# Shadows and strong gravitational lensing

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arXiv:1808.06692: + Herdeiro, Radu

GRG **50** no.4, 42: + Herdeiro,

PRD 97 no.8, 084020: + Herdeiro, Rodriguez,

PRL 119 no.25, 251102: + Berti, Herdeiro

PRD 98 044053: + Herdeiro, Rodriguez

# Can we always see the shape of a star?



- Consider a star with a bumpy surface, and radius  $R \in [R_1, R_2]$ .
- The Schwarzschild solution describes the exterior of the star.
- Do we always see the same outline of the star?

# **Image bumpy star** (3M < R)



- The star's image is what one might expect.
- The star edge displays the bumpy surface of the star.

# **Image bumpy star** (3M < R)



- Black star  $\rightarrow$  radiation absorbent and no emission.
- If the star is black, only the outline contains surface information.

# **Image bumpy star** (R < 3M)

If R < 3M:



- The star's edge becomes circular (no display of the bumpy surface).
- The edge is actually an image of the photon sphere (r = 3M).

# **Image bumpy star** (R < 3M)

If R < 3M:





Image of the star (no emission)

- A black star image reveals no surface information.
- This image coincides with the *shadow* of a BH.

# **Backwards ray-tracing**



- Image defined as a grid of pixels in the observer's screen.
- Each pixel defines an initial condition for a light ray.
- *Shadow*  $\rightarrow$  set of pixels with rays infalling into a BH.

#### **Shadows of BHs**



- The edge of the shadow corresponds to a scattering singularity.
- Photons encircle the black hole an increasing number of times.
- The shadow edge is determined by a special class of orbits.

# **Light rings**



- *Light ring* (LR)  $\iff$  circular photon orbit.
- Tangent vector field is a linear combination of (only)  $\partial_t, \partial_{\varphi}$ .
- Killing vectors  $\partial_t, \partial_{\varphi}$  connected to stationarity and axial-symmetry.
- Kerr has *two* unstable LRs with opposite rotation.



- Kerr  $\rightarrow$  Light rings generalize outside the equatorial plane.
- In Boyer-Lindquist coordinates  $\rightarrow$  orbits with constant r.

• The Hamiltonian  $\mathcal{H}$  of geodesic motion does not depend on  $t, \varphi$ :

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial x^{\mu}} = -\dot{p}_{\mu} \implies \text{constant} \quad p_t, \, p_{\varphi}$$

• Constants of photon motion:

$$E = -p_t \quad \rightarrow$$
 energy at infinity  
 $L = p_{\varphi} \quad \rightarrow$  angular momentum

• Motion depends on the impact parameter  $\eta = L/E$ .



- Besides  $\eta$  there is another constant of motion (Carter's Q).
- Each spherical orbit is uniquely identified by  $\{\eta, Q\}$ .
- Spherical orbits determine the Kerr shadow edge.



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- The Kerr shadow edge  $\{x(r), y(r)\}$  is known analytically.
- The parameter r is the spherical photon orbit radius.
- Is it possible to represent y(x) directly?

- Consider an observer with  $r_{obs} \gg 1$ .
- The Kerr spin is a. For simplicity, if  $\theta_{obs} = \pi/2$ :

$$y = \pm \sqrt{\frac{r^2(3r^2 + a^2 - x^2)}{r^2 - a^2}}$$

• The parameter r satisfies the cubic equation:

$$r^{3} - 3r^{2} + a(a - x)r + a(a + x) = 0$$

# **Analytic Kerr shadow**

• The solution has three branches (in M units):

$$\mathcal{A} \equiv 1 - \frac{a}{3}(a - x), \qquad \mathcal{B} \equiv \frac{(1 - a^2)}{|\mathcal{A}|^{3/2}}.$$

If  $\mathcal{A} > 0$ ,  $\mathcal{B} \leqslant 1$ :

$$r = 1 + 2\sqrt{\mathcal{A}}\cos\left(\frac{1}{3}\arccos\mathcal{B}\right)$$

If  $\mathcal{A} \ge 0$ ,  $\mathcal{B} > 1$ :

$$r = 1 + 2\sqrt{\mathcal{A}}\cosh\left(\frac{1}{3}\log\left[\sqrt{\mathcal{B}^2 - 1} + \mathcal{B}\right]\right)$$

If  $\mathcal{A} < 0$ :

$$r = 1 - 2\sqrt{|\mathcal{A}|} \sinh\left(\frac{1}{3}\log\left[\sqrt{1+\mathcal{B}^2} - \mathcal{B}\right]\right)$$

#### **Analytic Kerr shadow**



- Kerr shadow edge function y(x) for a = 0.95.
- All three branches are necessary to cover the entire edge.
- The observer is at infinity and in the equatorial plane.

#### **Extreme Kerr shadow** (a = 1)



• Extremal limit  $\rightarrow$  shadow expression simplifies considerably:

$$y(x) = \sqrt{11 + 2x - x^2 + 8\sqrt{2 + x}}, \qquad -2 < x \le 7$$

#### **Event Horizon Telescope**



- The shadow of a BH is a direct observable.
- The EHT collaboration aims to capture the first BH shadow.
- Network of VLBI stations  $\rightarrow$  creates a virtual Earth-sized telescope.

# Kerr's Spherical Photon orbits revisited



- The geodesic motion is completely integrable in Kerr.
- There are special orbits with constant  $r \rightarrow$  Spherical Photon Orbits.
- This is not a invariant statement that can be used generically.

A null geodesic curve  $s(\lambda) : \mathbb{R} \to \mathcal{M}$  is a *fundamental orbit* if:

 $\begin{array}{l} \rightarrow \text{ it is restricted to a spatial region;} \\ \rightarrow \text{ there is a value } T > 0 \text{ for which } s(\lambda) = s(\lambda + T), \qquad \forall \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \end{array}$ 

up to isometries.

- These orbits are not required to be periodic on the manifold  $\mathcal{M}$ .
- They are periodic on  $\{r, \theta\}$  (not connected to Killing vectors).
- These orbits can exist even if the geodesics are *not* fully integrable.

# **Example: BHs with Proca hair**

Stable

Unstable



- Example of FPOs (in blue) and their perturbations (red).
- Each orbit can be labeled by the value of r on the equatorial plane.
- Their stability can analysed by taking  $\theta = \pi/2$  as a *Poincaré section*.

# Example: Shadow cusp in BHs with Proca hair



- Plot displays a continuous family of fundamental orbits (FPOs).
- *Cusp* on shadow edge  $\rightarrow$  transition between unstable orbits.
- This a non Kerr-like feature  $\rightarrow$  consequence different FPO structure.

Einstein-dilaton-Gauss-Bonnet model

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ R - \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 + \alpha e^{-\gamma \phi} R_{\rm GB}^2 \right].$$

The Gauss-Bonnet term  $(2^{nd}$  Euler density) is:

$$R_{GB}^2 = R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - 4R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu} + R^2$$

- $R_{GB}$  gives a dynamic contribution when coupled to scalar field  $\phi$ .
- BH solutions can have *exotic effective matter* close to the horizon.

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# Example: Einstein-dilaton-Gauss-Bonnet (EdGB)

Illustrative shadow example



- Non-trivial horizon physics is cloaked by the shadow!
- The structure of fundamental photon orbits (FPOs) is very Kerr-like.
- Shadow observations are unlikely to exclude EdGB models.

#### **Example: Kerr shadow sketch**



- One can develop an approximate method to obtain a shadow.
- Contribution of each FPO  $\rightarrow$  similar to a Schwarzschild FPO.
- Manages to capture the main features of the Kerr shadow.

# Light rings (revisited)



- *Light ring* (LR)  $\rightarrow$  assign a topological charge.
- We can introduce 2D effective potential  $U(r, \theta)$ .
- Along trajectory  $p_r = p_{\theta} = U = 0$  and  $\dot{p}_{\mu} = 0$ .

• 
$$2\dot{p}_{\mu} = -\partial_{\mu}U + \mathcal{O}(p_r, p_{\theta}).$$

At a LR: 
$$\implies U = \nabla U = 0$$

- Shortcoming of  $U \rightarrow$  depending on parameters E, L.
- Can be factorized as  $U = (L^2 g^{tt})(\sigma H_+)(\sigma H_-), \qquad \sigma \equiv E/L.$

At a LR: 
$$\implies \nabla H_{\pm} = 0$$
 (critical point of  $H_{\pm}$ )

 $\rightarrow$  Next: we assign a topological quantity to a LR.



- Consider a closed 2D contour C with a 2D field  $V = \nabla H_{\pm}$ .
- The circulation of V around C is mapped to a curve  $S(V_x, V_y)$ .
- The winding number around V = 0 is a topological quantity w.



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Different types of LRs:

- Saddle point of  $U \rightarrow$  unstable LR  $(w = -1) \rightarrow$  Kerr, GW ringdown.
- Local minimum of  $U \rightarrow$  stable LR (w = +1)  $\rightarrow$  spacetime instability.
- Local maximum of  $U \rightarrow$  unstable LR (w = +1)  $\rightarrow$  violates NEC.



Smooth deformation of  $H_{\pm}(r, \theta)$  (fixed asymptotics):

- Total w is a constant.
- LRs are created in pairs.



- Continuous families of spacetimes: Proca and Boson Stars.
- Sequence of solutions  $\rightarrow$  deformation of  $H_{\pm}$ .
- Flat spacetime  $\neq$  flat  $H_{\pm}$



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- The MP binary describes two maximally charged BHs in equilibrium.
- In the large separation limit  $\rightarrow$  each BH has an unstable LR.



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- By reducing the separation between the BHs  $\rightarrow$  a stable LR forms.



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- The MP binary describes two maximally charged BHs in equilibrium.
- Two unstable LRs created with different stability orientations.

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- The shadow of a dynamical BH binary is computationally expensive.
- Is it possible to obtain a binary shadow proxy from a static solution?

#### **Double Schwarzschild solution**



- One can start from the (static) 2-Schwarzschild vacuum solution.
- Describes two equal BHs hold in equilibrium by a conical singularity.
- Both BHs are uncharged, and the solution is axially symmetric.

#### **Double Schwarzschild solution**



- The shadow is disconnected: there are multiple components.
- Despite the conical singularity, the shadows are smooth.
- Could we mimic the rotation of a binary?



- Assume that BHs move much slower than light rays.
- We can then implement a quasi-static approximation.



- At first order  $\rightarrow$  light rays follow geodesics in the static background.
- By making periodic rotations we can account for the BHs' motion.



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- Using this naive rotation, the shadows are modified.
- The secondary shadows are displaced with respect to the primary ones.

#### Fully numerical vs. Quasi-static



(fully numerical) Bohn+ CQG 065002 (quasi-static) Cunha+ PRD 98 044053

- One can compare the approximation with the fully numerical result.
- Despite some differences, the resemblance is uncanny.

#### Recent results: shadows of the Rasheed solution



- This solution is stationary, axially-symmetric and asymptotically flat.
- Kaluza-Klein rotating dyonic BHs  $\rightarrow$  generically not  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  symmetric.
- The horizon can be North-South asymmetric.

#### Recent results: shadows of the Rasheed solution



Observer at  $\theta = \pi/2$ .

- The lensing is not  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  symmetric (no color permutation invariance).
- However, the shadow is always  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  symmetric!
- The FPO structure is still much Kerr-like.

# **Recent results: BH rocket**



- The shadow size is not the same as seen from the North (South) pole.
- Infalling radiation can lead to asymmetric momentum absorption.
- This would lead to a spontaneous thrust: a *BH rocket* effect!

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- The FPOs determine the shadow edge of BHs.
- These orbits can exist even if the geodesic motion is not separable.
- $\bullet~$  Very different phenomenology  $\rightarrow$  very different FPO structure.

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