

# THE KERR-FERMI SEA



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MITCHELL INSTITUTE

TEXAS A&M

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# Another chapter in the fascinating saga of Kerr

(( ...But Kerr's solution has also surpassing theoretical interest; it has many properties that have the aura of the miraculous about them... ))

S. Chandrasekhar, 1979

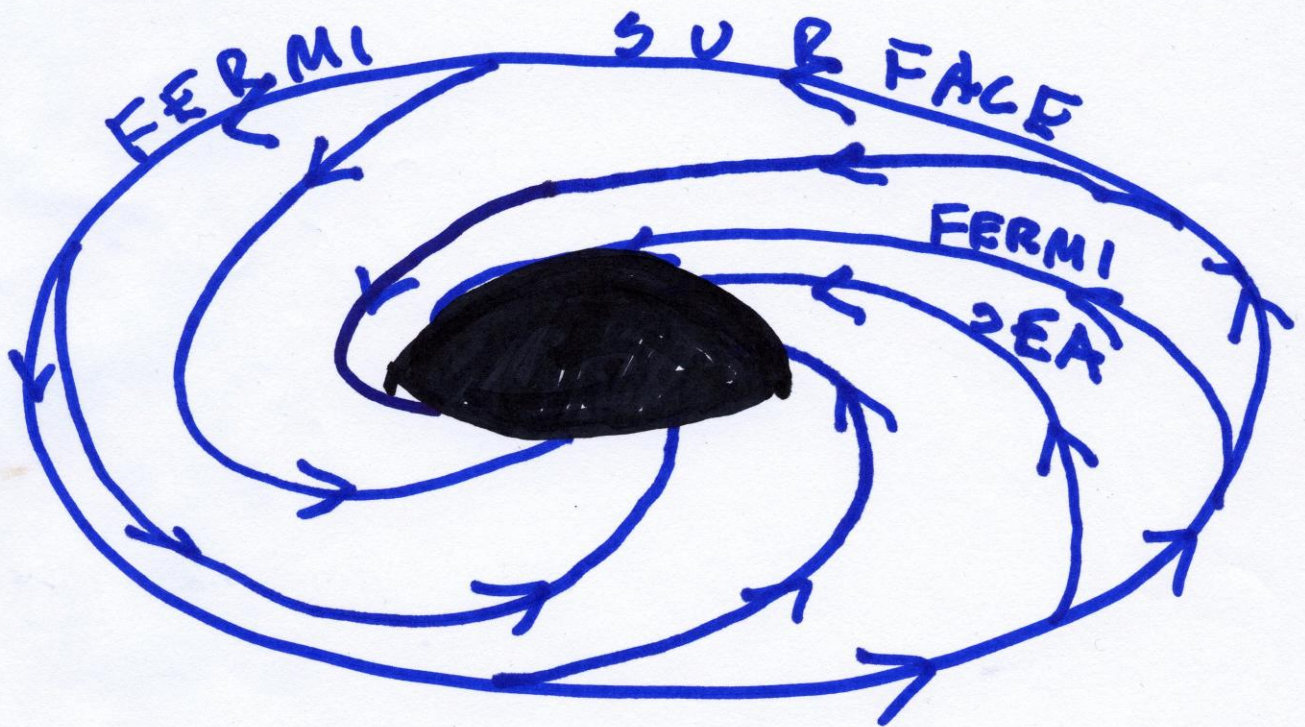
Existence of exact solution,  
separability of wave equation,  
consistency of energy extraction,  
Killing-Yano symmetry, ~~ne~~<sup>SUSY</sup>  
near-horizon conformal symmetry  
....

What is the source of these miracles?



# MAIN RESULT

In the presence of <sup>FREE</sup> massive fermions, in its  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$  semiclassical ground state a rotating black hole



soaks in a whirlpool bath  
filled with Fermi liquid!  
(not empty space)



# MOTIVATION/INTEREST

- (i) String theory  $\rightarrow$  CFT dual of Kerr = Fermi liquid (still not understood)
- (ii) Interesting parallels/connections to recent work on AdS/CMT. Our techniques perhaps applicable. Duals of rotating atomic condensates, c.f. Schmiech et al.
- (iii) Astrophysical black holes potentially bathing in neutron liquid. observable consequences?

Surprising & basic feature of Kerr ground state which might have been noticed 30 years ago.



# Black Hole Bomb

Press, Teukolsky '72, Eardley Zouros '77

A scalar wave with

$$\omega < m \Omega_H$$

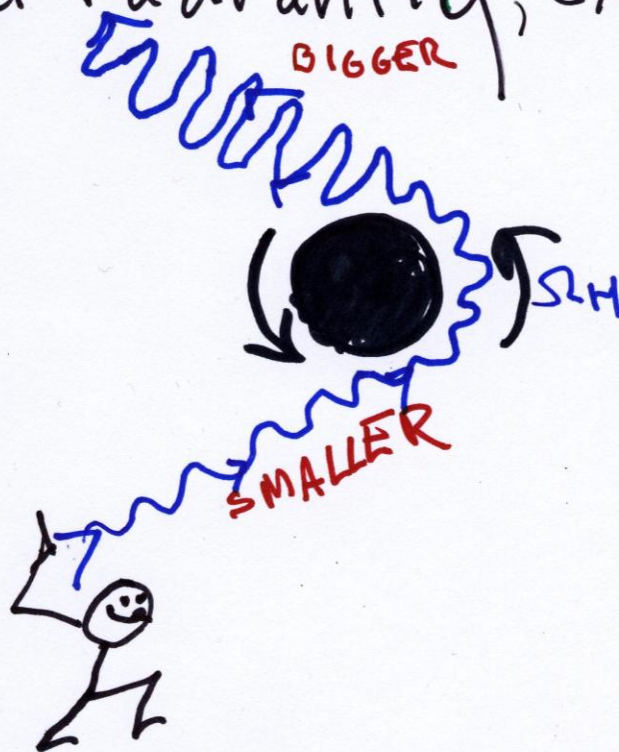
energy

ang  
mom.

horizon  
velocity

scatters

super radiantly, extracting



energy from the black hole.  
Consistency constraints  
 $\Rightarrow$  Second Law of Black  
Hole Mechanics



If the wave has

$\omega < m \Omega_H$  (super radiant) and

$\omega < m$  (bound) it can't  
↑ mass

escape to  $\infty$  and rescatters



resulting in an  
exponential instability or  
BLACK HOLE BOMB

- (i) Kerr + massive scalar = unstable
- (ii) endpoint unknown
- (iii) ~~graviton, photon bomb~~
- (iv) <sup>small</sup> Kerr-AdS = unstable
- (v)  $\approx$  holographic superconductor
- (vi) Constraints on light axions

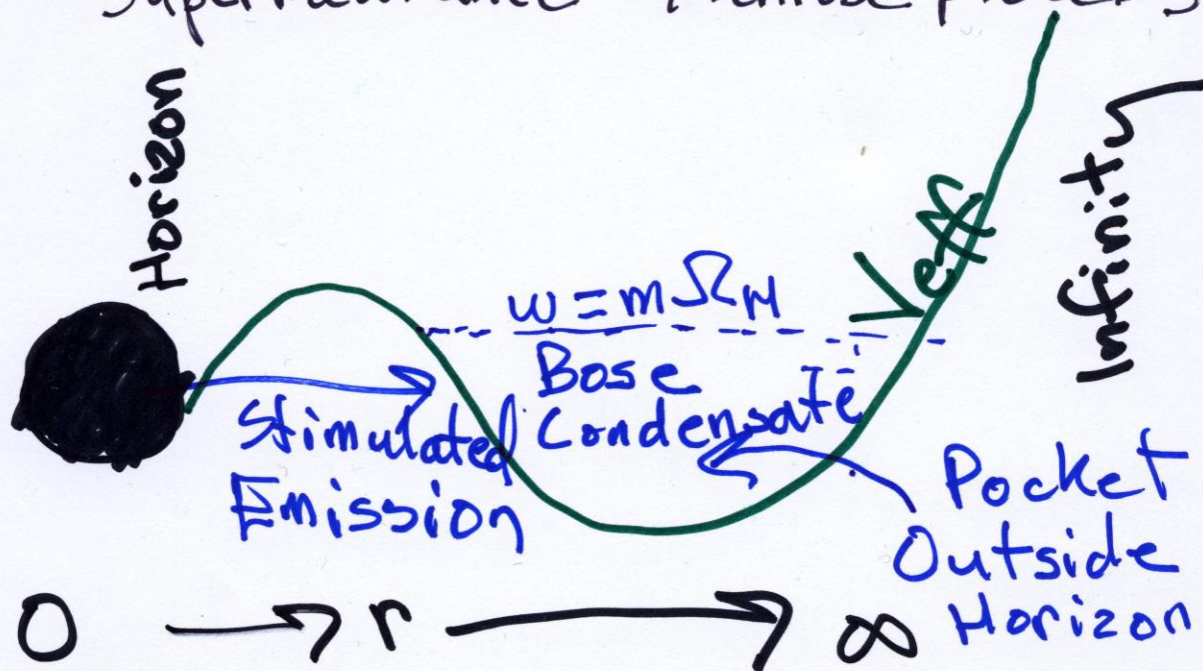
Anahita Dimopolous  
Dubovsky, Halpern  
March-Russell



# Particle Picture

$\hbar \rightarrow 0$  particle limit  $\neq \hbar \rightarrow 0$  field limit  
 $\mu$  fixed  $\frac{\mu}{\hbar}$  fixed

Superradiance  $\rightarrow$  Penrose process



Black hole = thermal reservoir  
 with Boltzmann factor  $e^{-\frac{w - m\Omega_H}{T_H}}$ .

Bound superradiant particles  
 cannot get across horizon or  
 to  $\infty$ . They form condensate in  
 pocket which stimulates emission,  
 which feeds condensate  
 Runaway  $\rightarrow$  BLACK HOLE BOMB

OUR QUESTION:

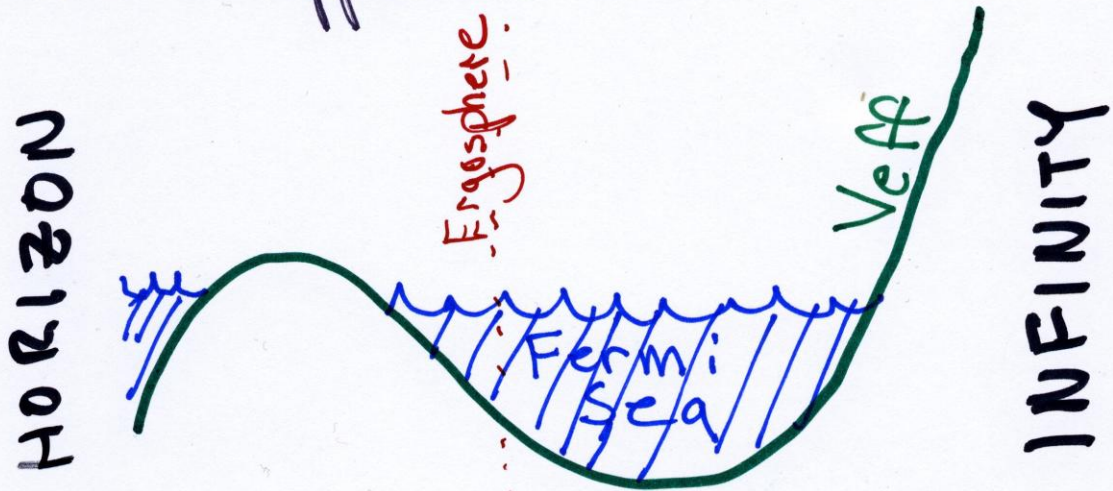
What is the fermionic  
version of the black  
hole bomb?



Real world has light  $n \neq 0$

## FERMIONS

What happens?



## KERR BLACK HOLE GROUND STATE

has a filled Fermi sea extending well outside ergosphere, and light waves persist in the classical limit.

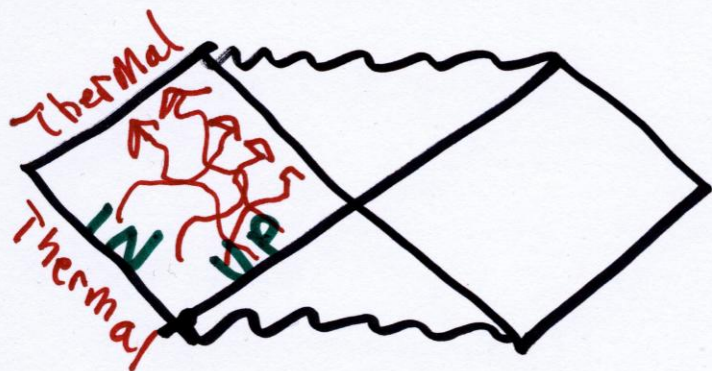
Due to the "miraculous" properties of Kerr, the properties of this Fermi sea are analytically calculable in the WK B limit.

Note  $\frac{M_p^2}{M_{\text{sun}} M_{\text{neutron}}} \sim 10^{-19}$

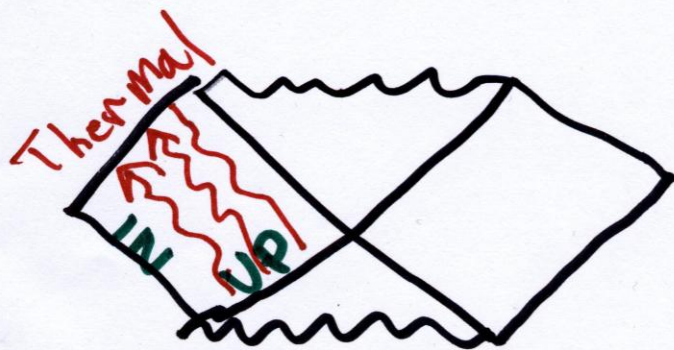


# Unruh Vacuum

is the asymptotic state approached by matter fields around a black hole formed by gravitational collapse.



Hartle  
-Hawking  
Vacuum



Unruh  
Vacuum

It describes a black hole radiating into empty space, with Boltzmann factor  $e^{-\frac{\omega - m\Omega_H}{T_H}}$ . For extreme Kerr  $T_H \rightarrow 0$  and

(i) **IN** modes are empty for  $\omega_{in} > 0$

(ii) **UP** modes are full if superradiant  $\omega_{up} - m_{up}\Omega_H < 0$



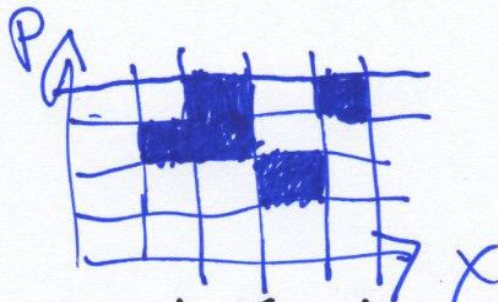
# WKB Particle Limit

$\hbar \rightarrow 0$  mass  $\equiv m$  fixed

Instead of using quantum field operators, states are described in terms of the single-particle phase space =

$(r, \theta, \phi, p_r, p_\theta, p_\phi)$

with cells of volume  $\hbar^3$



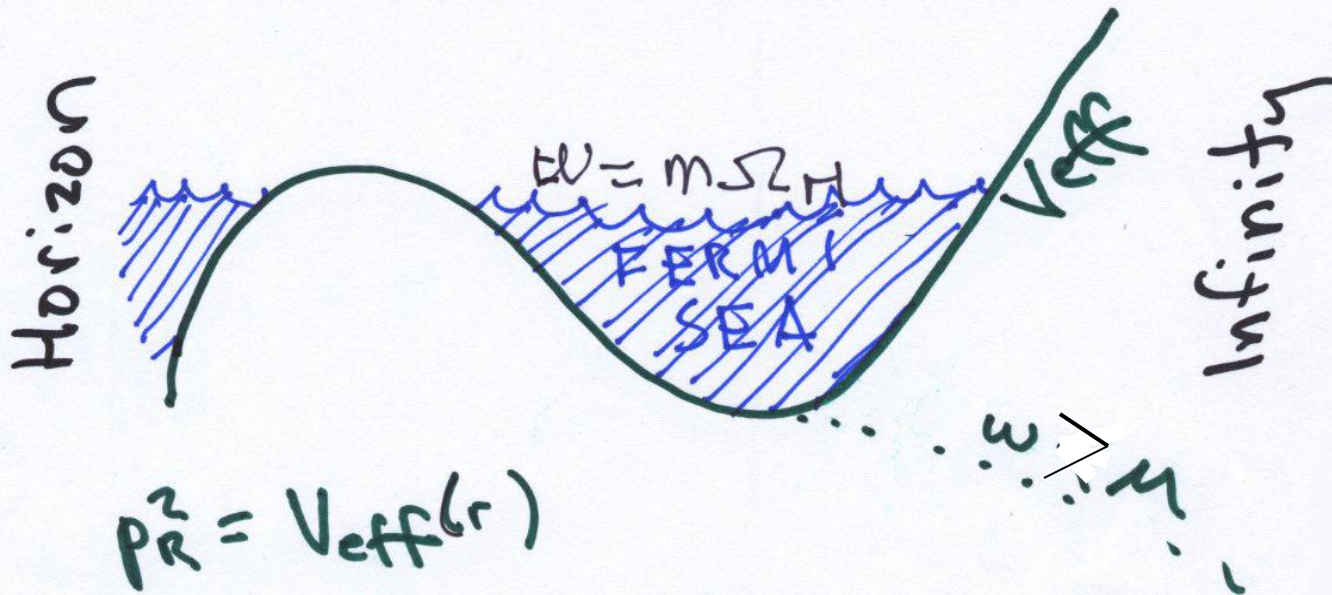
For fermions and  $T_H = 0$ , a multi-particle state is specified by saying which cells are filled & which empty. (4 copies for Dirac fermions  $e^\uparrow, e^\downarrow, p^\uparrow, p^\downarrow$ )

An orbit in phase space is filled in the WKB limit of the Unruh vacuum iff it <sup>corresponds</sup> ~~is the~~ to the limit of a filled WKB wavefunction.



Orbits turn out to be filled if they are bound, & superradiant (no surprise)

$$E\omega < m\Omega_H \text{ and } \omega < \mu$$



$$p_R^2 = V_{\text{eff}}(r)$$

$$-\partial_r^2 \psi_{\omega k \theta} = V_{\text{eff}} \psi_{\omega k \theta}$$

Detailed analysis is a bit involved, but answer here is simple.



To be more precise, choose Boyer-Lindquist coordinates

$$ds^2 = -\frac{\Delta}{\rho^2} (dt - M \sin^2 \theta d\phi)^2 + \frac{\rho^2}{\Delta} dr^2 + \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\rho^2} (r^2 + M^2) d\phi - M dt)^2 + \rho^2 d\theta^2$$

$$\rho^2 \equiv r^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \theta$$

$$\Delta = (r - M)^2$$

$$\Omega_H = \frac{1}{2M}$$

$$T_H = 0 \text{ (extreme)}$$

Then a particle orbit in Kerr has **THREE** constants of motion

$m = p_\phi$  angular momentum

$-p_t = w$  = solution of quadratic equation  
 $p^\mu p_\mu = -m^2$  energy

$Q = p_\theta^2 + \frac{(m - M w \sin^2 \theta)^2}{\sin^2 \theta} + M^2 w^2 \cos^2 \theta$

Carter constant — **surprise**

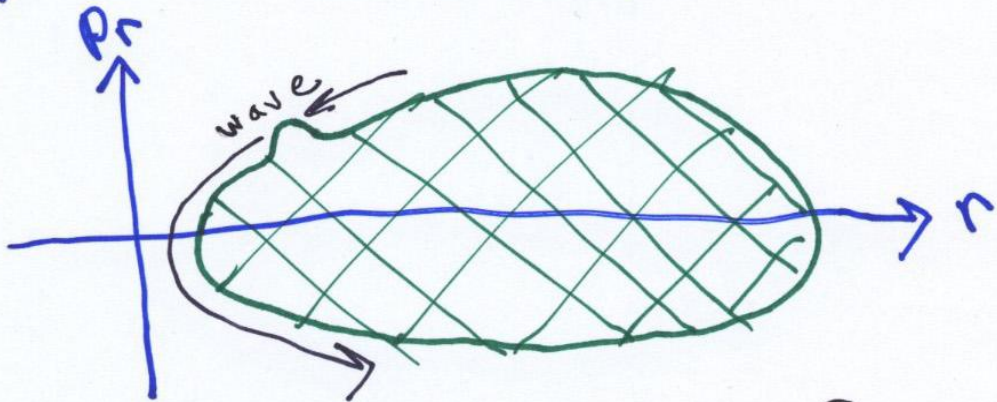
The **FERMI SURFACE** then has two pieces described by the 5-dimensional hypersurfaces in phase space

$(r, \theta, \phi; p_r, p_\theta, p_\phi)$   
 $w = m \rightarrow (r, \theta, \phi; w, Q, m)$   
 $w = m \Omega_H$



After some algebra, the  $\omega = m \Omega_H$  superradiant hypersurface can be described by

$$p_r = \pm \frac{\sqrt{\frac{r^2 + 2Mr}{4M^2} m^2 - \mu^2 r^2 - Q}}{r - M} \equiv \pm \epsilon_0$$



(i) for each  $Q, m$  separate Fermi surface in ordinary space

(ii) waves on <sup>top</sup> Fermi surface

$$\tilde{\epsilon} = p_r - \epsilon_0$$

obey fluid continuity equation

$$\partial_t \tilde{\epsilon} + \partial_i (v^i \tilde{\epsilon}) = 0,$$

$$v^i = v^i(r, \theta, m, Q, M) = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial p_i}$$

They can be excited by a particle incident on the sea.



# Properties

## Number density

$$\text{measure} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} dr d\theta d\phi \wedge dp_r \wedge dp_\theta \wedge dp_\phi$$

$$\hbar = 1 = c = 1 \\ = M_P$$

density at  $(r, \theta, \phi)$  is

$$N(r, \theta, \phi) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 \sqrt{\hbar}} \int_{\text{sea}} dp_r \wedge dp_\theta \wedge dp_\phi \\ = \frac{\mu^3}{(2\pi)^2 (r-M) \sqrt{\hbar}} \left( \frac{4M^3 \chi}{3} - M(r^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \theta) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{3\sqrt{\chi}} (r^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \theta)^{3/2} \right)$$

$$\sqrt{\hbar} \equiv \rho \sin \theta \sqrt{\frac{r^2 + M^2 R^2}{\Delta} - M^2 \sin^2 \theta}$$

$$\chi \equiv \frac{r^2}{4} + \frac{r}{2M} + \frac{r^2}{4M^2} - \csc^2 \theta - \frac{1}{4} \sin^2 \theta$$

For  $r \sim M$

$N \sim \mu^3$  one fermion/Compton cube

Also

$$E(r < M) \sim \mu + M^3$$



# REAL WORLD

Do observed black holes like to bathe in neutron (or other) liquids?

<sup>Kerr</sup>  
If a black hole is formed by the collapse of photons



the pocket is created devoid of fermions. Populating it via Unruh-Starobinski-Hawking radiation takes a time of order  $e^{+\frac{1}{n} \rightarrow \infty}$ .



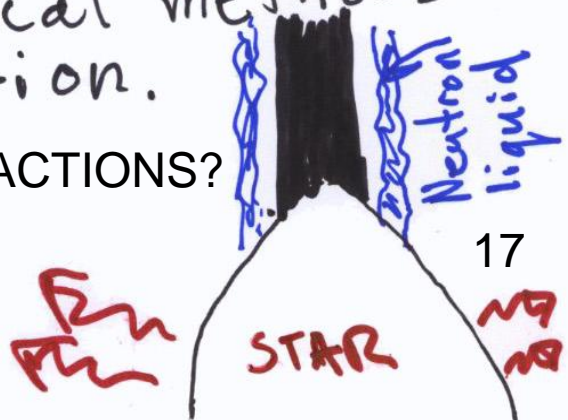
On the other hand  
consider an aging star with

$M >$  Oppenheimer-Volkov,  
Chandrasekhar limits

Assuming not too much matter  
is blown off as it burns out and  
begins to collapse, it cannot  
evolve into a neutron star  
or white dwarf. It is usually  
assumed to become an ordinary  
Kerr black hole. However  
it may also become a  
bathring black hole if baryons  
are trapped in the pocket.  
This can be addressed possibly  
by analytic/numerical methods -  
or even observation.

ARE THEY STABLE WITH INTERACTIONS?

Effects of accretion  
disc???





Note that the ratio of neutron energy inside  $r \lesssim 10M$  to the mass  $M$  of the black hole itself goes as

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{\mu_{\text{neutron}}^4 M_{\text{star}}^2}{M_{\text{Planck}}^6}$$

$$\frac{\mu_{\text{neutron}}}{M_{\text{Planck}}} \sim 10^{-19}$$

$$\frac{M_{\text{sun}}}{M_{\text{Planck}}} \sim 10^{38}$$

So the backreaction is large for  $M_{\text{star}} \sim M_{\text{sun}}$  (This is the same counting which puts the Oppenheimer-Volkoff limit for a neutron star of order  $M_{\text{sun}}$ ) and might have observable consequences.

Can we find the back-reacted bathing black hole solution?

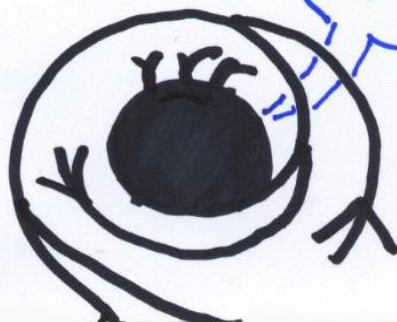
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Can we see black holes bathing in the sky?



# CONCLUSION

The mathematical theory of Kerr black holes has a rich structure with diverse connections to CM holography, astrophysics, string theory, supersymmetry, black hole puzzles and gravity/field theory dualities. Much has been learned, but much remains mysterious & waiting to be understood.



THANK  
YOU!