

Perturbative Stability and Absorption Cross-Section in Higher-Derivative Heterotic String Black Holes

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Leading α' corrections

- Effective action in the Einstein frame

$$\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int \sqrt{-g} \left[\mathcal{R} - \frac{4}{d-2} (\partial^\mu \phi) \partial_\mu \phi + e^{\frac{4}{2-d}\phi} \frac{\lambda}{2} \mathcal{R}^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \right] d^d x,$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\alpha'}{2}, \frac{\alpha'}{4} \text{ (bosonic, heterotic).}$$

- Field equations

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} + \lambda e^{\frac{4}{2-d}\phi} \left(\mathcal{R}_{\mu\rho\sigma\tau} \mathcal{R}_\nu^{\rho\sigma\tau} - \frac{1}{2(d-2)} g_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{R}_{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \mathcal{R}^{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \right) = 0;$$

$$\nabla^2 \phi - \frac{\lambda}{4} e^{\frac{4}{2-d}\phi} \left(\mathcal{R}_{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \mathcal{R}^{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \right) = 0.$$

General setup

- Metric of the type

$$d s^2 = -f(r) d t^2 + f^{-1}(r) d r^2 + r^2 d \Omega_{d-2}^2;$$

- Variation of the metric

$$h_{\mu\nu} = \delta g_{\mu\nu};$$

- Variation of the Riemann tensor:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \mathcal{R}_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu\rho}{}^\lambda h_{\lambda\sigma} - \mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu\sigma}{}^\lambda h_{\lambda\rho} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \nabla_\mu \nabla_\rho h_{\nu\sigma} + \nabla_\mu \nabla_\sigma h_{\nu\rho} - \nabla_\nu \nabla_\sigma h_{\mu\rho} + \nabla_\nu \nabla_\rho h_{\mu\sigma} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Perturbations on the $(d - 2)$ -sphere

- General tensors of rank at least 2 on the $(d - 2)$ -sphere can be uniquely decomposed in their *tensorial, vectorial and scalar* components.
- One can in general consider perturbations to the metric and any other physical field of the system under consideration.

Tensorial perturbations of the metric

- We consider only the tensorial part of $h_{\mu\nu}$:

$$h_{ij} = 2r^2 H_T(r, t) \mathcal{T}_{ij}(\theta^i), \quad h_{ia} = 0, \quad h_{ab} = 0$$

with

$$\left(\gamma^{kl} D_k D_l + k_T \right) \mathcal{T}_{ij} = 0, \quad D^i \mathcal{T}_{ij} = 0, \quad g^{ij} \mathcal{T}_{ij} = 0.$$

- D_i : $(d - 2)$ -sphere covariant derivative, associated to the metric γ_{ij} .
- \mathcal{T}_{ij} are the eigentensors of D^2 on S^{d-2}
- $-k_T = 2 - \ell(\ell + d - 3)$ are the eigenvalues of D^2 on S^{d-2} , where $\ell = 2, 3, 4, \dots$

Tensorial perturbations of $\mathcal{R}_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\mathcal{R}_{ijkl} &= [(2f - 1) H_T + f \partial_r H_T] (g_{il} \mathcal{T}_{jk} - g_{ik} \mathcal{T}_{jl} - g_{jl} \mathcal{T}_{ik} + g_{jk} \mathcal{T}_{il}) \\ &+ r^2 H_T (D_i D_l \mathcal{T}_{jk} - D_i D_k \mathcal{T}_{jl} - D_j D_l \mathcal{T}_{ik} + D_j D_k \mathcal{T}_{il}); \end{aligned}$$

$$\delta\mathcal{R}_{itjt} = \left[-r^2 \partial_t^2 H_T + \frac{1}{2} f f' r^2 \partial_r H_T + f f' r H_T \right] \mathcal{T}_{ij};$$

$$\delta\mathcal{R}_{irjr} = \left[-r \frac{f'}{f} H_T - \frac{1}{2} r^2 \frac{f'}{f} \partial_r H_T - 2r \partial_r H_T - r^2 \partial_r^2 H_T \right] \mathcal{T}_{ij};$$

$$\delta\mathcal{R}_{ij} = \frac{r^2}{f} (\partial_t^2 H_T) \mathcal{T}_{ij} - r^2 f (\partial_r^2 H_T) \mathcal{T}_{ij} - r^2 f' (\partial_r H_T) \mathcal{T}_{ij}$$

$$- 2r f' H_T \mathcal{T}_{ij} + (2 - d) r f (\partial_r H_T) \mathcal{T}_{ij}$$

$$+ (2d - 6) (1 - f) H_T \mathcal{T}_{ij} + \ell (\ell + d - 3) H_T \mathcal{T}_{ij};$$

$$\delta\mathcal{R}_{rtrt} = 0; \delta\mathcal{R}_{r\mu} = \delta\mathcal{R}_{t\mu} = 0; \delta\mathcal{R} = 0.$$

Perturbations of the field equations

$$\delta \nabla^2 \phi - \frac{\lambda}{4} e^{\frac{4}{2-d}\phi} \delta \left(\mathcal{R}_{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \mathcal{R}^{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \right) + \frac{\lambda}{d-2} e^{\frac{4}{2-d}\phi} \mathcal{R}_{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \mathcal{R}^{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \delta \phi = 0,$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \mathcal{R}_{ij} + \lambda e^{\frac{4}{2-d}\phi} \left[\delta \left(\mathcal{R}_{i\rho\sigma\tau} \mathcal{R}_j^{\rho\sigma\tau} \right) - \frac{1}{2(d-2)} \mathcal{R}_{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \mathcal{R}^{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} h_{ij} \right. \\ \left. - \frac{1}{2(d-2)} g_{ij} \delta \left(\mathcal{R}_{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \mathcal{R}^{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \right) \right] + \frac{4}{d-2} \mathcal{R}_{ij} \delta \phi = 0. \end{aligned}$$

- Spherical symmetry, $\partial_k \phi = 0$, $(a, b = r, t)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta \nabla^2 \phi &= g^{ab} \partial_a \partial_b \delta \phi - g^{ab} \Gamma_{ab}^c \partial_c \delta \phi + g^{ij} \partial_i \partial_j \delta \phi - g^{ij} \Gamma_{ij}^k \partial_k \delta \phi \\ &- g^{ij} \Gamma_{ij}^a \partial_a \delta \phi. \end{aligned}$$

- Using $\delta \left(\mathcal{R}_{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \mathcal{R}^{\rho\sigma\lambda\tau} \right) = 0$, we can set $\delta \phi = 0$.

Perturbed graviton field equation

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left[1 - 2\lambda \frac{f'(r)}{r} \right] (\partial_t^2 H_T - f^2(r) \partial_r^2 H_T) \\
 & - f(r) \left[(d-2) \frac{f(r)}{r} + f'(r) + \frac{2\lambda}{r} \left(2(d-4) \frac{f(r)(1-f(r))}{r^2} \right. \right. \\
 & \left. \left. - 2 \frac{f(r)f'(r)}{r} - (f'(r))^2 \right) \right] \partial_r H_T \\
 & + \frac{f(r)}{r} \left[\frac{\ell(\ell+d-3)}{r} - 2f'(r) + 2(d-3) \frac{1-f(r)}{r} \right. \\
 & \left. + \frac{\lambda}{r} \left(4\ell(\ell+d-3) \frac{1-f(r)}{r^2} + 2(d-3) \frac{(1-f(r))^2}{r^2} - r^2 \frac{(f''(r))^2}{d-2} \right) \right] H_T = 0.
 \end{aligned}$$

The Master Equation

The perturbation equation can be written as a "master equation"

$$\frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 \Phi}{\partial t^2} =: V_T \Phi.$$

- $dx/dr = 1/f$ ("tortoise" coordinate);
- $\Phi = k(r)H_T$ ("master" variable);
- V_T : potential for tensor-type gravitational perturbations. In classical EH gravity it is the same as the potential for scalar fields (Ishibashi, Kodama);
- $k(r) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{f}} \exp \left(\int \frac{\frac{f'}{f} + \frac{d-2}{r} + \frac{4}{r^3} (d-4)\lambda(1-f) - \frac{4}{r^2} \lambda f' - \frac{2}{rf} \lambda f'^2}{2 - \frac{4}{r} \lambda f'} dr \right).$

The string-corrected tensor potential

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_{\text{T}}[f(r)] &= f(r) \left(\frac{\ell(\ell + d - 3)}{r^2} + \frac{(d - 2)(d - 4)f(r)}{4r^2} + \frac{2(d - 3)(1 - f(r))}{r^2} + \frac{(d - 6)f'(r)}{2r} \right) \\
 &+ \frac{\lambda}{r^2} \left[\left(\frac{2\ell(\ell + d - 3)}{r} + \frac{(d - 4)(d - 5)f(r)}{r} + \frac{(d - 3)(1 - f(r))}{r} + (d - 4)f'(r) \right) \right. \\
 &\times \left(2\frac{1 - f(r)}{r} + f'(r) \right) + \left(3(d - 3) - (4d - 13)f(r) \right) \frac{f'(r)}{r} - \\
 &\left. - 4(f'(r))^2 + (d - 4)f(r)f''(r) - \frac{(rf''(r))^2}{d - 2} \right] f(r).
 \end{aligned}$$

This is the potential for tensor-type gravitational perturbations of any kind of static, spherically symmetric \mathcal{R}^2 string-corrected black hole in d -dimensions.

Study of the stability

- Solutions of the form $\Phi(x, t) = e^{i\omega t} \phi(x)$;
- The master equation is then written in the Schrödinger form,

$$\left[-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V \right] \phi(x) =: A\phi(x) = \omega^2 \phi(x);$$

- A solution to the field equation is then stable if the operator A has no negative eigenvalues (Ishibashi, Kodama; Dotti, Gleiser).

"S-deformation" approach

Stability means positivity (for every possible ϕ) of the following inner product:

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \phi, A\phi \rangle &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \bar{\phi}(x) \left[-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + V \right] \phi(x) dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left[\left| \frac{d\phi}{dx} \right|^2 + V |\phi|^2 \right] dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \left[|D\phi|^2 + \tilde{V} |\phi|^2 \right] dx\end{aligned}$$

with $D = \frac{d}{dx} + S$, $\tilde{V} = V + f \frac{dS}{dr} - S^2$.

"S-deformation" approach (cont.)

- Taking $S = -\frac{f}{k} \frac{dk}{dr}$ we are left with

$$\langle \phi, A\phi \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} |D\phi|^2 dx + \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{Q(r)}{f} |\phi|^2 dx,$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} Q = & f \left[\frac{\ell(\ell+d-3)}{r^2} - \frac{2f'}{r} + 2(d-3) \frac{1-f}{r^2} \right. \\ & + \frac{\lambda}{r^2} \left(\frac{2\ell(\ell+d-3)}{r} \left(2\frac{1-f}{r} + f' \right) + \frac{2(d-3)(1-f)}{r} \left(\frac{1-f}{r} + 2f' \right) \right. \\ & \left. \left. - 4(f')^2 - \frac{(rf'')^2}{d-2} \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Stability condition

- The second term of $\langle \phi, A\phi \rangle$ can be written as

$$\int_{R_H}^{+\infty} Q(r) \frac{|\phi|^2}{f(r)} dr.$$

- For $r > R_H$, $f(r) > 0$.
- This condition keeps valid with α' corrections as long as the black hole in consideration is *large*, i.e. $R_H \gg \sqrt{\lambda}$, which is true in string perturbation theory.
- This way the perturbative stability of a given black hole solution, with respect to tensor-type gravitational perturbations, follows if and only if one has $Q(r) > 0$ for $r \geq R_H$.

The Callan-Myers-Perry black hole

- The only free parameter is μ (secondary hair);
- Horizon $R_H := (2\mu)^{\frac{1}{d-3}}$;
- $f(r) = \left(1 - \left(\frac{R_H}{r}\right)^{d-3}\right) \left[1 - \lambda \frac{(d-3)(d-4)}{2} \frac{R_H^{d-5}}{r^{d-1}} \frac{r^{d-1} - R_H^{d-1}}{r^{d-3} - R_H^{d-3}}\right]$;

- α' -corrected ADM black hole mass:

$$m = \left(1 + \frac{(d-3)(d-4)}{2} \frac{\lambda}{R_H^2}\right) \frac{(d-2) A_{d-2}}{\kappa^2} \mu$$

- dilaton vanishes classically and only gets α' -corrections.

Stability of solutions with secondary hair

- For *any* string theory corrected, spherically symmetric, static solution, which has *no* dilaton field at the classical level (as is the case of the CMP solution), one has

$$Q(r) = \frac{f(r)}{1 - 2\lambda \frac{f'(r)}{r}} \left[\frac{\ell(\ell + d - 3)}{r^2} + 4\lambda \ell(\ell + d - 3) \frac{1 - f(r)}{r^4} \right]$$
$$\simeq f(r) \frac{\ell(\ell + d - 3)}{r^2} \left[1 + \frac{2\lambda}{r} \left(2 \frac{1 - f(r)}{r} + f'(r) \right) \right].$$

- One will have $Q(r) \geq 0$ for $r \geq R_H$, in any spacetime dimension, as long as

$$2 \frac{1 - f(r)}{r} + f'(r) \Big|_{\lambda=0} > 0.$$

Stability of solutions with secondary hair

- At the classical level, the solution is unique (Myers, Perry) and one has

$$2\frac{1-f(r)}{r} + f'(r) \Big|_{\lambda=0} = \frac{2\mu(d-1)}{r^{d-2}},$$

which is positive for any $r > R_H$.

- This proves stability under tensor-type gravitational perturbations of any spherically symmetric static solution with no dilaton at $\lambda = 0$ for any $d > 4$.

Scattering Theory

- The equation describing gravitational perturbations to a black hole solution allows for a study of scattering in this spacetime geometry.
- Classical result in EH gravity: for *any* spherically symmetric black hole in arbitrary dimension, the absorption cross-section of minimally-coupled massless scalar fields equals the area of the black hole horizon (Das, Gibbons, Mathur, 1997).
- Universality of the low-frequency absorption cross-sections of generic black holes in EH gravity?
- Not much work has been done on trying to extend such result with the inclusion of higher-derivative corrections.

Scattering of tensor–type gravitational waves

- We work in the low-frequency regime, $R_H\omega \ll 1$.
- This allows us to use the technique of matching solutions near the event horizon to solutions at asymptotic infinity (Natário, Schiappa).
- Leading contribution: s–wave, with $\ell = 0$.

Near-horizon solution (I)

- The potential $V_T[f(r)]$ vanishes.
- The master equation reduces to a simple free-field equation

$$\left(\frac{d^2}{dx^2} + \omega^2 \right) \left(k(r) H_T(r) \right) = 0$$

whose solutions are incoming plane-waves in the tortoise coordinate:

$$k(r) \simeq iR_H^{\frac{d+1}{2}} \left(1 + \frac{(d+1)(d-4)}{4} \frac{\lambda}{R_H^2} \right) + \mathcal{O}(r - R_H),$$
$$H_T(x) = A_{\text{near}} e^{i\omega x}.$$

Near-horizon solution (II)

Very close to the event horizon, $r \simeq R_H$, one has

$$V_T(r) \simeq \frac{(d-2)(d-3)^2}{2} \left(1 - \frac{(d-1)(d-4)^2}{d-2} \frac{\lambda}{R_H^2} \right) \frac{r - R_H}{R_H^3} + \mathcal{O}\left((r - R_H)^2\right),$$

$$x(r) \simeq \frac{R_H}{d-3} \left(1 + \frac{(d-1)(d-4)}{2} \frac{\lambda}{R_H^2} \right) \log\left(\frac{r - R_H}{R_H}\right) + \mathcal{O}(r - R_H)$$

and then

$$H_T(r) \simeq A_{\text{near}} \left(1 + i \frac{R_H \omega}{d-3} \left(1 + \frac{(d-1)(d-4)}{2} \frac{\lambda}{R_H^2} \right) \log\left(\frac{r - R_H}{R_H}\right) \right)$$

Asymptotic infinity solution (I)

- The asymptotic region of the CMP black hole is basically flat Minkowski spacetime.
- At asymptotic infinity, again $V_T[f(r)]$ vanishes.
- The master equation reduces to a free-field equation whose solutions are incoming or outgoing plane-waves in the tortoise coordinate.
- In the original radial coordinate,

$$H_T(r) = (r\omega)^{(3-d)/2} \left[A J_{(d-3)/2}(r\omega) + B N_{(d-3)/2}(r\omega) \right].$$

Asymptotic infinity solution (II)

- At low-frequencies, with $r\omega \ll 1$, such solution becomes

$$H_T(r) \simeq A_{\text{asympt}} \frac{1}{2^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{d-1}{2}\right)} + B_{\text{asympt}} \frac{2^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{d-3}{2}\right)}{\pi (r\omega)^{d-3}} + \mathcal{O}(r\omega).$$

- In order to compute the absorption cross-section, one now needs to relate A_{near} , A_{asympt} and B_{asympt} .

Intermediate region solution (I)

- $V_T(r) \gg \omega^2$, $r\omega \ll 1$ (low-frequency constraint),
 $\frac{r-R_H}{R_H} \gg (R_H\omega)^2$.
- Solution perturbative in λ : $H_T(r) = H_0(r) + \lambda H_1(r)$.
- $H_0(r)$ satisfies

$$\left[-f(r) \frac{d}{dr} \left(f(r) \frac{d}{dr} \right) + f(r) \left(\frac{(d-2)(d-4)f(r)}{4r^2} + \frac{(d-2)f'(r)}{2r} \right) \right] (k_0(r)H_0(r)) = 0$$

with $k_0(r) = iR_H^{3/2} r^{\frac{d-2}{2}}$.

- The most general solution is

$$H_0(r) = A_{\text{inter}}^0 + B_{\text{inter}}^0 \log \left(1 - \frac{R_H^{d-3}}{r^{d-3}} \right).$$

Intermediate region solution (II)

- Solving for $H_1(r)$ requires splitting into homogeneous and non-homogeneous parts:

$$H_1(r) = A_{\text{inter}}^1 + B_{\text{inter}}^1 \log \left(1 - \frac{R_H^{d-3}}{r^{d-3}} \right) + H_1^{\text{NH}}(r).$$

- After a very long analysis one concludes that

$$H_T(r) = A_{\text{inter}} + B_{\text{inter}} \log \left(1 - \frac{R_H^{d-3}}{r^{d-3}} \right) + \lambda H_1^{\text{NH}}(r).$$

Intermediate region solution (III)

- Although we do not know the exact expression for $H_1^{\text{NH}}(r)$, we know that it approximately behaves near the black hole horizon as

$$\begin{aligned} H_1^{\text{NH}}(r) &\simeq \frac{(d-1)(d-4)}{2R_H^2} \left[-(d+2)B_{\text{inter}}^0 + 4 \left(A_{\text{inter}}^0 + B_{\text{inter}}^0 \log \left(\frac{r-R_H}{R_H} \right) \right. \right. \\ &+ \left. \left. B_{\text{inter}}^0 \log(d-3) \right) \right] \frac{r-R_H}{R_H} \\ &+ \mathcal{O} \left(\left(\frac{r-R_H}{R_H} \right)^2 \log \left(\frac{r-R_H}{R_H} \right) \right), \end{aligned}$$

and that at asymptotic infinity this term can be neglected.

- It is this solution that allows us to interpolate between the solutions near the event horizon and at asymptotic infinity.

Intermediate region solution (IV)

- Near the horizon,

$$H_T(r) \simeq A_{\text{inter}} + B_{\text{inter}} \log \left(\frac{r - R_H}{R_H} \right) + B_{\text{inter}} \log(d - 3) + \dots$$

- At asymptotic infinity, one finds

$$H_T(r) \simeq A_{\text{inter}} - B_{\text{inter}} \frac{R_H^{d-3}}{r^{d-3}} + \dots$$

Calculation of the fluxes

- Matching coefficients:

$$A_{\text{as}} = 2^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{d-1}{2}\right) A_{\text{int}} = 2^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{d-1}{2}\right) A_{\text{near}},$$

$$B_{\text{as}} = -\frac{\pi (R_H \omega)^{d-3}}{2^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{d-3}{2}\right)} B_{\text{int}} = -\frac{i\pi (R_H \omega)^{d-2}}{2^{\frac{d-3}{2}} (d-3) \Gamma\left(\frac{d-3}{2}\right)} \left(1 + \frac{(d-1)(d-4)}{2} \frac{\lambda}{R_H^2}\right) A_{\text{near}}.$$

- Near the black hole event horizon the flux per unit area is

$$J_{\text{near}} = \frac{1}{2i} \left(H_T^\dagger(x) \frac{dH_T}{dx} - H_T(x) \frac{dH_T^\dagger}{dx} \right) = \omega |A_{\text{near}}|^2.$$

- The flux per unit area at infinity is

$$J_{\text{as}} = \frac{1}{2i} \left(H_T^\dagger(r) \frac{dH_T}{dr} - H_T(r) \frac{dH_T^\dagger}{dr} \right) = \frac{2}{\pi} r^{2-d} \omega^{3-d} |A_{\text{as}} B_{\text{as}}|.$$

The absorption cross-section

- General formula: $\sigma = \frac{\int r^{d-2} J_{\text{asympt}} d\Omega_{d-2}}{J_{\text{near}}}$.

- In our case,

$$\sigma_{\top}^{\ell=0} = A_H \left(1 + \frac{(d-1)(d-4)}{2} \frac{\lambda}{R_H^2} \right).$$

- σ receives α' corrections with respect to the EH result, although it is *still* proportional to the area of the event horizon;

- σ is increased due to the string theoretic corrections.

- Possible general formula:

$$\sigma_{\top}^{\ell=0} = \frac{d-3}{R_H f'(R_H)} A_H.$$

Conclusions

- We extended the perturbation theory to \mathcal{R}^2 stringy gravity;
- We studied the stability of black hole solutions under tensor type gravitational perturbations, and proved the perturbative stability of the CMP solution for any space-time dimension;
- We applied the master equation to compute the absorption cross-section for low frequency gravitational waves for the CMP black hole. We showed that this cross-section is still proportional to the area of the black hole horizon, in spite of receiving α' corrections;
- We proposed a generalization for the cross-section which could be valid to all orders in α' .