

CASIMIR EFFECT AND FREE FALL IN A SCHWARZSCHILD BLACK HOLE

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INTRODUCTION

- ▶ THE PRESENT WORK IS PART OF A TWO-FOLD PROJECT, CARRIED ON IN COLLABORATION WITH [S. A. FULLING](#) (@ TEXAS A&M UNIV.) AND [J.H. WILSON](#) (@ CALTECH).
- ▶ THE MAIN GOAL IS TO ANALYZE THE BEHAVIOUR OF A CASIMIR APPARATUS FALLING INTO A BH, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT
 - ▶ TIDAL EFFECTS
 - ▶ NON-LOCAL EFFECTS

INTRODUCTION (cont'd)

- ▶ **TIDAL EFFECTS**, DUE TO THE SPATIAL EXTENSION OF THE CASIMIR APPARATUS, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A NON-UNIFORM DISTRIBUTION OF THE VACUUM ENERGY DENSITY INSIDE THE CAVITY.
- ▶ SUCH EFFECTS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN DETAIL IN A FORTHCOMING PAPER (**W, S & F**), WHERE A **1+1D** MODEL HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

INTRODUCTION (cont'd)

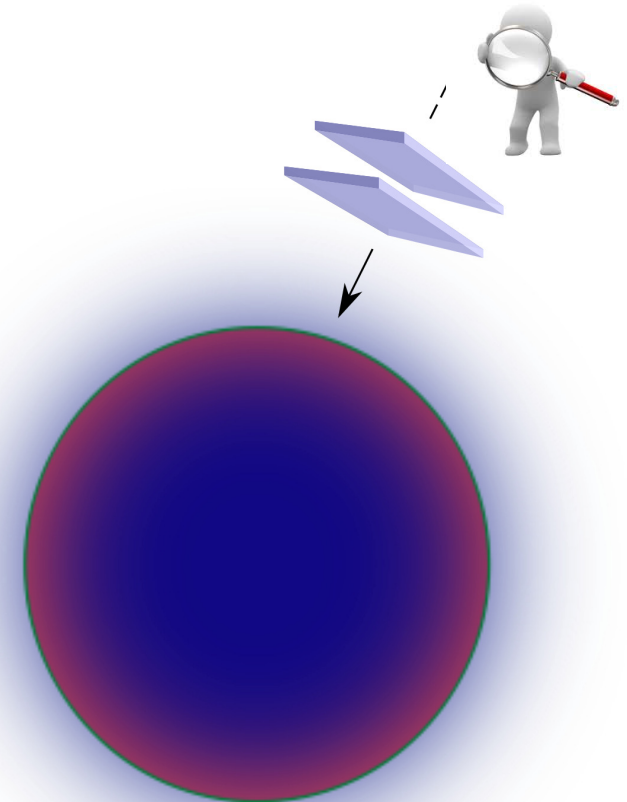
- ▶ **NON-LOCAL** (QUANTUM-MECHANICAL) EFFECTS ARE RELATED TO THE NON-LOCALITY OF THE THEORY DESCRIBING THE FIELD CONFINED TO THE CAVITY. IN SPITE OF THE INERTIAL FREELY FALLING MOTION, NON-LOCALITY ALLOWS FOR BOTH THE GLOBAL PROPERTIES OF THE BACKGROUND SPACETIME **AND** THE CAVITY MOTION TO INFLUENCE THE LOCAL MEASUREMENTS PERFORMED BY THE COMOVING OBSERVER.
- ▶ IN THIS TALK WE WILL FOCUS ON THIS LATTER ISSUE BY MEANS OF A **3+1D** ANALYSIS (**S** & **W**).

OUTLINE

- ▶ THE SCENARIO
- ▶ BASIC ASSUMPTIONS
- ▶ SCHWARZSCHILD SPACETIME IN LEMAITRE COORDINATES
- ▶ PROPER-TIME SCHWINGER APPROACH AND THE EFFECTIVE ACTION
- ▶ STATIC CASIMIR EFFECT
- ▶ PARTICLE CREATION
- ▶ CONCLUSIONS

THE SCENARIO

- ▶ A SCHWARZSCHILD BH
- ▶ A CASIMIR APPARATUS, FREELY FALLING IN THE BH GRAVITATIONAL FIELD
- ▶ A COMOVING OBSERVER (W.R.T. THE CASIMIR CAVITY)



BASIC ASSUMPTIONS

- ▶ CASIMIR CAVITY FALLING FROM **SPATIAL INFINITY** WITH ZERO INITIAL VELOCITY AND ANGULAR MOMENTUM
- ▶ TYPICAL CAVITY SIZE MUCH SMALLER THAN THE BH GRAVITATIONAL RADIUS: $L \ll r_g$ (L = PLATE SEPARATION)
- ▶ **RIGIDITY** ASSUMPTION: CAVITY SIZE & SHAPE DO NOT SUFFER ANY DISTORTION (i.e., NO TIDAL EFFECTS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT)
- ▶ TRUE **GEODESIC** MOTION: OTHER NON-GRAVITATIONAL EFFECTS ARE NEGLECTED.

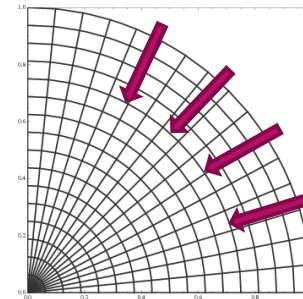
SCHWARZSCHILD SPACETIME IN LEMAITRE COORDINATES

- SCHWARZSCHILD METRIC IN LEMAITRE COORDINATES $\{\tau, \rho, \theta, \phi\}$ IS:

[G. Lemaitre, Ann. Soc. Sci. 1A53, 51 (1933)]

$$ds^2 = d\tau^2 - \frac{r_g}{r(\tau)} d\rho^2 - r^2(\tau) d\Omega^2,$$

$$r(\tau) = r_g \left(1 - \frac{3\tau}{2r_g}\right)^{2/3}$$



Coordinate grid
comoving with a
freely falling test
body

- WE ASSUME THE PROPER TIME $\tau = 0$

WHEN THE CAVITY CROSSES THE BH HORIZON:

$$\rho = \rho_0 = \frac{2}{3} r_g$$

➔ $-\infty < \tau \leq 0.$

SCHWARZSCHILD SPACETIME IN LEMAITRE COORDINATES

- ▶ WE INTRODUCE A **TETRAD FRAME** ADAPTED TO THE COMOVING OBSERVER

- ▶ RECALL THAT

$$r = r(\tau) = r_g \left(1 - \frac{3\tau}{2r_g} \right)^{2/3}.$$

tetrad as a "rigid" frame

$$\begin{aligned} e_\tau &= \partial_\tau \\ e_x &= \sqrt{\frac{r}{r_g}} \partial_\rho \\ e_y &= \frac{1}{r} \partial_\theta \\ e_z &= \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \partial_\phi. \end{aligned}$$

PROPER-TIME SCHWINGER APPROACH - step 1

- ▶ WE FOCUS ON A MASSLESS SCALAR FIELD φ CONFINED TO THE CAVITY.
- ▶ IN THE COMOVING TETRAD FRAME, THE K-G EQUATION READS:

$$\left[\square + \frac{1}{4} \frac{\xi^2}{(1 - \xi\tau)^2} \right] \varphi = 0, \quad \xi = \frac{3}{2r_g}.$$

- ▶ AS USUAL, REQUIRE **DIRICHLET B.C.** AT THE CAVITY PLATES.

PROPER-TIME SCHWINGER APPROACH – step 2

- K-Q EQUATION CAN BE SOLVED. WE FIND

$$\varphi(x^a) \sim e^{i\vec{k}_\perp \cdot \vec{x}_\perp} \sin\left(\frac{n\pi}{L}x\right) \chi(\tau),$$

$$n \in N$$

$$\vec{k}_\perp \equiv (k_y, k_z)$$

Tidal effects neglected

- WHERE THE **FIELD MODES** ARE

$$\chi_k(\tau) = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\xi} (1 - \xi\tau)} H_0^{(1)}\left(\frac{\omega_k}{\xi} (1 - \xi\tau)\right), \quad \omega_k^2 = k_\perp^2 + \left(\frac{n\pi}{L}\right)^2$$

PROPER-TIME SCHWINGER APPROACH - step 3

- WRITE THE **PROPER-TIME HAMILTONIAN** AS

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_0 + \hat{V}$$

$$\hat{H}_0 = \partial_\tau^2 - \vec{\nabla}^2 \equiv -\hat{p}_0^2 + \hat{\vec{p}}^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{Flat space-time Hamiltonian}$$

$$\hat{V} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{\xi^2}{(1 - \xi\tau)^2} \quad \leftarrow \text{Small time-dependent perturbation}$$

PROPER-TIME

SCHWINGER APPROACH – step 4

- ▶ ACCORDING TO SCHWINGER, THE **EFFECTIVE ACTION** IS:

$$W = \lim_{\nu \rightarrow 0} W(\nu),$$

- ▶ WHERE

$$W(\nu) = -\frac{i}{2} \int_0^\infty ds s^{\nu-1} \text{Tr} e^{-is\hat{H}}$$

- ▶ **TRACE** HAS TO BE EVALUATED ALL OVER THE CONTINUOUS AS WELL THE DISCRETE DEGREES OF FREEDOM, THOSE OF SPACETIME INCLUDED

[see, e.g., [J. Schwinger](#), Lett. Math. Phys. 24, 59 (1992)].

THE EFFECTIVE ACTION – step 1

- USING THE **FIELD MODES** FOUND ABOVE WE FIND, AFTER A QUITE LONG ALGEBRA (involving a lot of special function properties):

$$W(\nu) = -\frac{iA}{32\pi^{5/2}} \int_0^\infty ds \int_{-\infty}^T d\tau \sum_n \frac{s^{\nu-3/2-1}}{\beta^{1/2}} e^{-is(n\pi/L)^2} \\ \times \left[\pi^{3/2} e^{-i/(2\beta)} H_0^{(1)}(1/(2\beta)) + 2G_{23}^{31} \left(-\frac{i}{\beta} \middle| \begin{matrix} 0 & 1/2 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{matrix} \right) \right]$$

Hankel function

Meijer G-function

Adimensional
parameter

$$\beta = \frac{s\xi^2}{(1 - \xi\tau)^2}$$

THE EFFECTIVE ACTION – step 2

- CAREFUL INSPECTION OF $W(\nu)$ SHOWS US TWO CONTRIBUTIONS, ONE **REAL**:

$$\Re W = \lim_{\nu \rightarrow 0} W_H(\nu)$$

$$W_H(\nu) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -\frac{iA}{32\pi^{5/2}} \int_0^\infty ds \int_{-\infty}^T d\tau \sum_n \frac{s^{\nu-3/2-1}}{\beta^{1/2}} \\ \times e^{-is(n\pi/L)^2} \left[\pi^{3/2} e^{-i/(2\beta)} H_0^{(1)}(1/(2\beta)) \right],$$

THE EFFECTIVE ACTION – step 3

► THE OTHER CONTRIBUTION IS **IMAGINARY**:

$$\Im W = \lim_{\nu \rightarrow 0} W_G(\nu)$$

$$iW_G(\nu) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -\frac{iA}{16\pi^{5/2}} \int_0^\infty ds \int_{-\infty}^T d\tau \sum_n \frac{s^{\nu-3/2-1}}{\beta^{1/2}} \\ \times e^{-is(n\pi/L)^2} G_{23}^{31} \left(-\frac{i}{\beta} \mid \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & 1/2 & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right).$$

THE EFFECTIVE ACTION – VACUUM POLARIZATION

- ▶ EXPANDING IN POWERS OF THE ADIMENSIONAL PARAMETER β , WE GET THE PART RESPONSIBLE FOR **VACUUM POLARIZATION** (VACUUM ENERGY DENSITY \rightarrow **STATIC CASIMIR EFFECT**)
- ▶ FOLLOWING THE STANDARD PRESCRIPTION WE HAVE:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \epsilon_{Cas} \rangle &= - \lim_{\nu \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{AL} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \Re W(\nu) \\ &= - \frac{\pi^{3/2}}{16L^4} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^k \xi^{2k} a_k}{(1 - \xi \tau)^{2k}} \left(\frac{L}{\pi} \right)^{2k} \Gamma\left(-\frac{3}{2} + k\right) \zeta(-3 + 2k). \end{aligned}$$

STATIC CASIMIR EFFECT

- ▶ TAKING THE LEADING ($k = 0$) AND THE NEXT TO LEADING ORDER ($k = 1$) TERMS, YIELDS

$$\langle \epsilon_{Cas} \rangle = -\frac{\pi^2}{1440L^4} + \frac{1}{384L^2} \frac{\xi^2}{(1 - \xi\tau)^2} + O(\xi^4).$$

- ▶ AT THE BH HORIZON:

$$\langle \epsilon_{Cas} \rangle_{hor} = -\frac{\pi^2}{1440L^4} \left[1 - \frac{135}{(4\pi)^2} \left(\frac{L}{r_g} \right)^2 \right].$$

← Not a tidal effect!

THE EFFECTIVE ACTION – VACUUM PERSISTENCE AMPLITUDE

- ▶ THE **IMAGINARY** PART OF $W(\nu)$ IS RELATED TO **PARTICLE CREATION**. IN THE IN-OUT FORMALISM WE HAVE

$$|\langle 0 \text{ out} | 0 \text{ in} \rangle|^2 = e^{2i\Im m W}$$

- ▶ AFTER SOME ALGEBRA WE OBTAIN

$$\Im m W = \frac{A}{24\pi^3 L^2} \left[-\frac{\xi^2 L^2}{(1 - \xi\tau)^2} \zeta(1) + \frac{2\xi^4 L^4}{15(1 - \xi\tau)^4} + \dots \right]$$

DIVERGENT!

THE EFFECTIVE ACTION – VACUUM PERSISTENCE AMPLITUDE

- ▶ IN SPITE OF THE DIVERGENT TERM, WE HAVE

$$\xi L = \frac{3L}{2r_g} \rightarrow 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \Im W \rightarrow 0$$

- ▶ HENCE, IN THAT LIMIT, WE HAVE **NO** PARTICLE CREATION, AS EXPECTED.

- ▶ FURTHERMORE, A DIVERGENT PARTICLE NUMBER DENSITY

$$\langle n \rangle \simeq \frac{2 \Im W}{AL}$$

DOESN'T IMPLIES A DIVERGENT ENERGY DENSITY IN CREATED PARTICLES.

PARTICLE CREATION – step 1

- ▶ WE TRY TO GET RID OF THE ABOVE DIVERGENCE FOLLOWING THE **BOGOLUBOV APPROACH**.
- ▶ WRITE THE FIELD MODES AS

$$\chi_k(\eta) = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\xi}} \eta H_0^{(1)} \left(\frac{\omega_k}{\xi} \eta \right), \quad \eta = 1 - \xi\tau,$$

- ▶ THE ABOVE MODES HAVE THE REQUIRED **MINKOWSKIAN** BEHAVIOUR AT $\eta \rightarrow \infty$ (i.e. $\tau \rightarrow -\infty$), WHEN THE CAVITY IS AT THE SPATIAL INFINITY (\rightarrow **FLAT** SPACETIME REGION)

PARTICLE CREATION – step 2

- THE ABOVE MODES SATISFY THE **BUNCH-DAVIES** REQUIREMENTS

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \chi_k(\eta) &\rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\omega_k}} e^{i\frac{\omega_k}{\xi}\eta} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\omega_k}} e^{-i\omega_k\tau} \\ \frac{\dot{\chi}_k(\eta)}{\chi_k(\eta)} &\rightarrow i\frac{\omega_k}{\xi} \end{aligned} \right\} \eta \rightarrow \infty.$$

- IN THE **FAR PAST**, MODE SOLUTIONS HAVE THE USUAL **PLANE WAVE** FORM

$$\chi_k(\tau) = \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{2\omega_k}} e^{-i\omega_k\tau} + \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{2\omega_k}} e^{i\omega_k\tau}$$

PARTICLE CREATION - step 3

- ▶ WE MATCH THE TWO SOLUTIONS NEAR THE BH HORIZON ($\eta = 1 - \xi\tau \geq 1$)

$$\frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{2\omega_k}} e^{-i\omega_k\tau} + \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{2\omega_k}} e^{i\omega_k\tau} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\xi} (1 - \xi\tau)} H_0^{(1)} \left(\frac{\omega_k}{\xi} (1 - \xi\tau) \right),$$

$$\frac{-i\omega_k\alpha}{\sqrt{2\omega_k}} e^{-i\omega_k\tau} + \frac{i\omega_k\beta}{\sqrt{2\omega_k}} e^{i\omega_k\tau} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\xi}} \left[\frac{-\xi}{2\sqrt{(1 - \xi\tau)}} H_0^{(1)} \left(\frac{\omega_k}{\xi} (1 - \xi\tau) \right) + \sqrt{1 - \xi\tau} \omega_k H_1^{(1)} \left(\frac{\omega_k}{\xi} (1 - \xi\tau) \right) \right]$$

- ▶ NEXT, WE SOLVE FOR THE α AND β BOGOLUBOV COEFFICIENTS

PARTICLE CREATION - step 4

- ▶ BOGOLUBOV COEFFICIENTS ARE

$$|\alpha_k|^2 = 1 + \frac{\xi^2}{16\omega_k^2(1 - \xi\tau)^2}, \quad |\beta_k|^2 = \frac{\xi^2}{16\omega_k^2(1 - \xi\tau)^2},$$

- ▶ **NUMBER DENSITY** OF CREATED FIELD QUANTA IS

$$\langle n \rangle = \frac{1}{AL} \left[\frac{A}{(2\pi)^2} \sum_n \int d^2k_\perp \frac{\xi^2}{16\omega_k^2 |\eta|^2} \right] = \frac{\xi^2}{64\pi L} \zeta(1) \leftarrow \text{DIVERGENT!}$$

- ▶ THIS BASICALLY **AGREES** WITH OUR PREVIOUS RESULT, BASED UPON IMAGINARY PART OF EFFECTIVE ACTION.

PARTICLE CREATION - step 5

- ▶ HOWEVER, **ENERGY DENSITY** OF CREATED QUANTA IS **FINITE**

$$\langle \epsilon_{\text{dyn}} \rangle = \frac{1}{AL} \left[\frac{A}{(2\pi)^2} \sum_n \int d^2 k_{\perp} \frac{\xi^2}{16\omega_k^2 |\eta|^2} \omega_k \right] = -\frac{\xi^2}{32L^2 |\eta|^2} \zeta(-1) = \boxed{\frac{\xi^2}{384L^2 (1 - \xi\tau)^2}}$$

- ▶ QUITE INTERESTINGLY THIS IS JUST THE **SAME** ENERGY AMOUNT WE FOUND LOOKING AT THE **CORRECTION** TO STATIC CASIMIR ENERGY

▶ A MERE **COINCIDENCE?**

$$\langle \epsilon_{\text{Cas}} \rangle = -\frac{\pi^2}{1440L^4} + \frac{1}{384L^2} \frac{\xi^2}{(1 - \xi\tau)^2}$$

CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ ONE COULD WONDER THAT CORRECTIONS TO THE STATIC CASIMIR EFFECT AS WELL AS PARTICLE CREATION ARE DETECTED BY AN OBSERVER IN A FREELY FALLING **INERTIAL FRAME** (where has the Equivalence Principle gone?)
- ▶ ACTUALLY, WHEN QUANTUM FIELDS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, THE **NON-LOCAL** CHARACTER OF OF THE UNDERLYING QUANTUM THEORY CONFLICTS WITH THE **EP**, CAUSING THE LATTER TO BE NOT STRAIGHTFORWARDLY APPLICABLE
[see, e.g., [M.O. Scully, S.A. Fulling, D. Lee, D. Page, W. Schleich & A. Svidzinsky](#), arXiv: quant-ph 1709.00481v2 (2017)].

CONCLUSIONS (cont'd)

- ▶ WHEN EVALUATING THE CASIMIR ENERGY, THE ENCOUNTERED **DIVERGENCES** ARE USUALLY CURED BY MEANS OF VARIOUS TECHNIQUES.
- ▶ ANY **RENORMALIZATION** PROCEDURE IMPLIES - MORE OR LESS EXPLICITLY - A MODE CUTOFF, SO THAT THE RENORMALIZED STRESS-ENERGY TENSOR $T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{ren}}$ IS DETERMINED BY THE LOW-ENERGY CONTRIBUTION OF THE **FULL** $T_{\mu\nu}$, THUS PROBING THE **GLOBAL** STRUCTURE OF THE BACKGROUND GEOMETRY (\rightarrow GRAVITO-INERTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS) - [see, e.g., [Birrell & Davies, QFCS](#)].

CONCLUSIONS (cont'd)

- ▶ THE ABOVE RESULTS SEEM CLOSELY RELATED TO THE **NUMBER** OF INVOLVED **SPATIAL** DIMENSIONS. ACTUALLY, WE FOUND **NO EFFECT** IN A 1+1D CASIMIR CAVITY (priv. comm.).
- ▶ IT MAY BE THAT SOME (UNPHYSICAL) DIVERGENCES FOUND IN THE ABOVE ANALYSIS DO DISAPPEAR WHEN CONSIDERING A MORE PHYSICAL **FINITE 3D** APPARATUS.
- ▶ FINALLY, THE **NEXT STEP** WILL BE TO CONSIDER ALSO TIDAL EFFECTS IN A **FULL 3D MODEL** (WORK IN PROGRESS WITH **H.J. WILSON** & **S. A. FULLING**).

THANK YOU
VERY MUCH

F. SORGE