

New gravitational memories

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ABSTRACT: The conventional gravitational memory effect is a relative displacement in the position of two detectors induced by radiative energy flux. We find a new type of gravitational ‘spin memory’ in which beams on clockwise and counterclockwise orbits acquire a relative delay induced by radiative angular momentum flux. It has recently been shown that the displacement memory formula is a Fourier transform in time of Weinberg’s soft graviton theorem. Here we see that the spin memory formula is a Fourier transform in time of the recently-discovered subleading soft graviton theorem.

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1 Introduction

The passage of gravitational radiation past a pair of nearby inertial detectors produces oscillations in their relative positions. After the waves have passed, and spacetime locally reverts to the vacuum, the detectors in general do not return to their initial relative positions. The resulting displacement, discovered in 1974 [1–11], is known as the gravitational memory effect. Direct measurement of the gravitational memory may be possible in the coming years, see e.g. [12, 13]. The effect is a consequence [14] of the fact that the radiation induces transitions among the many BMS-degenerate [15, 16] vacua in general relativity. The initial and final spacetime geometries, although both flat, differ by a BMS supertranslation. The displacement is proportional to the BMS-induced shift in the spacetime metric, which in turn is given by a universal formula involving moments of the asymptotic energy flux.

Since the initial and final metrics differ, the Fourier transform in time must have a pole at zero energy. A universal formula for this pole was found in 1965 [17] and is known as Weinberg’s soft graviton theorem. The complete equivalence of the soft graviton and displacement memory formulae was demonstrated in [14].

Recently, a new universal soft graviton formula was discovered [18] (see also [19, 20]) that governs not the pole but the finite piece in the expansion of soft graviton scattering about zero energy. This was shown [21] to be a consequence of the BMS superrotations¹ of [22] in the same sense that Weinberg’s pole formula is a consequence of BMS supertranslations.

¹The associated symmetry group is the familiar Virasoro symmetry of euclidean two-dimensional conformal field theory [22]. This may be usefully embedded in a larger group of all diffeomorphisms of the sphere [23, 24].

This discovery immediately raises the question: is there a new kind of gravitational memory associated with superrotations and the subleading soft theorem? In this paper we show that the answer is yes. While displacement memory is sourced by moments of the energy flux through null infinity (\mathcal{I}), the new memory is sourced by moments of the angular momentum flux. Accordingly we call it *spin memory*. The spin memory effect provides a cogent operational meaning to the superrotational symmetry of gravitational scattering.

Spin memory has a chiral structure and cannot be measured by inertial detectors. Instead, we consider light rays which repeatedly orbit (with the help of fiber optics or mirrors) clockwise or counterclockwise around a fixed circle in the asymptotic region. The passage of angular-momentum-carrying radiation will induce a relative time delay between the counter-orbiting light rays, resulting for example in a shift in the interference fringe. A universal formula for this delay is given in terms of moments of the angular momentum flux through infinity. The relative time delay for counter-orbiting light rays is the spin memory effect. It is a new kind of gravitational memory.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 outlines the metric and constraint equations for asymptotically flat spacetimes. Section 3 reviews the displacement memory effect. Section 4 introduces the spin memory effect. Section 5 uses the constraint equations and boundary conditions to relate this new memory effect to angular momentum flux. Section 6 demonstrates that the spin memory formula is the Fourier transform in time of the subleading soft graviton formula of [18]. Finally, in section 7, we discuss the infinite family of conserved charges associated to the infinite superrotational symmetries. Measurements verifying the conservation laws are described. We close with a short comment on implications for black hole information. The appendix derives several formulae concerning the angular momentum of spinning particles on null geodesics.

2 Asymptotically flat metrics

The expansion of an asymptotically flat spacetime metric near \mathcal{I}^+ in retarded Bondi coordinates takes the form²

$$\begin{aligned}
 ds^2 = & -du^2 - 2dudr + 2r^2\gamma_{z\bar{z}}dzd\bar{z} + 2\frac{m_B}{r}du^2 \\
 & + \left(rC_{zz}dz^2 + D^zC_{zz}dudz + \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{4}{3}N_z - \frac{1}{4}\partial_z(C_{zz}C^{zz}) \right) dudz + \text{c.c.} \right) + \dots
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

where $u = t - r$, $\gamma_{z\bar{z}} = \frac{2}{(1+z\bar{z})^2}$ is the unit metric on S^2 (used to raise and lower z and \bar{z} indices), D_z is the γ -covariant derivative, and subleading terms are suppressed by powers of r . The Bondi mass aspect m_B , the angular momentum aspect N_z , and C_{zz} are functions of (u, z, \bar{z}) , not r . They are related by the \mathcal{I}^+ constraint equations $G_{uu} = 8\pi GT_{uu}^M$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \partial_u m_B &= \frac{1}{4} [D_z^2 N^{zz} + D_{\bar{z}}^2 N^{\bar{z}\bar{z}}] - T_{uu}, \\
 T_{uu} &\equiv \frac{1}{4} N_{zz} N^{zz} + 4\pi G \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} [r^2 T_{uu}^M],
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

²Our definition of N_z , which is proportional to the Weyl tensor (see below) is related to N_z^{BT} of [22] by $4N_z = 4N_z^{BT} + C_{zz}D_z C^{zz} + \frac{3}{4}\partial_z(C_{zz}C^{zz})$.

and $G_{uz} = 8\pi GT_{uz}^M$

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_u N_z &= \frac{1}{4} \partial_z [D_z^2 C^{zz} - D_{\bar{z}}^2 C^{\bar{z}\bar{z}}] + \partial_z m_B - T_{uz}, \\ T_{uz} &\equiv 8\pi G \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} [r^2 T_{uz}^M] - \frac{1}{4} D_z [C_{zz} N^{zz}] - \frac{1}{2} C_{zz} D_z N^{zz},\end{aligned}\tag{2.3}$$

where $N_{zz} = \partial_u C_{zz}$ is the Bondi news, T^M is the matter stress tensor and T_{uu} (T_{uz}) is the total energy (angular momentum) flux through a given point on \mathcal{I}^+ . The angular momentum aspect is related to the Weyl tensor component Ψ_1^0 on \mathcal{I}^+ by

$$N_z = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} r^3 C_{zrru}.\tag{2.4}$$

We also note that

$$\text{Im} \Psi_2^0 = \text{Im} \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} r \gamma^{z\bar{z}} C_{u\bar{z}zr} = -\text{Im} \left[\frac{1}{2} D_z^2 C^{zz} + \frac{1}{4} C_{zz} N^{zz} \right].\tag{2.5}$$

Most of our discussion will concern \mathcal{I}^+ , but the metric expansion near \mathcal{I}^- in the retarded Bondi coordinate $v = t + r$ is

$$\begin{aligned}ds^2 &= -dv^2 + 2dvdr + 2r^2 \gamma_{z\bar{z}} dz d\bar{z} + 2 \frac{m_B}{r} dv^2 \\ &+ \left(-r C_{zz} dz^2 + D^z C_{zz} dvdz + \frac{1}{r} \left(\frac{4}{3} N_z + \frac{1}{4} \partial_z (C_{zz} C^{zz}) \right) dvdz + \text{c.c.} \right) + \dots\end{aligned}\tag{2.6}$$

where here the metric perturbations are functions of (v, z, \bar{z}) . The z coordinate on \mathcal{I}^- is defined so that $(-v, z, \bar{z})$ is the PT conjugate of (u, z, \bar{z}) : hence they lie on the same null generator of \mathcal{I} and are antipodally located relative to the origin of the spacetime. The \mathcal{I}^- constraint equations become $G_{vv} = 8\pi GT_{vv}^M$

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_v m_B &= -\frac{1}{4} [D_z^2 N^{zz} + D_{\bar{z}}^2 N^{\bar{z}\bar{z}}] + T_{vv}, \\ T_{vv} &\equiv \frac{1}{4} N_{zz} N^{zz} + 4\pi G \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} [r^2 T_{vv}^M],\end{aligned}\tag{2.7}$$

and $G_{vz} = 8\pi GT_{vz}^M$

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_v N_z &= -\frac{1}{4} \partial_z [D_z^2 C^{zz} - D_{\bar{z}}^2 C^{\bar{z}\bar{z}}] + \partial_z m_B + T_{vz}, \\ T_{vz} &\equiv 8\pi G \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} [r^2 T_{vz}^M] - \frac{1}{4} D_z [C_{zz} N^{zz}] - \frac{1}{2} C_{zz} D_z N^{zz}.\end{aligned}\tag{2.8}$$

We use the symbol \mathcal{I}_{\pm}^+ (\mathcal{I}_{\pm}^-) to denote the past and future S^2 boundaries of \mathcal{I}^+ , and \mathcal{I}_{\pm}^- for those of \mathcal{I}^- . In this paper, we consider spacetimes which decay to the vacuum in the far past and future \mathcal{I}_{\pm}^- and \mathcal{I}_{\pm}^+ . (The more general case requires an analysis of extra past and future boundary terms.) In particular, we require

$$N_z|_{\mathcal{I}_{\pm}^+} = N_z|_{\mathcal{I}_{\pm}^-} = m_B|_{\mathcal{I}_{\pm}^+} = m_B|_{\mathcal{I}_{\pm}^-} = 0.\tag{2.9}$$

Moreover near all the boundaries \mathcal{I}_\pm^\pm of \mathcal{I} , the geometry is in the vacuum in the sense that the radiative modes are unexcited:

$$N_{zz}|_{\mathcal{I}_\pm^\pm} = \text{Im}\Psi_2^0|_{\mathcal{I}_\pm^\pm} = 0. \quad (2.10)$$

More precisely, following Christodoulou and Klainerman [25], we take $N_{zz} \sim |u|^{-3/2}$ ($|v|^{-3/2}$) on \mathcal{I}^+ (\mathcal{I}^-) as well as a corresponding falloff of the stress tensor.

These conditions do *not* imply $C_{zz}|_{\mathcal{I}_\pm^\pm} = 0$. Rather, the general solution of (2.10) is (see e.g [26])

$$C_{zz} = -2D_z^2 C, \quad (2.11)$$

where C is any (u -independent) function of (z, \bar{z}) . These solutions are mapped to one another by BMS supertranslations and exhibit the large vacuum degeneracy in general relativity.

As described in [26], to define gravitational scattering one must specify boundary or continuity conditions on m_B and C_{zz} near where \mathcal{I}^+ and \mathcal{I}^- meet. The unique Lorentz, PT and BMS-invariant choice is simply

$$C_{zz}|_{\mathcal{I}_-^+} = C_{zz}|_{\mathcal{I}_+^-}, \quad m_B|_{\mathcal{I}_-^+} = m_B|_{\mathcal{I}_+^-}. \quad (2.12)$$

In this paper N_z plays an important role and its determination from the constraint equation (2.3) also requires a continuity condition. This is a bit tricky because outside the center-of-mass frame, N_z may grow linearly with u or v near \mathcal{I}_\pm^\pm . It follows from (2.3) and (2.10) that the divergent term is exact: $N_z \sim u\partial_z m_B$. Fortunately for us, such exact terms are irrelevant for our purposes (see section 5). We will need a continuity condition for the curl of N_z . (2.10), (2.12) and the Bianchi identity imply

$$\partial_{[z} N_{\bar{z}]}|_{\mathcal{I}_-^+} = \partial_{[z} N_{\bar{z}]}|_{\mathcal{I}_+^-}. \quad (2.13)$$

We are interested in the difference between the initial and final functions C in (2.11) on \mathcal{I} . This can be determined by integrating the constraint (2.2) as follows (see [14] for more details). Defining

$$\Delta^+ C_{zz} = C_{zz}|_{\mathcal{I}_+^+} - C_{zz}|_{\mathcal{I}_-^+}, \quad \Delta^+ m_B = m_B|_{\mathcal{I}_+^+} - m_B|_{\mathcal{I}_-^+} = -m_B|_{\mathcal{I}_+^+}, \quad (2.14)$$

and using (2.2) one finds

$$D_z^2 \Delta^+ C^{zz} = 2 \int du T_{uu} + 2\Delta^+ m_B. \quad (2.15)$$

The $\Delta^+ C$ which produces such a $\Delta^+ C_{zz}$ is obtained by inverting $D_z^2 D_{\bar{z}}^2$:

$$\Delta^+ C(z, \bar{z}) = \int d^2 w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} G(z; w) \left[\int du T_{uu}(w) + \Delta m_B \right] \quad (2.16)$$

where the Green's function is given by

$$G(z; w) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \sin^2 \frac{\Theta}{2} \log \sin^2 \frac{\Theta}{2}, \quad \sin^2 \frac{\Theta(z, w)}{2} \equiv \frac{|z - w|^2}{(1 + w\bar{w})(1 + z\bar{z})}. \quad (2.17)$$

An equation similar to (2.16) may be derived for the shift of C on \mathcal{I}^- . Adding the two equations, using the boundary condition (2.12), and defining

$$\Delta C = \Delta^+ C - \Delta^- C, \tag{2.18}$$

one arrives at the simple relation

$$\Delta C(z, \bar{z}) = \int d^2 w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} G(z; w) \left[\int du T_{uu}(w) - \int dv T_{vv}(w) \right]. \tag{2.19}$$

3 Displacement memory effect

In this section, we briefly review the standard gravitational memory effect. The passage of a finite pulse of radiation or other form of energy through a region of spacetime produces a gravitational field which moves inertial detectors. The final positions of a pair of nearby detectors are generically displaced relative to the initial ones according to a simple and universal formula [1–11], which we now review briefly.

Consider two nearby inertial detectors with proper worldline tangent vectors t^μ and relative displacement vector s^μ . We take the worldlines to be at large r and extend for infinite retarded time near \mathcal{I}^+ . s^μ evolves according to the geodesic deviation equation

$$\partial_\tau^2 s^\mu = R^\mu_{\lambda\rho\nu} t^\lambda t^\rho s^\nu, \tag{3.1}$$

where τ is the detector's proper time. At large r in the geometry (2.1), we may approximate $\tau \sim u$, $t^\lambda \partial_\lambda = \partial_u$ and

$$R_{zuz\bar{u}} = -\frac{1}{2} r \partial_u^2 C_{z\bar{z}}. \tag{3.2}$$

It follows that

$$\partial_u^2 s^{\bar{z}} = \frac{\gamma^{z\bar{z}}}{2r} \partial_u^2 C_{z\bar{z}} s^z. \tag{3.3}$$

Integrating twice one finds, to leading order in $\frac{1}{r}$, a net change in the displacement

$$\Delta^+ s^{\bar{z}} = \frac{\gamma^{z\bar{z}}}{2r} \Delta^+ C_{z\bar{z}} s^z, \tag{3.4}$$

where $\Delta^+ C_{z\bar{z}}$ is given in term of moments of the asymptotic energy flux by the second derivative of (2.16). (3.4) is the standard displacement memory formula.

4 Spin memory effect

This section describes the new spin memory effect, which affects orbiting objects such as protons in the LHC, or signals exchanged by eLISA detectors. Consider a circle \mathcal{C} of radius L near \mathcal{I}^+ centered around a point z_0 on a sphere of large fixed $r = r_0$, where $L \ll r_0$. This is described by

$$Z(\phi) = z_0 \left[1 + \frac{L e^{i\phi}}{2r_0} \frac{1 + z_0 \bar{z}_0}{\sqrt{z_0 \bar{z}_0}} \right] + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{L^2}{r_0^2} \right) \tag{4.1}$$

where $\phi \sim \phi + 2\pi$. A light ray in either a clockwise or counterclockwise orbit (aided by mirrors or fiber optics) along \mathcal{C} starting at $\phi(0) = 0$, has a trajectory $\phi(u)$ that obeys

$$\begin{aligned}
 ds^2 &= 0 \\
 &= 1 - 2r_0^2 \gamma_{z\bar{z}} \partial_u Z \partial_u \bar{Z} - 2 \frac{m_B}{r_0} - r_0 C_{zz} (\partial_u Z)^2 - r_0 C_{\bar{z}\bar{z}} (\partial_u \bar{Z})^2 \\
 &\quad [D^z C_{zz} \partial_u Z + D^{\bar{z}} C_{\bar{z}\bar{z}} \partial_u \bar{Z}] + \dots
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.2}$$

where it is here and hereafter assumed that C_{zz} does not change significantly over a single period. To this order, only the term in square brackets in (4.2) is odd under $\partial_u Z \rightarrow -\partial_u Z$. If two light rays are simultaneously set in orbit in opposite directions, the times at which they return to $\phi = 0$ ³ will differ by the u -integral of this odd term

$$\Delta P = \oint_{\mathcal{C}} (D^z C_{zz} dz + D^{\bar{z}} C_{\bar{z}\bar{z}} d\bar{z}). \tag{4.3}$$

This formula in fact applies to any contour \mathcal{C} , circular or not.

At first glance, it appears from (4.3) that the returns of the counter-orbiting light rays are desynchronized, even in the vacuum, as long as C_{zz} is nonzero. In fact this is not the case. For C_{zz} of the vacuum form (2.11), one readily finds that

$$\Delta P_{vacuum} = -2 \oint_{\mathcal{C}} d(D^z D_z C + C) = 0. \tag{4.4}$$

Hence desynchronization occurs only during the passage of radiation through \mathcal{I}^+ . The total relative time delay, integrated over all orbits is

$$\Delta^+ u = \frac{1}{2\pi L} \int du \oint_{\mathcal{C}} (D^z C_{zz} dz + D^{\bar{z}} C_{\bar{z}\bar{z}} d\bar{z}). \tag{4.5}$$

This leads to a shift in the interference pattern between counter-orbiting light pulses. The shift is an infrared effect proportional to the u -zero mode of C_{zz} . This is the spin memory effect.

5 Spin memory and angular momentum flux

Displacement memory (3.4) can be expressed as an integral of the net local asymptotic energy flux convoluted with the Green's function (2.19) on the sphere. In this section we derive an analogous formulae for spin memory as a convoluted integral involving the net local asymptotic angular momentum flux.

Taking $\partial_{\bar{z}}$ of the G_{uz} constraint in (2.3) and ∂_z of the complex conjugate $G_{u\bar{z}}$ constraint gives:

$$\partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} m_B = \text{Re} [\partial_u \partial_{\bar{z}} N_z + \partial_{\bar{z}} T_{uz}] \tag{5.1}$$

$$\text{Im} [\partial_{\bar{z}} D_z^3 C^{z\bar{z}}] = 2 \text{Im} [\partial_u \partial_{\bar{z}} N_z + \partial_{\bar{z}} T_{uz}]. \tag{5.2}$$

³The line $\phi = 0$ is a geodesic in the induced geometry of the ring (4.2) only in the limit $r \rightarrow \infty$. Detectors at fixed ϕ are ‘BMS detectors’ of the type discussed in [14]. A finite- r geodesic detector will be boosted and observe a different ΔP .

Multiplying (5.2) by the Green's function

$$\mathcal{G}(z; w) = \log \sin^2 \frac{\Theta}{2}, \quad \sin^2 \frac{\Theta(z, w)}{2} \equiv \frac{|z - w|^2}{(1 + w\bar{w})(1 + z\bar{z})} \quad (5.3)$$

which obeys

$$\partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}(z; w) = 2\pi \delta^2(z - w) - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{z\bar{z}}, \quad (5.4)$$

and integrating over d^2z gives:

$$\pi \text{Im} [D_w^2 C^{ww}] = -\text{Im} \int d^2z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}(z; w) [\partial_u N_z + T_{uz}]. \quad (5.5)$$

Note that the right hand side of (5.5) is invariant under shifts $N_z \rightarrow N_z + \partial_z X$ for any real X , so only the curl part of N_z contributes. Integrating both sides over the disk D_C whose boundary is \mathcal{C} and using Stokes' theorem, (5.5) leads to

$$\pi \oint_{\mathcal{C}} (D^w C_{ww} dw + D^{\bar{w}} C_{\bar{w}\bar{w}} d\bar{w}) = -2\text{Im} \int_{D_C} d^2w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} \int d^2z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}(z; w) [\partial_u N_z + T_{uz}]. \quad (5.6)$$

Multiplying by $\frac{1}{2\pi^2 L}$ and integrating over u then yields

$$\Delta^+ u = -\frac{1}{\pi^2 L} \text{Im} \int_{D_C} d^2w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} \int d^2z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}(z; w) \left[\Delta^+ N_z + \int du T_{uz} \right]. \quad (5.7)$$

where $\Delta^+ N_z \equiv N_z|_{\mathcal{I}^+} - N_z|_{\mathcal{I}^-} = -N_z|_{\mathcal{I}^+}$ is the shift in the angular momentum aspect. In many applications — for example geometries which are initially asymptotically Schwarzschild through subleading order — this term will vanish. Moreover, if $\Delta^+ N_z$ is exact, i.e. $\Delta^+ N_z = \partial_z X$ for any real X , no contribution to the imaginary part appears in (5.7). Hence (5.7) depends only on the curl of $\Delta^+ N_z$.

A similar analysis near \mathcal{I}^- leads to the formula

$$\Delta^- v = -\frac{1}{\pi^2 L} \text{Im} \int_{D_C} d^2w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} \int d^2z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}(z; w) \left[-\Delta^- N_z + \int dv T_{vz} \right]. \quad (5.8)$$

where the contour \mathcal{C} and disk D_C on \mathcal{I}^- is defined by the curve defined in equation (4.1) on \mathcal{I}^- . This means it will lie in the antipodal spatial direction from the origin. Using the continuity condition (2.13) on N_z one finds, in analogy to (2.19), an expression relating time delays and fluxes

$$\Delta\tau \equiv \Delta^+ u - \Delta^- v = -\frac{1}{\pi^2 L} \text{Im} \int_{D_C} d^2w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} \int d^2z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}(z; w) \left[\int du T_{uz} - \int dv T_{vz} \right]. \quad (5.9)$$

The right hand side of (5.9) is related to the local angular momentum flux through \mathcal{I} . Consider the case when T_{uz} arises from massless particles or localized wave packets which puncture \mathcal{I}^+ at points (u_k, z_k) . Then, as we show in the appendix,

$$T_{uz} = 8\pi G \sum_k \delta(u - u_k) \left[L_{uz}(z_k) - \frac{i}{2} h_k \partial_z \right] \frac{\delta^2(z - z_k)}{\gamma_{z\bar{z}}}, \quad (5.10)$$

together with a similar formula for T_{vz} . Here $L_{uz}(z_k)$, (h_k) is the orbital (spin) angular momentum of the k^{th} particle associated to a rotation around (boost towards) the point z_k on the sphere. The leading contribution from such particles to the time delay is

$$\Delta\tau = -\frac{8G}{\pi L} \sum_k \left(\gamma^{z_k \bar{z}_k} \text{Im} \int_{D_C} d^2w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} L_{uz}(z_k) \partial_{z_k} \mathcal{G}(z_k; w) + \pi h_{k \in \mathcal{C}} \right). \quad (5.11)$$

The second term in (5.11) has the simple interpretation that an object of spin h_k passing through \mathcal{C} at (or near) lightspeed induces a time delay of order $\frac{h_k}{L}$, with no factors of r_0 . This can be understood as the frame-dragging effect. If \mathcal{C} lies a distance of order L from z_k , the first term is typically a factor of $\frac{L}{r_0}$ smaller than the second.

Another interesting case is outgoing quadrupole radiation, with no incoming news or T_{vz} on \mathcal{I}^- .⁴ The displacement memory effect for configurations of this type is of potential astrophysical interest and was analyzed in [6]. This is described by the news tensor on \mathcal{I}^+

$$N_{zz} = N Y_z^i Y_z^j \quad (5.12)$$

for some $N(u)$. As an example, take $i = j$, $Y_i^z = z$ and

$$N = \frac{\alpha}{(2\pi)^{1/4}} \partial_u e^{-u^2 + i\omega u}. \quad (5.13)$$

The resulting angular momentum flux obeys

$$\int du T_{uz} = \frac{3i}{2} \alpha^2 \omega \partial_z \frac{z^2 \bar{z}^2}{(1 + z\bar{z})^4}, \quad (5.14)$$

so that

$$\text{Im} \int du \int d^2z \partial_z \mathcal{G}(z; w) T_{uz} = 3\pi \alpha^2 \omega \left[\frac{1}{30} - \frac{w^2 \bar{w}^2}{(1 + w\bar{w})^4} \right], \quad (5.15)$$

using (5.4). The quadrupole contribution to the time delay around a contour \mathcal{C} becomes

$$\Delta^+ u = \frac{3\alpha^2 \omega}{\pi L} \int_{D_C} d^2w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} \left[\frac{w^2 \bar{w}^2}{(1 + w\bar{w})^4} - \frac{1}{30} \right]. \quad (5.16)$$

For typical choices of \mathcal{C} such that the area of D_C is order L^2/r_0^2 , we have $\Delta^+ u \sim \frac{\alpha^2 L}{r_0^2}$.

6 Equivalence to subleading soft theorem

In the sixties, Weinberg [17] showed that scattering amplitudes in any theory with gravity exhibit universal poles as the energy ω of any external graviton is taken to zero. Recently [18–21, 23, 24, 27, 28] it has been shown that the finite, subleading term in the $\omega \rightarrow 0$ expansion also exhibits universal behavior. The coefficient of the *leading* pole was shown in [14] to be related by a timeline Fourier transform of the expression for displacement memory. We now show that the *subleading* term is a Fourier transform of the expression for spin memory.

⁴Since we are taking $m_B|_{\mathcal{I}^-} = 0$ here, the initial energy would have to enter in a spherically symmetric wave from \mathcal{I}^- .

The subleading soft graviton theorem is a universal relation between $(n + 1)$ -particle (with one soft graviton) and n -particle tree-level quantum scattering amplitudes [18]

$$\frac{1}{2} \left(\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0^+} + \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0^-} \right) \mathcal{A}_{n+1}(p_1, \dots, p_n; (\omega q, \epsilon_{\mu\nu})) = S_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} \epsilon^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{A}_n(p_1, \dots, p_n), \quad (6.1)$$

where

$$S_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} = \frac{i\kappa}{2} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{p_{k(\mu} J_{k\nu)\lambda} q^\lambda}{q \cdot p_k} \quad (6.2)$$

and $\kappa = \sqrt{32\pi G}$. In this expression, the parentheses denote (μ, ν) symmetrization, $q = (\omega, \omega \hat{q})$ with $\hat{q}^2 = 1$ is the four-momentum, and $\epsilon_{\mu\nu}$ is the transverse-traceless polarization tensor of the graviton. We define incoming particles to have negative p^0 and take ω positive for an outgoing graviton. μ, ν indices refer to asymptotically Minkowskian coordinates given in terms of retarded coordinates as

$$\begin{aligned} x^0 &= u + r, \\ x^1 + ix^2 &= \frac{2rz}{1 + z\bar{z}}, \\ x^3 &= \frac{r(1 - z\bar{z})}{1 + z\bar{z}}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.3)$$

or in terms of advance coordinates as

$$\begin{aligned} x^0 &= v - r, \\ x^1 + ix^2 &= -\frac{2rz}{1 + z\bar{z}}, \\ x^3 &= -\frac{r(1 - z\bar{z})}{1 + z\bar{z}}. \end{aligned} \quad (6.4)$$

The symmetrized limit in (6.1) projects out the leading Weinberg pole, leaving the sub-leading finite term of interest here. The linearized expectation value of the asymptotic metric fluctuation produced in the n -particle scattering process obeys the semiclassical momentum space formula

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0^+} + \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0^-} \right) h_{\alpha\beta}(\omega, q) &= \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} \left(\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0^+} + \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0^-} \right) \frac{\mathcal{A}_{n+1}(p_1, \dots, p_n; (\omega q, \epsilon_{\mu\nu}))}{\mathcal{A}_n(p_1, \dots, p_n)} \\ &= i\kappa \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} \epsilon^{\mu\nu} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{p_{k\mu} J_{k\nu\lambda} q^\lambda}{q \cdot p_k}. \end{aligned} \quad (6.5)$$

In the last line, and in similar expressions below, an expectation value of the expression involving the differential operator $J_{k\nu\lambda}$ acting in the matrix element in \mathcal{A}_n is implicit.

Expression (6.5) characterizes linearized fields by their momenta whereas the new memory formula (5.9) is given in terms of \mathcal{I} values of fields. These are simply related. Using the large- r stationary phase approximation as in [21, 29]

$$\int du C_{zz}(u, \hat{q}) - \int dv C_{zz}(v, \hat{q}) = - \left(\lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0^+} + \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0^-} \right) \frac{i\kappa}{8\pi} \partial_z X^\mu \partial_z X^\nu h_{\mu\nu}(\omega, \hat{q}), \quad (6.6)$$

where $X^\mu \equiv \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{x^\mu}{r}$ and the unit vector \hat{q} is viewed as a coordinate on \mathcal{I} . The hard particle momenta p_k , the soft graviton momentum q , and complex polarization $\epsilon^{-\mu\nu} = \epsilon^{-\mu}\epsilon^{-\nu}$ are given in terms of the points z_k and z at which they arrive on the asymptotic S^2 and their energies E_k, ω

$$\begin{aligned} p_k^\mu &= \frac{E_k}{1+z_k\bar{z}_k} (1+z_k\bar{z}_k, \bar{z}_k+z_k, i(\bar{z}_k-z_k), 1-z_k\bar{z}_k), \\ q^\mu &= \frac{\omega}{1+z\bar{z}} (1+z\bar{z}, \bar{z}+z, i(\bar{z}-z), 1-z\bar{z}), \\ \epsilon^{-\mu} &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(z, 1, i, -z). \end{aligned} \tag{6.7}$$

Rewriting the soft formula (6.5) in terms of the variables in (6.6) and (6.7), defining $\hat{S}_{zz}^{(1)} \equiv \partial_z X^\mu \partial_z X^\nu S_{\mu\nu}^{(1)}$, and acting with D_z^2 gives [21]

$$\text{Im} \left[\int du D_z^2 C_{z\bar{z}} - \int dv D_z^2 C_{z\bar{z}} \right] = \frac{\kappa}{8\pi} \left[D_{\bar{z}}^2 \hat{S}_{zz}^{(1)} - D_z^2 \hat{S}_{z\bar{z}}^{(1)} \right]. \tag{6.8}$$

The formulae for the angular momentum and stress energy of a particle emerging at z_k in the appendix enables this to be rewritten:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Im} \left[\int du D_z^2 C^{zz} - \int dv D_z^2 C^{zz} \right] \\ &= -8G \sum_k \gamma^{z_k \bar{z}_k} \text{Im} \left[L_{uz}(z_k) \partial_{\bar{z}_k} \mathcal{G}(z_k; z) + \frac{i}{2} h_k \partial_{z_k} \partial_{\bar{z}_k} \mathcal{G}(z_k; z) \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \int d^2 w \partial_{\bar{w}} \mathcal{G}(w; z) \left[\int du T_{uw} - \int dv T_{vw} \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{6.9}$$

where total angular momentum conservation has been used. To summarize, the subleading soft graviton theorem [18], after some differentiation, change of notation and Fourier transform, becomes the formula for the contour integrals characterizing spin memory.

7 An infinity of conserved charges

A conserved charge enables one to determine the outcome of a measurement on \mathcal{I}^+ from a measurement on \mathcal{I}^- . For example, for a process which begins and ends in a vacuum, the total integrated outgoing energy flux across \mathcal{I}^+ equals the incoming energy flux across \mathcal{I}^- . In this section we describe an *infinite* set of \mathcal{I}^+ measurements — one for every contour \mathcal{C} — whose outcome is determined by a measurement on \mathcal{I}^- .

Conserved charges on \mathcal{I}^+ may be obtained from any moment of the curl $\partial_{[\bar{z}} N_{z]}$ on \mathcal{I}_-^+ . Consider for example

$$Q(z, \bar{z}) = i \partial_{[\bar{z}} N_{z]}(z, \bar{z})|_{\mathcal{I}_-^+}. \tag{7.1}$$

This can be written using the constraints as an integral over a null generator of \mathcal{I}^+ . Integrating by parts then gives the \mathcal{I}^+ expression

$$Q(z, \bar{z}) = -i \int du \left[\frac{1}{4} \partial_{\bar{z}} \partial_z [D_z^2 C^{zz} - D_{\bar{z}}^2 C^{\bar{z}\bar{z}}] - \partial_{[\bar{z}} T_{z]u} \right]. \tag{7.2}$$

On the other hand using the continuity condition (2.13) and integrating by parts, one finds the \mathcal{I}^- expression

$$Q(z, \bar{z}) = -i \int dv \left[\frac{1}{4} \partial_{\bar{z}} \partial_z [D_z^2 C^{zz} - D_{\bar{z}}^2 C^{\bar{z}\bar{z}}] - \partial_{[\bar{z}} T_{z]v} \right]. \quad (7.3)$$

Equating (7.2) and (7.3) gives the conservation law:

$$\begin{aligned} \int du \left[\frac{1}{4} \partial_{\bar{z}} \partial_z [D_z^2 C^{zz} - D_{\bar{z}}^2 C^{\bar{z}\bar{z}}] - \partial_{[\bar{z}} T_{z]u} \right] \\ = \int dv \left[\frac{1}{4} \partial_{\bar{z}} \partial_z [D_z^2 C^{zz} - D_{\bar{z}}^2 C^{\bar{z}\bar{z}}] - \partial_{[\bar{z}} T_{z]v} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (7.4)$$

This conservation law equates the stress energy flux through and a zero mode of the metric fluctuations along a null generator of \mathcal{I}^+ to the same quantities on the PT -conjugate generator of \mathcal{I}^- . There is one such law for every null generator.

The meaning of the conservation law (7.4) is a bit obscured by the fact that zero modes of metric fluctuations are hard to measure. However, in the preceding we have found that the time delay effectively measures a particular combination of the zero modes. Our main formula (5.9) can be rephrased as a conservation laws for the charge

$$Q_{\mathcal{C}} \equiv -\frac{1}{\pi^2 L} \text{Im} \int_{D_{\mathcal{C}}} d^2 w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} \int d^2 z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}(z; w) N_z|_{\mathcal{I}^+}, \quad (7.5)$$

which, as noted above, involves only the curl of N_z . Using (2.13) $Q_{\mathcal{C}}$ may be rewritten as a \mathcal{I}^- charge

$$Q_{\mathcal{C}} \equiv -\frac{1}{\pi^2 L} \text{Im} \int_{D_{\mathcal{C}}} d^2 w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} \int d^2 z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}(z; w) N_z|_{\mathcal{I}^-}. \quad (7.6)$$

Integrating by parts, using the constraints to express (7.5) and (7.6) as integrals over \mathcal{I}^{\pm} , and equating the two expressions yields

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^+ u + \frac{1}{\pi^2 L} \text{Im} \int_{D_{\mathcal{C}}} d^2 w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} \int d^2 z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}(z; w) \int du T_{uz} \\ = \Delta^- v + \frac{1}{\pi^2 L} \text{Im} \int_{D_{\mathcal{C}}} d^2 w \gamma_{w\bar{w}} \int d^2 z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}(z; w) \int dv T_{vz}. \end{aligned} \quad (7.7)$$

Thus if we measure the component T_{vz} of the radiative stress-energy flux and the time delay on \mathcal{C} at past null infinity, we can determine a moment of T_{uz} and the time delay of an antipodally-located contour at future null infinity. There are infinitely many such conservation laws — one for every contour \mathcal{C} — which infinitely constrain the scattering process.

Should it persist to the quantum theory, this infinity of conservation laws has considerable implications for the black hole information puzzle. The output of the black hole evaporation process, as originally computed by Hawking, is constrained only by energy-momentum, angular momentum and charge conservation. Imposing the infinity of conservation laws (7.7) (together with a second infinity arising from BMS invariance [26]) will greatly constrain the outgoing Hawking radiation. These constraints follow solely from low-energy symmetry considerations, and do not invoke any microphysics. It would be interesting to understand how the semiclassical computation of black hole evaporation must be modified to remain consistent with these symmetries.

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A Massless particle stress-energy tensor

We start with the trajectory of a massless point particle:

$$x^\mu(\tau) = \frac{p^\mu}{E}\tau + b^\mu \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where p^μ is the particle's four momentum, with $p_\mu p^\mu = 0$. $b^\mu = (0, b^i) = x^\mu(0)$ describes the impact parameter of the straight-line trajectory relative to the spacetime origin. The orbital angular momentum of this trajectory is:

$$L^{\mu\nu} = b^\mu p^\nu - p^\mu b^\nu, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

which implies

$$b^\mu = \frac{1}{E}L^{\mu 0}. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

The total angular momentum is

$$J^{\mu\nu} = L^{\mu\nu} + S^{\mu\nu} \quad (\text{A.4})$$

where $S_{\mu\nu}$ is the intrinsic spin. The large τ behavior of the trajectory (A.1) is:

$$\begin{aligned} r(\tau) &= \tau + \frac{1}{E^2}p^\mu L_{u\mu} + \mathcal{O}(\tau^{-1}) \\ u(\tau) &= -\frac{1}{E^2}p^\mu L_{u\mu} + \mathcal{O}(\tau^{-1}) \\ z(\tau) &= \frac{p^1 + ip^2}{E + p^3} + \frac{1}{E}L_u^z + \mathcal{O}(\tau^{-2}) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.5})$$

where we have used $L_{0\mu} = L_{u\mu}$ and $\frac{1}{E}L_u^z$ is $\mathcal{O}(\tau^{-1})$. The matter stress-energy tensor of the point particle is [30]:

$$T_{\mu\nu}^M(y^\rho) = E \int d\tau \dot{x}_\mu \dot{x}_\nu \frac{\delta^4(y^\rho - x^\rho(\tau))}{\sqrt{-g}} - \nabla^\rho \int d\tau S_{\rho(\mu} \dot{x}_{\nu)} \frac{\delta^4(y^\rho - x^\rho(\tau))}{\sqrt{-g}}. \quad (\text{A.6})$$

Using $S_{z\bar{z}} = ir^2 \gamma_{z\bar{z}} h$ near a particle with helicity h , a collection of point particles obeys:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} r^2 T_{uu}^M &= \sum_k E_k \delta(u - u_k) \frac{\delta^2(z - z_k)}{\gamma_{z\bar{z}}} \\ \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} r^2 T_{uz}^M &= \sum_k \delta(u - u_k) \left[L_{uz}(z_k) - \frac{i}{2} h_k \partial_z \right] \frac{\delta^2(z - z_k)}{\gamma_{z\bar{z}}} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.7})$$

where $u_k \equiv -\frac{1}{E_k^2} p_k^\mu L_{ku\mu}$ and

$$\begin{aligned} L_{uz}(z_k) &\equiv \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial x_k^\mu}{\partial u_k} \frac{\partial x_k^\nu}{\partial z_k} L_{k\mu\nu} \\ &= \frac{b_k^1(1 - \bar{z}_k^2) - ib_k^2(1 + \bar{z}_k^2) - 2b_k^3 \bar{z}_k}{(1 + z_k \bar{z}_k)^2} E_k. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.8})$$

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