_{tt} metric element and obtain two **apparent singularities** of the form

$$r_{S\pm} = m \pm \sqrt{m^2 - a^2 \cos^2 \theta}$$

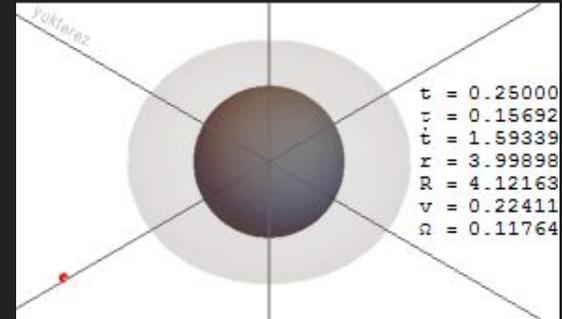


- At the outer surface (**surface of infinite redshift**), the dt^2 term changes from timelike (outside) to spacelike (inside).
- The region between r_+ and r_{s+} is called the **ergosphere**.

3.9 CRBHs - Ergosphere II

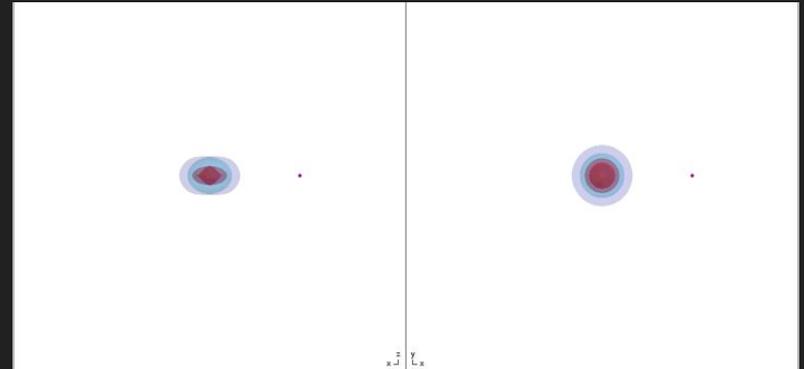
$$\frac{(\Delta - a^2 \sin^2 \theta)}{\rho^2} dt^2 + \frac{4ma}{\rho^2} r \sin^2 \theta d\phi dt$$

- Within the ergosphere, the rotating black hole affects the surrounding spacetime so much that inertial reference frames are entrained by it. This is an extreme form of **frame dragging**.
- As a result, an object inside the ergosphere **cannot appear stationary** for a distant observer (unless it could move faster than the speed of light w.r.t to the local spacetime). It has to **co-rotate** with the central BH.
- As particles are outside r_+ , they could escape the ergosphere. It is possible to extract energy via **Penrose process**.



3.10 CRBHs - Orbits

- All these considerations can be properly investigated looking at the motion of test particles like we did for the non-rotating BH.
- The equations of motion depend on a **third integral of motion** related to the BH's angular momentum L , leading to a generalised form of the equation we saw on slide 2.5.
- One finds that particles are no longer confined to planes but orbit in a **torus-like region** around the central black hole.



3.11 Questions

- Go to www.menti.com & enter 3561 1670.
 - 1. Which of the following metrics is not a solution of the Einstein Equations in vacuum?
 - Kerr metric
 - Reissner-Nordstrøm metric
 - Schwarzschild metric
 - 2. The Kerr solution is the one most relevant for astrophysical applications.
 - Correct
 - Inforrect

3.11 Answers

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 - Kerr metric
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Summary I:

Covered today: non-rotating BHs

- The SS solution of the vacuum EEs describes the nature of non-rotating BHs. The characteristics of the metric (apparent or real **singularities**) determine the spacetime.
- By constructing spacetime diagrams for different coordinate systems, we uncovered the existence of an **event horizon** and the fate of everything falling into a non-rotating black hole.
- A full study of the SS spacetime hinted at the (mathematical) existence of **white holes** and the possibility of wormholes.

Summary II:

Covered today: charged/rotating BHs

- We then looked at **charged BHs** (although unlikely to exist in nature) characterised by the **Reissner-Nordström metric**.
- The Kerr solution describes the (astrophysically relevant) case of rotating BHs. Rotation introduces new effects like frame dragging and specifically the concept of the **ergosphere**.
- This concludes our ‘classical’ GR discussion of BHs, as all solutions of the Einstein-Maxwell equations are described by three parameters (mass, charge, spin) due to the **no-hair theorem**.

Final impressions:

Covered today:
non-rotating/charged/
rotating BHs

- To recap, many of the concepts that we covered in today's lecture are captured in this sketch.

Image credit: Victoria Grinberg
@vicgrinberg

