

Analogue Hawking radiation in a "flow of light"

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Propagation of coherent light in a Kerr nonlinear medium can be mapped onto a flow of an equivalent fluid. Such an effective fluid possesses many features which allow us to treat it as a special type of quantum liquid. Here we use this mapping to model the conditions in the vicinity of a black hole horizon. To be more specific, a black hole horizon is modeled by means of a Laguerre-Gauss beam. We describe weak fluctuations of the phase and amplitude of the electric field by wave equations in curved space, with a metric that is similar to the Schwarzschild metric at zero vorticity and to the Kerr metric at a finite vorticity. We find the positions of event horizons and ergoregion boundaries, We also calculate the conditions for the onset of superradiance, which are simultaneously the conditions for a resonance in the analogue Hawking radiation. The resonance strongly enhances the otherwise exponentially weak Hawking radiation at certain frequencies, and makes its experimental observation feasible.

Summary

We consider a Kerr nonlinear optical system as a playground for modeling black hole horizons and Hawking radiation.

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