Gravitational self-force in the ultra-relativistic regime

Chad Galley, California Institute of Technology

with Rafael Porto (IAS)

arXiv: 1302.4486 v2 soon! (with details)

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Ultra-relativistic speeds parametrized by *boost factor*

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{-g_{\alpha\beta}v^{\alpha}v^{\beta}}} \gg 1 \qquad \qquad v^{\mu} = \frac{dz^{\mu}}{dt} = (1, \vec{v}) \sim 1$$

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- Circular orbit near Schwarzschild light ring
- Fast "fly-by" motions



• Fast motion in any background





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Does perturbation theory change?

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Aichelburg & Sexl (1971)



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Help calibrate semi-analytical merger models Akcay + (2012)



Black hole Neutron star

CRG & Hu (2009)

White dwarf

Star,...



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Expansion parameter:

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 $z^{\mu}(\lambda)$, $h_{lphaeta}(x^{\mu})$



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Finite size effects at $(m/M)^4$

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$$G^{\text{ret}}(x, x') \sim \frac{1}{M^{2}} \qquad \qquad h_{\alpha\beta}(x) \propto m \int d\tau' \ G^{\text{ret}}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(x, z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'}$$

$$\int d\tau \sim \int dt/\gamma \sim M/\gamma \qquad \qquad \sim \frac{\gamma m}{M} \equiv \epsilon$$

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Gravity & effective particle action:

$$S[z^{\mu}, h_{\alpha\beta}] = S_{\mathsf{EH}}[h_{\alpha\beta}] - m \int d\tau \sqrt{1 - \gamma^2 h_{\alpha\beta} v^{\alpha} v^{\beta}} + \text{finite size corrections}$$

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= $\frac{\gamma^3 m}{M} \ll 1$

is naturally

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Ultra-relativistic limit: $\gamma \to \infty, m \to 0$ $\lambda = \text{constant}$

$$({\it L}\sim\gamma mM$$
 , $N\equiv\gamma^2)$



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Only diagrams without interactions in bulk contribute to ultra-relativistic limit!

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Resembles large-*N* expansions in QFT

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$$\begin{split} \lambda &= \gamma^3 m/M = \text{constant} \ll 1 \\ &\frac{\lambda^2 L}{N^2} \ll \frac{\lambda^p L}{N} \end{split}$$

For example, ignoring $1/N^2$ terms and truncating after 4th order:



$$q \lesssim rac{10^{-2}}{(10^2)^3} = 10^{-8}$$

$$q \lesssim rac{10^{-2}}{(10^3)^3} = 10^{-11}$$

Gravitational perturbations & self-force

Easier to compute gravitational perturbations first in a theory with only worldline couplings -- a *master source CRG* (2011)

$$h_{\mu\nu}(x) = \int d\tau' \, G_{\mu\nu\alpha'\beta'}^{\text{ret}}(x, z^{\mu'}) \, \mathcal{S}_{R}^{\alpha'\beta'}(z^{\mu'})$$

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To derive the master source:

• Use an action that accommodates outgoing boundary conditions CRG & Tiglio (2009); CRG (2010); CRG (2013) [PRL Editors' Highlight]



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- Consistent quantization of open systems CRG & Chen (in progress)
- Gives a powerful framework to tackle any real-world problem with similar tools learned in courses







Successfully applied in black hole binaries...



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Class. Quantum Grav. 29 (2012) 015010 (37pp)	doi:10.1088/0264-9381/29/1/015010
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A nonlinear scalar model of extreme mass ratio inspirals in effective field theory: II. Scalar perturbations and a master source

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Successfully applied in black hole binaries...



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$$\begin{split} \mathcal{S}_{R}^{\alpha'\beta'}(z^{\mu'}) &= \frac{m}{2} u^{\alpha'} u^{\beta'} \left\{ 1 + \frac{m}{4} l_{R}(z^{\mu'}) + \frac{3m^{2}}{32} l_{R}^{2}(z^{\mu'}) + \frac{m^{2}}{16} u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'} \int d\tau'' D_{\gamma'\delta'\epsilon''\eta''}^{R} u^{\epsilon''} u^{\eta''} l_{R}(z^{\mu''}) \right. \\ &+ \frac{3m^{3}}{128} u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'} \int d\tau'' D_{\gamma'\delta'\epsilon''\eta''}^{R} u^{\epsilon''} u^{\eta''} l_{R}^{2}(z^{\mu''}) + \frac{5m^{3}}{128} l_{R}^{3}(z^{\mu'}) \\ &+ \frac{3m^{3}}{64} l_{R}(z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'} \int d\tau'' D_{\gamma'\delta'\epsilon''\eta''}^{R} u^{\epsilon''} u^{\eta''} l_{R}(z^{\mu''}) \\ &+ \frac{m^{3}}{64} u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'} \int d\tau'' D_{\gamma'\delta'\epsilon''\eta''}^{R} u^{\epsilon''} u^{\eta''} u^{\rho''} u^{\lambda''} \int d\tau''' D_{\rho''\lambda''\tau''\sigma'''}^{R} u^{\sigma'''} l_{R}(z^{\mu'''}) \\ &+ \mathcal{O}(\lambda^{4}) \Big\} + \cdots \end{split}$$

$$I_R(z^{\mu}) \equiv u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} \int d\tau' D^R_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'} \qquad CRG \& Porto (2013)$$

• Use master source to construct regular field on worldline

$$h_{\alpha\beta}^{R}(x) = \int d\tau' D_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}^{R}(x, z^{\mu'}) S_{R}^{\gamma'\delta}(z^{\mu'})$$

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• Use regular field in full worldline equations of motion (in ultra-rel limit)

$$S_{pp}[z^{\mu}] = -m \int d\lambda \sqrt{-(g_{\alpha\beta}(z^{\mu}) + h^{R}_{\alpha\beta}(z^{\mu}))u^{\alpha}u^{\beta}} + \text{ finite size corrections}$$

$$\left(g_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}^{R} + \frac{g_{\mu\alpha} + h_{\mu\alpha}^{R}}{1 - h_{\gamma\delta}^{R} u^{\gamma} u^{\delta}} u^{\alpha} h_{\nu\beta}^{R} u^{\beta} \right) a^{\nu} = \left(\frac{1}{2} u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} g_{\mu}^{\ \nu} - (g_{\mu}^{\ \alpha} u^{\beta} + g_{\mu}^{\ \beta} u^{\alpha}) u^{\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{g_{\mu\gamma} + h_{\mu\gamma}^{R}}{1 - h_{\epsilon\eta}^{R} u^{\epsilon} u^{\eta}} u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} u^{\gamma} u^{\nu} \right) \nabla_{\nu} h_{\alpha\beta}^{R}$$

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• Expand to desired order in $\lambda = \gamma^3 m/M$

Example: Circular orbits in Schwarzschild

For ultra-relativistic circular orbits in a Schwarzschild background *I_R* is a constant on a given orbital radius *Barack & Sago (2007); Detweiler (2008)*

$$\mathcal{S}_{R}^{\alpha'\beta'}(z_{o}^{\mu}) = \frac{m}{2}u_{o}^{\alpha'}u_{o}^{\beta'}\left[1 + \frac{m}{4}I_{R}(z_{o}^{\mu}) + \frac{5m^{2}}{32}I_{R}^{2}(z_{o}^{\mu}) + \frac{m^{3}}{8}I_{R}^{3}(z_{o}^{\mu}) + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^{4})\right] + \cdots$$

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Circular orbits possess certain "gauge-invariant" quantities Detweiler (2008), Le Tiec, Whiting, Blanchet,...

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Need to compute *I_R* numerically in ultra-relativistic regime to make predictions *Akcay* + (2013)

Self-force on "photon"

Effective action in strict ultra-relativistic limit is degenerate...
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$$\gamma \to \infty \qquad m \to 0$$

$$\lambda = \gamma^3 \frac{m}{M} = \text{constant} \qquad \qquad S_{\text{eff}}[z^{\mu}] \sim \frac{\lambda M^2}{\gamma^4} \left(1 + \lambda + \lambda^2 + \frac{\lambda^2}{\gamma^2} + \cdots\right)$$

$$-m \int d\tau$$

...but massless limit exists

$$S_{\text{Polyakov}}[z^{\mu}] = \int d\lambda \left(rac{u^{lpha} u_{lpha}}{e(\lambda)} - m^2 e(\lambda)
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Massless:

$$S_{\rm eff}[z^{\mu}] = \underline{\qquad} + \underline{\checkmark} + \underline{\bot} + \underline{$$





<u>YES</u>

Suggests a duality between certain bulk and worldline diagrams



<u>YES</u>

Suggests a duality between certain bulk and worldline diagrams



<u>YES</u>

Suggests a duality between certain bulk and worldline diagrams

<u>NO</u>

Why is the limit discontinuous?

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Are the massless limit and massless case equal???

• If so, worldline diagrams are somehow dual to certain bulk diagrams (would aid self-force calculations for EMRIs, etc.)

Extra slides



$$I(z^{\mu}) = u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\tau_{\text{in}}} + \int_{\tau_{\text{in}}}^{\tau_{\text{out}}} + \int_{\tau_{\text{out}}}^{\infty} \right) d\tau' \ G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'}$$

Singular part:

$$I_{S}(z^{\mu}) = u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} \int_{\tau_{\text{in}}}^{\tau_{\text{out}}} d\tau' \ G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'}$$



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$$I_{S}(z^{\mu}) = u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tau' G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'}$$



$$I(z^{\mu}) = u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\tau_{\text{in}}} + \int_{\tau_{\text{in}}}^{\tau_{\text{out}}} + \int_{\tau_{\text{out}}}^{\infty} \right) d\tau' \, G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'}$$

Singular part:

$$I_{S}(z^{\mu}) = u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} \int_{\tau_{\rm in}}^{\tau_{\rm out}} d\tau' \, G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'}$$

$$I_{S}(z^{\mu}) = u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tau' G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'}$$

Regular part:

$$I_R(z^{\mu}) \equiv I(z^{\mu}) - I_S(z^{\mu})$$



$$I(z^{\mu}) = u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\tau_{\text{in}}} + \int_{\tau_{\text{in}}}^{\tau_{\text{out}}} + \int_{\tau_{\text{out}}}^{\infty} \right) d\tau' G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'}$$

Singular part:

$$I_{S}(z^{\mu}) = u^{\alpha} u^{\beta} \int_{\tau_{\text{in}}}^{\tau_{\text{out}}} d\tau' \, G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) u^{\gamma'} u^{\delta'}$$

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Regular part:

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$$I_{R}(z^{\mu}) \equiv I(z^{\mu}) - I_{S}(z^{\mu})$$

$$I_{R}(z^{\mu}) = u^{\alpha}u^{\beta} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\tau' D^{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'})u^{\gamma'}u^{\delta'}$$

$$D^{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) \equiv \Theta(\tau' - \tau_{out}\Theta(\tau_{in} - \tau')G^{ret}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu''})$$

$$+ \Theta(\tau_{out} - \tau')\Theta(\tau' - \tau_{in})G^{R}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'})$$

 $z^{\mu}(\tau_{\rm out})$

normal

 $z^{\mu}(\tau')$

$$G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(x,x') = 4P_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(x,x')\Delta^{1/2}(x,x')\delta(\sigma) - 4V_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(x,x')\Theta(\sigma)$$

$$G_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}^{S}(x,x') = 4P_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(x,x')\Delta^{1/2}(x,x')\delta(\sigma) - 4V_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(x,x')\Theta(\sigma)$$

 $G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) = 4P_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'})\Delta^{1/2}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'})\delta(\sigma)$

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Real part of Feynman Green function in flat spacetime

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Real part of Feynman Green function in flat spacetime

$$G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) = 4P_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'})\Delta^{1/2}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'})\operatorname{Re}\int \frac{d^{4}k}{(2\pi)^{4}} \frac{e^{-ik^{0}s}}{(k^{0})^{2} - \vec{k}^{2} + i\epsilon}$$

$$G_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}^{S}(x,x') = 4P_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(x,x')\Delta^{1/2}(x,x')\delta(\sigma) - 4V_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(x,x')\Theta(\sigma)$$

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Real part of Feynman Green function in flat spacetime

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Finally, in *d* spacetime dimensions (for dimensional regularization):

$$G^{S}_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'}) = 4P_{\alpha\beta\gamma'\delta'}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'})\Delta^{1/2}(z^{\mu}, z^{\mu'})\operatorname{Re}\int \frac{d^{d}k}{(2\pi)^{d}} \frac{e^{-ik^{0}s}}{(k^{0})^{2} - \vec{k}^{2} + i\epsilon}$$