# Simplifying harmonic gauge perturbations around black holes

[arXiv:1711.00585, 1801.09800, 2004.09651] + WIP

Igor Khavkine

Institute of Mathematics Czech Academy of Sciences (Prague)

*Quantum and classical fields interacting with geometry* thematic program, Institut Henri Poincaré, Paris

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• On a Lorentzian (M, g),  $R_{\mu\nu} = 0$  vacuum, consider scalar z (s = 0), Maxwell  $v_{\mu}$  (s = 1) and Einstein  $p_{\mu\nu}$  (s = 2) perturbations:

$$(SW) \quad \Box z = 0,$$

$$(Max) (VW) \quad \Box v_{\mu} - \nabla_{\mu} \nabla^{\nu} v_{\nu} = 0$$

$$(v_{\mu} = \nabla_{\mu} \varepsilon \rightsquigarrow \Box \varepsilon = 0 \text{ residual gauge dynamics}),$$

$$(Ein) (LW) \quad \Box p_{\mu\nu} - 2^{4} R_{\mu}{}^{\lambda\kappa}{}_{\nu} p_{\lambda\kappa} - 2 \nabla_{(\mu} \nabla^{\lambda} \overline{p}_{\nu)\lambda} = 0$$

$$(p_{\mu\nu} = \nabla_{(\mu} v_{\nu)} \rightsquigarrow \Box v_{\mu} = 0 \text{ residual gauge dynamics}).$$

- Under harmonic gauges ( $\nabla^{\mu}v_{\mu} = 0$  and  $\nabla^{\nu}\overline{p}_{\mu\nu} = \nabla^{\nu}(p_{\mu\nu} \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu} \operatorname{tr} p) = 0$ ) we get the vector wave and Lichnerowicz wave equations.
- Advantages: well known regularity properties for solutions in harmonic gauge
- Disadvantages: reduction to master equations and separation of variables is usually done in Regge-Wheeler (Schwarzschild) or radiation (Kerr) gauges; not obvious in harmonic gauge.

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Schwarzschild: spherically symmetric, static black hole  $(R_{\mu\nu} = 0)$ ,

$$\mathbf{g} = -f(\mathrm{d}t)^2 + f^{-1}(\mathrm{d}r)^2 + r^2\left(\mathrm{d}\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta\,(\mathrm{d}\varphi)^2\right), \quad f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r}$$

$$\Phi(t, r, \theta, \varphi) = \{\phi_{\omega lm}(r) Y^{lm}(\theta, \varphi)\} e^{-i\omega t}$$

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- ▶ But gauge invariant modes decouple and satisfy spin-s Regge-Wheeler equations D<sub>s</sub>φ<sup>s</sup>(r) = 0.

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#### Radial Mode Equation: $VW_{\omega}[v] = 0$

Explicitly,  $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v(r) = (v_t, v_r, u \mid w)$ :

(odd) 
$$\partial_r \mathcal{B}_l r^2 f \partial_r w + \left(\omega^2 \frac{r^2}{f} - \mathcal{B}_l\right) \mathcal{B}_l w + \mathcal{B}_l \frac{2M}{r} w = 0,$$

(even)

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\partial_r \frac{1}{f} r^2 f \partial_r v_t \\ \partial_r f r^2 f \partial_r v_r \\ \partial_r \mathcal{B}_l r^2 f \partial_r u \end{bmatrix} + \left( \omega^2 \frac{r^2}{f} - \mathcal{B}_l \right) \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{f} v_t \\ f v_r \\ \mathcal{B}_l u \end{bmatrix}$$

$$+ i \omega \frac{2M}{f} \begin{bmatrix} v_r \\ -v_t \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2f^2 & 2\mathcal{B}_l f \\ 0 & 2\mathcal{B}_l f & \mathcal{B}_l \frac{2M}{r} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} v_t \\ v_r \\ u \end{bmatrix} = 0,$$

$$\text{where } f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} \text{ and } \mathcal{B}_l = l(l+1).$$

### Radial Mode Equation: $LW_{\omega}[p] = 0$ (odd sector)

Explicitly, 
$$p_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow p(r) = (h_{tt}, h_{tr}, h_{rr}, j_t, j_r, K, G \mid h_t, h_r, h_2)$$
:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \partial_{r}(-2\frac{B_{l}}{f}r^{2}f\partial_{r})h_{l} \\ \partial_{r}(2B_{l}fr^{2}f\partial_{r})h_{r} \\ \partial_{r}(\frac{A_{l}}{2}r^{2}f\partial_{r})h_{2} \end{bmatrix} - \mathcal{B}_{l} \begin{bmatrix} -2\frac{B_{l}}{f}h_{l} \\ 2B_{l}fh_{r} \\ \frac{A_{2}}{2}h_{2} \end{bmatrix} \\ + \begin{bmatrix} -4\frac{B_{l}}{f}\frac{2M}{r} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -8\mathcal{B}_{l}f(1-\frac{3M}{r}) & 2\mathcal{A}_{l}f \\ 0 & 2\mathcal{A}_{l}f & \mathcal{A}_{l} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} h_{t} \\ h_{r} \\ h_{2} \end{bmatrix} \\ -i\omega\frac{4M}{f} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\mathcal{B}_{l} & 0 \\ \mathcal{B}_{l} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} h_{t} \\ h_{r} \\ h_{2} \end{bmatrix} + \omega^{2}\frac{r^{2}}{f} \begin{bmatrix} -2\frac{B_{l}}{f}h_{t} \\ 2B_{l}fh_{r} \\ \frac{A_{l}}{2}h_{2} \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

where  $f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r}$ ,  $A_l = (l-1)l(l+1)(l+2)$  and  $B_l = l(l+1)$ 

## Radial Mode Equation: $LW_{\omega}[p] = 0$ (even sector)

IHP 02/04/2024

Vector wave equation [arXiv:1711.00585]:



Lichnerowicz wave equation [arXiv:2004.09651]:





Hierarchy of modes: pure gauge, gauge invariant, constraint violating. (see 2004.09651 or youtu.be/dy-Q05NFHC0 for details)

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Vector wave equation [arXiv:1711.00585]:

$$\blacktriangleright VW_{\omega}^{\text{odd}} \sim \mathcal{D}_{1} \quad VW_{\omega}^{\text{even}} \sim \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{D}_{0} & 0 & -\frac{2M}{r^{3}} \left( \mathcal{B}_{I} + \frac{M}{2r} \right) \\ 0 & \mathcal{D}_{1} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathcal{D}_{0} \end{bmatrix}$$

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Simplifying harmonic gauge perturbations

- A simplification is an isomorphism  $E[\phi] = 0 \sim \tilde{E}[\tilde{\phi}] = 0$  from a more complicated PDE to a simpler PDE.
- Q: What is a(n iso)morphism between Differential Equations?



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### Kerr background

• Kerr: axially symmetric, stationary black hole ( $R_{\mu\nu} = 0$ ),

$$\mathbf{g} = -\frac{\Delta_r}{\Sigma} (\mathrm{d}\tau + y^2 \mathrm{d}\psi)^2 + \frac{\Delta_y}{\Sigma} (\mathrm{d}\tau - r^2 \mathrm{d}\psi)^2 + \Sigma \left(\frac{(\mathrm{d}r)^2}{\Delta_r} + \frac{(\mathrm{d}y)^2}{\Delta_y}\right),$$

to Boyer-Lindquist coords:  $\tau = t - a\varphi$ ,  $y = a\cos\theta$ ,  $\psi = \varphi/a$ ,

$$\Sigma = r^2 + y^2, \quad \Delta_y = a^2 - y^2, \quad \Delta_r = r(r-2M) + a^2.$$

Partial separation of variables by symmetry (s = 0, 1, 2):

$$\Phi = \phi_{\omega m}(r, y) e^{-i\omega t} e^{im\psi}$$

• Teukolsky scalars ( $\Phi^{\pm s} = \ldots$ ) decouple,

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- Superficially, harmonic gauge perturbation equations do not fully separate on Kerr.
- What if we could isolate all the modes in harmonic gauge (gauge, gauge invariant modes, constraint violating modes) and fully separate each of the resulting equations? Then harmonic gauge perturbations would fully separate indirectly.
- Hope appeared with formulas for recontructing harmonic gauge metric perturbations from Teukolsky scalars (Hertz potentials).
   [Lunin 1708.06766, Frolov-Krtouš-Kubizňák 1802.09491, Dolan 1906.04808, Dolan-Durkan-Kavanagh-Wardell 2011.03548 2108.06344 2306.16459]
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### Kerr: obstruction at a crucial step?

Q: On Kerr, can we achieve full separation of variables and upper triangular simplification like on Schwarzschild?

A crucial step (s = 1): do  $v_{\mu} = \nabla_{\mu} \varepsilon$  (gauge),  $z = \nabla^{\mu} v_{\mu}$  (constraint violating) and  $\Phi^{\pm 1}$  (Teukolsky invariants) exhaust all degrees of freedom in the solutions of  $\Box v_{\mu} = 0$ ? Precise question, by analogy with Schwarzschild:

$$\begin{cases} 1 & 0 & * & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & * & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & S & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & * & \Box \\ \end{cases} \begin{bmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ X_3 \\ \varepsilon \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad \sim \quad \begin{cases} \Box v_\mu = 0 \\ \Phi^{\pm 1}[v] = 0 \\ \nabla^{\mu} v_\mu = 0 \end{cases} \quad \stackrel{?}{\sim} \quad \Box \varepsilon = 0$$

Observation (WIP): there is a non-separable missing mode

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} \partial_r & \partial_y \end{bmatrix} \frac{\begin{bmatrix} \Sigma & \omega_r + \omega_y \\ \overline{\Delta_y} & \overline{i\omega} \\ -\frac{\omega_r + \omega_y}{\overline{i\omega}} & \overline{\Delta_r} \end{bmatrix}}{\Delta_y \omega_y^2 - \Delta_r \omega_r^2} \begin{bmatrix} \partial_r \\ \partial_y \end{bmatrix} - \frac{\Sigma}{\Delta_r \Delta_y},$$

where  $\Sigma = r^2 + y^2$ ,  $\Delta_r = r(r - 2M) + a^2$ ,  $\Delta_y = a^2 - y^2$ ,  $\omega_r = \frac{\omega r^2 - m}{\Delta_r}$ ,  $\omega_y = \frac{\omega y^2 + m}{\Delta_y}$ .  $\varepsilon$  is the gauge degree of freedom,  $X_i$  are gauge invariant (divide by  $\omega$ ).

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Observation (WIP): there is a non-separable missing mode

$$S = \begin{bmatrix} \partial_r & \partial_y \end{bmatrix} \frac{\begin{bmatrix} \sum & \omega_r + \omega_y \\ \overline{\Delta_y} & \overline{i\omega} \\ -\frac{\omega_r + \omega_y}{\overline{i\omega}} & \overline{\Delta_r} \end{bmatrix}}{\Delta_y \omega_y^2 - \Delta_r \omega_r^2} \begin{bmatrix} \partial_r \\ \partial_y \end{bmatrix} - \frac{\Sigma}{\Delta_r \Delta_y},$$

where  $\Sigma = r^2 + y^2$ ,  $\Delta_r = r(r - 2M) + a^2$ ,  $\Delta_y = a^2 - y^2$ ,  $\omega_r = \frac{\omega r^2 - m}{\Delta_r}$ ,  $\omega_y = \frac{\omega y^2 + m}{\Delta_y}$ .  $\varepsilon$  is the gauge degree of freedom,  $X_i$  are gauge invariant (divide by  $\omega$ ).

Igor Khavkine (CAS, Prague)

Simplifying harmonic gauge perturbations

## Kerr: obstruction at a crucial step?

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# Thank you for your attention!