

# Black hole scattering in post-Minkowskian (classical and quantum) gravity

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# Solving the relativistic two-body problem

- Numerical relativity
- Analytic approximation schemes:

Limit	Perturbation theory	Natural for
Newtonian gravity $c \rightarrow \infty$	post-Newtonian $\frac{m_1}{m_2} \sim 1, \quad \frac{Gm}{rc^2} \sim \frac{v^2}{c^2} \ll 1$	bound orbits
special relativity $G \rightarrow 0$	post-Minkowskian $\frac{m_1}{m_2} \sim 1, \quad \frac{Gm}{rc^2} \ll \frac{v^2}{c^2} \sim 1$	scattering
test-body motion in a stationary background $\frac{m_1}{m_2} \rightarrow 0$	post-test-body ("self-force") $\frac{m_1}{m_2} \ll 1, \quad \frac{Gm}{rc^2} \sim \frac{v^2}{c^2} \sim 1$	both

# post-Newtonian (PN) vs. post-Minkowskian (PM)

		0PN	1PN	2PN	3PN	4PN $\ddagger$	$\text{S}^5$ 5PN $\ddagger$	6PN $\ddagger$	...
0PM:	1	$v^2$	$v^4$	$v^6$	$v^8$	$v^{10}$	$v^{12}$	$v^{14}$	
1PM:	tree	$1/r$	$v^2/r$	$v^4/r$	$v^6/r$	$v^8/r$	$v^{10}/r$	$v^{12}/r$	
2PM:		1-loop	$1/r^2$	$v^2/r^2$	$v^4/r^2$	$v^6/r^2$	$v^8/r^2$	$v^{10}/r^2$	
3PM:	2-loop			$1/r^3$	$v^2/r^3$	$v^4/r^3$	$v^6/r^3$	$v^8/r^3$	
4PM:		3-loop			$1/r^4$	$v^2/r^4$	$v^4/r^4$	$v^6/r^4$	
5PM:	4-loop					$1/r^5$	$v^2/r^5$	$v^4/r^5$	
6PM:		5-loop					$\text{S}^1 1/r^6$	$v^2/r^6$	
...								...	

$$1 \rightarrow mc^2, \quad v^2 \rightarrow \frac{v^2}{c^2}, \quad \frac{1}{r} \rightarrow \frac{Gm}{rc^2}.$$

current PN results. current PM results. matching overlap. unknown.

(monopole) conservative dynamics.  $\ddagger$ mod tails. mod logs.  $\text{S}^5$ static.

# PM binary-black-hole conservative dynamics: results

	spin <sup>0</sup>	spin <sup>1</sup>	spin <sup>2,3,...</sup>
1PM	('70s, ... ) Bicak+ 0807. Foffa 1309. Damour 1609.	*G-AH-H-H Bini, Damour 1709.	*G-AH-H-H JV 1709.
2PM	Westpfahl '85 *G-AH-H-H *Damour 1710. *Bjerrum-Bohr+ 1806. *Cheung+ 1808.	*G-AH-H-H Bini, Damour 1805.	*G-AH-H-H JV+ 1812. *Guevara+ 1812. *Chung+ 1812. —
3PM	*Bern+ 1901.	—	—

\*Amplitudes

(see also Antonelli+ 1901. on 3PM EOB)

G-AH-H-H: Guevara 1706., using Arkani-Hamed, Huang & Huang 1709.

... and many more related papers in the past few years ...

# Spin effects in BBH conservative dynamics

PN order		1.5	2.5	3.5	4.5	5.5	
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
N	1PN	2PN	3PN	4PN	5PN		need up to
	LO SO	NLO SO	NNLO SO	NNNLO SO			1PM / tree
	LO S <sup>2</sup>	NLO S <sup>2</sup>	NNLO S <sup>2</sup>	NNNLO S <sup>2</sup>			2PM / 1-loop
		LO S <sup>3</sup>	NLO S <sup>3</sup>	NNLO S <sup>3</sup>			3PM / 2-loop
			LO S <sup>4</sup>	NLO S <sup>4</sup>			4PM / 3-loop
					LO S <sup>5</sup>		5PM / 4-loop
						LO S <sup>6</sup>	6PM / 5-loop

**New from Amplitudes:** Guevara, Ochirov, JV 1812.†  
 Chung, Huang, Kim, Lee 1812.‡

using minimally coupled massive spinor-helicity amplitudes  
 from Arkani-Hamed, Huang, Huang 1709.

# Lessons from Scattering Amplitudes

- Big long results often collapse into super-simple ones  
—when reorganized in the proper way—e.g.:
  - Parke-Taylor MHV six-gluon amplitude ('86):

$$= 220 \text{ Feynman diagrams} = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^4}{\langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle \langle 56 \rangle \langle 63 \rangle}$$

- Work (only?) with **observable gauge-invariant** quantities:  
("the S-matrix approach")
  - On-shell amplitudes
  - Scattering angles (encode same info as Hamiltonians)
- **"Bootstrapping"**: amplitudes are surprisingly tightly constrained by general principles such as symmetries, unitarity, locality...  
—sometimes you can just write down the answer (or a parametrization)
- Using good variables: geometrical quantities; **spinor-helicity**/twistors, ...
- Unitarity methods; soft theorems; double copy: GR = (QCD)<sup>2</sup>; ...

# A nonspinning [or aligned-spin] PN Hamiltonian

$$\begin{aligned} & H(R, P_R, L; m_1, m_2) \\ \left[ \text{or } H(R, P_R, L; m_1, m_2, S_1, S_2) \right] & \quad : \quad \begin{aligned} \dot{R} &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial P_R}, & \dot{\phi} &= \frac{\partial H}{\partial L}, \\ \dot{P}_R &= -\frac{\partial H}{\partial R}, & \dot{L} &= -\frac{\partial H}{\partial \phi} = 0. \end{aligned} \end{aligned}$$

with  $\mu^2 \bar{P}^2 = P^2 = P_R^2 + \frac{L^2}{R^2}$ ,  $\mu = \nu M = \frac{m_1 m_2}{M}$ ,  $M = m_1 + m_2$ ,  
in an isotropic gauge:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{H}{\mu} &= \frac{Mc^2}{\mu} + \frac{\bar{P}^2}{2} - \frac{GM}{R} \\ &+ \frac{1}{c^2} \left( -\frac{1+\nu}{8} \bar{P}^4 - \frac{3-\nu}{2} \bar{P}^2 \frac{GM}{R} + \frac{1-\nu}{2} \frac{G^2 M^2}{R^2} \right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{c^4} \left( \frac{1+\nu+\nu^2}{16} \bar{P}^6 + \frac{5+5\nu-3\nu^2}{8} \bar{P}^4 \frac{GM}{R} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{10-\nu+3\nu^2}{4} \bar{P}^2 \frac{G^2 M^2}{R^2} - \frac{1+2\nu^2}{4} \frac{G^3 M^3}{R^3} \right) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

# The gauge-invariant scattering angle $\chi$

- Solve  $E = H(R, P_R, L)$  for  $P_R = P_R(R, E, L)$ , then find the com-frame scattering angle  $\chi$  from [Damour 1710.]

$$\pi + \chi(E, L) = - \int_{\infty}^{\infty} dR \frac{\partial}{\partial L} P_R(R, E, L).$$

- New variables from SR @  $\infty$ : relative velocity  $v$ , impact parameter  $b$ ,

$$E^2 = m_1^2 + m_2^2 + 2m_1 m_2 \gamma, \quad \gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2}}, \quad L = \frac{m_1 m_2}{E} \gamma v b.$$

- $\chi(v, b)$ , including the (local-in-time) Hamiltonian through 4PN,

$$\frac{M}{E} \chi = 2 \frac{GM}{v^2 b} \left( 1 + v^2 + O(v^{10}) \right) + \frac{3\pi}{4} \left( \frac{GM}{v^2 b} \right)^2 \left( 4v^2 + v^4 + O(v^{10}) \right) + O(G^3),$$

encodes the complete gauge-invariant info. of the Hamiltonian.



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encodes the complete gauge-invariant info. of the PN-PM Hamiltonian.

- According to Westpfahl '85, [\[after a large gauge-dependent mess\]](#)

$$\frac{M}{E}\chi = 2\frac{GM}{v^2b}(1+v^2) + \frac{3\pi}{4}\left(\frac{GM}{v^2b}\right)^2(4v^2+v^4) + O(G^3).$$

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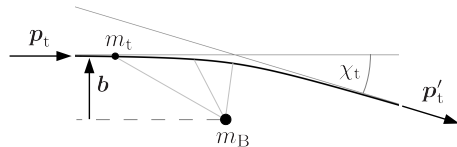
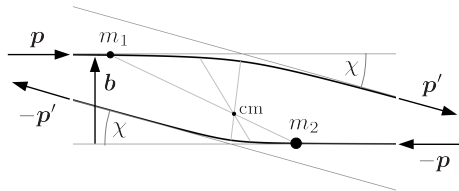
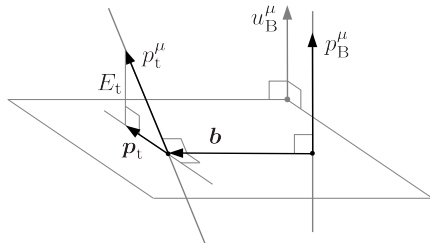
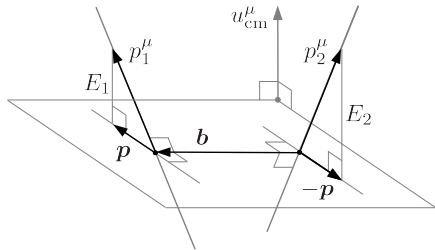
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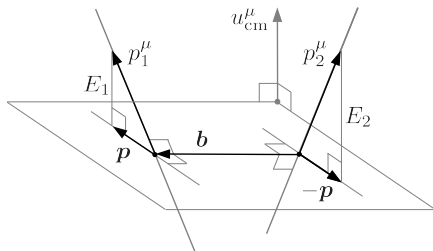
- The Schwarzschild result,

$$\chi_{\text{Schw}} = 2\frac{GM}{v^2b}(1+v^2) + \frac{3\pi}{4}\left(\frac{GM}{v^2b}\right)^2(4v^2+v^4) + O(G^3).$$

# Two-body vs. test-body



# Two-body vs. test-body



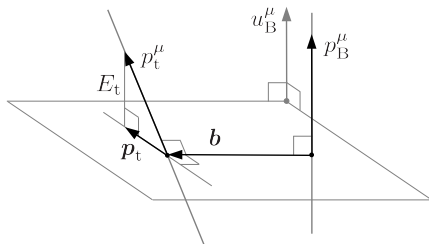
$$\gamma = \frac{p_1 \cdot p_2}{m_1 m_2},$$

$$E = E_1 + E_2 = \sqrt{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + 2m_1 m_2 \gamma}$$

• Identify  $\gamma = \gamma_t$ ,

• “Newtonian EOB” mass maps:  $m_t = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$ ,  $m_B = m_1 + m_2$ ,

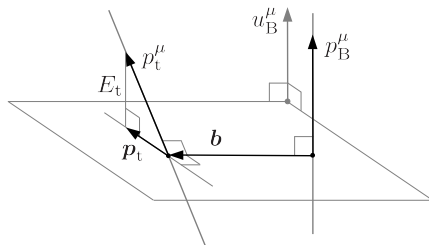
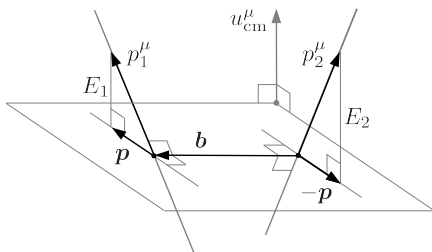
$\Rightarrow$  EOB energy map:  $E_t = \frac{E^2 - m_1^2 - m_2^2}{2(m_1 + m_2)}$ .



$$\gamma_t = \frac{p_t \cdot p_B}{m_t m_B},$$

$$E_t = m_t \gamma_t$$

# Two-body vs. test-body



$$E = E_1 + E_2 = \sqrt{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + 2m_1 m_2 \gamma}$$

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- Identify  $\gamma = \gamma_t$ ,  $m_t = \frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2}$ ,  $m_B = m_1 + m_2$ ,

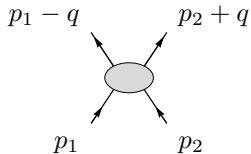
$$\Rightarrow \text{EOB energy map: } E_t = \frac{E^2 - m_1^2 - m_2^2}{2(m_1 + m_2)}.$$

—Applying the energy map to the Schw. geodesic Ham.,  
you get a two-body Ham. correct at 1PM.

[Damour 1609., Bini-Damour 1709.]


# The scattering angle from amplitudes

The relevant classical part of the amplitude  
for two scalars exchanging gravitons:




$$= \mathcal{M} = \text{[tree-level diagrams]} + \mathcal{O}(G^3),$$


with  $p_1 \cdot p_2 = \gamma = (1 - v^2)^{-1/2}$  and  $p_1 \cdot q = p_2 \cdot q = 0$ ,



$$= \frac{16\pi G(m_1 m_2 \gamma)^2}{\hbar |\mathbf{q}|^2} (1 + v^2),$$



$$= \frac{6\pi^2 G^2 (m_1 m_2 \gamma)^2}{\hbar^2 |\mathbf{q}|} (4 + v^2) m_2,$$



$$= \frac{6\pi^2 G^2 (m_1 m_2 \gamma)^2}{\hbar^2 |\mathbf{q}|} (4 + v^2) m_1.$$

# The scattering angle from amplitudes

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{M} = & \begin{array}{c} p_1 - q \quad p_2 + q \\ \nearrow \quad \searrow \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ \searrow \quad \nearrow \\ p_1 \quad p_2 \end{array} = \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \end{array} \right] = \frac{16\pi G(m_1 m_2 \gamma)^2}{\hbar |\mathbf{q}|^2} (1 + v^2) \\
 & + \left[ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \\ | \quad | \\ \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \end{array} \right] = \frac{6\pi^2 G^2 (m_1 m_2 \gamma)^2}{\hbar^2 |\mathbf{q}|} (4 + v^2) (m_2 + m_1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Scattering angle from the eikonal approximation [Bjerrum-Bohr+ 1806.],

$$\begin{aligned}
 \chi &= -\frac{\hbar E}{4v^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial b} \int \frac{d^2 \mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-i\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{b}/\hbar} \frac{\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{q})}{(m_1 m_2 \gamma)^2} + \mathcal{O}(G^3) \\
 &= 2 \frac{GE}{b} \left( \frac{1 + v^2}{v^2} + \frac{3\pi}{8} \frac{G(m_2 + m_1)}{b} \frac{4 + v^2}{v^2} \right) + \mathcal{O}(G^3),
 \end{aligned}$$

matching Westpfahl '85.

(test-body limit:  $m_1 \rightarrow 0$ ,  $E \rightarrow m_2$ )

# Adding spin: classical approaches

- **Spin-orbit** (linear-in-spin, dipole) effects, which are universal, can be determined from the **metric for monopolar bodies**, via the **parallel transport map** along the monopolar trajectories, (assuming of the existence of a canonical Hamiltonian) (\*\*crucial boost between “covariant” and “canonical” spins\*\*) 1PM: Bini & Damour 1709. 2PM: Bini & Damour 1805.
- All-multipole effects for black holes at 1PM  $[\mathcal{I}_\ell + i\mathcal{J}_\ell = m(ia)^\ell]$  can be determined from assuming existence of an effective action [already in Levi & Steinhoff 1501.] and matching to the linearized Kerr solution,

$$\bar{h}^{\mu\nu} = u^\rho u^{(\mu} \exp(a * \partial)^{\nu)}{}_\rho \frac{4Gm}{r}, \quad (a * \partial)^\mu{}_\nu = \epsilon^\mu{}_{\nu\rho\sigma} a^\rho \partial^\sigma,$$

(\*\*crucial translation between “covariant” and “canonical” worldlines\*\*) JV 1709.

\*\*special relativistic kinematics at infinity\*\*



# Adding spin: classical approaches

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JV 1709.

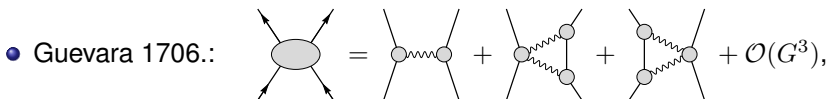
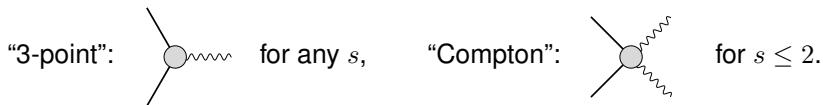
—Results reveal remarkable EOB-like maps for BBHs at 1PM:  
aligned-spin scattering angle:

$$\text{Kerr geod.}: \quad \chi = \frac{GM}{v^2} \left( \frac{(1+v)^2}{b+a} + \frac{(1-v)^2}{b-a} \right) + O(G^2).$$

$$\text{BBH}: \quad \chi = \frac{GE}{v^2} \left( \frac{(1+v)^2}{b+a_1+a_2} + \frac{(1-v)^2}{b-a_1-a_2} \right) + O(G^2).$$

# Adding spin: amplitudes approaches

- A key observation (at leading PN orders) from Vaidya 1410.: for **minimally coupled** massive spin- $s$  particles exchanging gravitons,
  - spin-0 — (universal) monopole coupling
  - spin- $\frac{1}{2}$  — adds (universal) dipole coupling
  - spin-1 — adds **black-hole** quadrupole coupling
  - spin-2 — adds **black-hole** (octupole and) hexadecapole
- Minimally coupled “amplitudes for arbitrary masses and spins” using massive spinor-helicity, Arkani-Hamed, Huang, Huang 1709.,

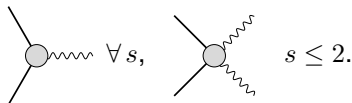


and some matching to the PN potential à la Holstein & Ross 0802.  
(Leading singularity: Cachazo & Guevara 1705.)

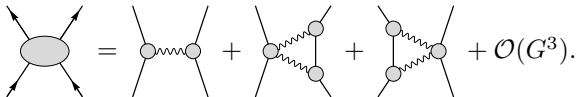
# Adding spin: amplitudes approaches

- Vaidya 1410.: minimal spin- $s$  gives black-hole  $2^{2s}$ -pole (LO PN,  $n \leq 2$ )

- Arkani-Hamed, Huang, Huang 1709.:



- Guevara 1706.:



- Guevara, Ochirov, JV 1812.:

match to linearized Kerr à la JV 1709.,

aligned-spin BBH scattering angle: 1PM  $\text{spin}^\infty$  ( $s \rightarrow \infty$ ), 2PM  $\text{spin}^4$ ,  
connect to sub-subleading soft theorem of Cachazo & Strominger 1404.

- Chung, Huang, Kim, Lee 1812.:

match to effective action of Levi & Steinhoff 1501.,

contributions to PN potential: LO  $\text{spin}^\infty$ , NLO  $\text{spin}^4$ ,  
discussion of  $s > 2$ .

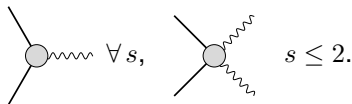
- Guevara & Bautista 1903.:

new perspective on multipoles and matching, double copy, LO radiation.

# Adding spin: amplitudes approaches

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- Arkani-Hamed, Huang, Huang 1709.:

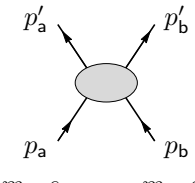


- Guevara 1706., Guevara, Ochirov, JV 1812.,  
Chung, Huang, Kim, Lee 1812., Guevara & Bautista 1903.,  
—aligned-spin scattering angle:

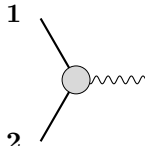
$$\left[ \text{Diagram 1} = \chi(v, b, m_1, m_2, a_1, a_2) \right] = \left[ \text{Diagram 2} = GE f_1(v, b, a_1 + a_2) \right] \\
 + \left[ \text{Diagram 3} = G^2 E m_2 f_2(v, b, a_1, a_2) \right] + \left[ \text{Diagram 4} = G^2 E m_1 f_2(v, b, a_2, a_1) \right]$$

$+ O(a^5)$  @ 2PM  $\Rightarrow$  all obtained from the spinning-test-BH limit  
JV, Steinhoff, Buonanno 1812. (to NNLO-PN spin<sup>2</sup>)

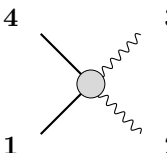
# Amplitudes for massive spin- $s$ particles



$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \text{[Diagram 1]} + \text{[Diagram 2]} + \text{[Diagram 3]} + O(G^3)
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\text{[Diagram]} = \frac{1}{m_P} \left( \frac{\langle \zeta | p_1 | 3 \rangle}{\langle \zeta 3 \rangle} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\langle \mathbf{12} \rangle}{m} \right)^{2s}, \quad \text{for any } s,$$



$$\text{[Diagram]} = \frac{-\langle 3 | p_1 | 2 \rangle^4}{m_P^2 t(s - m^2)(u - m^2)} \left( \frac{\langle 43 \rangle [12] + \langle 13 \rangle [42]}{\langle 3 | p_1 | 2 \rangle} \right)^{2s},$$

for  $s \leq 2$ .

[Arkani-Hamed+ '17, Guevara '17]

# Mathisson-Papapetrou-Dixon dynamics

- Dynamics of an “extended test body”, worldline  $z(\lambda)$  in background  $g_{ab}$ ,

$$\frac{Dp_a}{d\lambda} + \frac{1}{2}R_{abcd}\dot{z}^b S^{cd} = F_a = -\frac{1}{6}R_{bcde;a}J_2^{bcde} - \frac{1}{12}R_{bcde;fa}J_3^{fbcde} + \dots$$

$$\frac{DS^{ab}}{d\lambda} - 2p^{[a}\dot{z}^{b]} = N^{ab} = \frac{4}{3}R^{[a}{}_{cde}J_2^{b]cde} + \dots$$

- Multipoles  $J_n^{abcd\dots}$  depend on body's internal structure and dynamics
- What should they be for a “**spinning test black hole**” in vacuum?  
—an infinitely-small-mass, ultra-super-extremal Kerr  
naked ring singularity of finite radius  $a = S/m$ ? (string worldsheet?)
- Assume only d.o.f.s are  $z, p, S$  (others “integrated out”) —“minimal MPD”
- Constrain  $p_a S^{ab} = 0$ , solve for  $\dot{z}^a$
- $\Rightarrow J_n^{abcd\dots}$  built covariantly from only  $p^a, S^{ab}$  and  $R_{abcd;\dots}(z)$

# Couplings in an effective action

- Action approach to minimal MPD:  $J_n^{abcd\dots}(p, S, R)$  all determined by one scalar function  $\mathcal{M}^2(u, S, R)$ , where  $u^a = \frac{p^a}{\sqrt{-p^2}}$ , such that  $p^2 + \mathcal{M}^2 = 0$  : dynamical mass shell condition

$$F_a = \frac{p \cdot \dot{z}}{2} \nabla_a^{\text{horizontal}} \log \mathcal{M}^2,$$

$$N^{ab} = p \cdot \dot{z} \left( p^{[a} \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{b]}} + 2S^{[a} \frac{\partial}{\partial S_{b]c}} \right) \log \mathcal{M}^2.$$

- From matching to (unperturbed) (linearized) Kerr, we know

$$\mathcal{M}^2 = m^2 + 2m^2 \left( -\frac{R_{uaua}}{2!} + \frac{R_{uaua;a}^*}{3!} + \frac{R_{uaua;aa}}{4!} - \frac{R_{uaua;aaa}^*}{5!} + \dots \right)$$

$$\boxed{+ O(R^2)}$$

← : tidal effects?

↑ :  $J_n \sim m a^n$

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- (Rescaled) spin vector  $a^a$ ,  $S_{ab} = m \epsilon_{abcd} u^c a^d$ ,  $u \cdot a = 0$ ,  
constant bare rest mass  $m$ ,  $\mathcal{M}^2 = m^2 + O(R)$

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# Relevant couplings for a spinning test black hole

- Suppressing indices, \*'s,  $u$ 's, dimensionless coefficients,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathcal{M}^2}{m^2} = & 1 + R a^2 + \nabla R a^3 + \nabla^2 R a^4 + \nabla^3 R a^5 + \nabla^4 R a^6 + \dots \\ & \oplus R^2 a^4 \quad \oplus \nabla R^2 a^5 \quad \oplus \nabla^2 R^2 a^6 \quad \oplus \dots \\ & \oplus R^3 a^6 \quad \oplus \dots \end{aligned}$$

plus many other  $R^{\geq 2}$  terms (with powers of  $m$ ),

$$\oplus (m\nabla)^k (a\nabla)^l \left(\frac{a}{m}\right)^n \left(m^4 R^2 \oplus m^6 R^3 \oplus \dots\right),$$

e.g.:  $m^4 R^2$  terms,  $k, l, n = 0$ : leading adiabatic quadrupolar tidal effects

- Reasonable conjecture?:

If a spinning test black hole limit exists, it should have only  $m^0$  terms.

# Relevant couplings for a spinning test black hole

- PM resums/reorganizes PN, reveals new connections to the test-body limit.
- Amplitudes reveal hidden simplicity.  
[reviews: Elvang & Huang 1308.1697, Cheung 1708.03872]
- Black holes correspond to minimal coupling. (how/why??)
- Not discussed here and/or future directions:
  - Radiation!..
  - The high-energy/ultrarelativistic limit...
  - Double copy: “  $GR = (QCD)^2$  ” ...
  - Precessing spins...
  - Bodies other than black holes...
  - Theories other than GR...