

Low energy theorems for electromagnetic and gravitational radiation

N.D. Hari Dass

¹Visiting Professor
TIFR-TCIS, Hyderabad.

Vaidya-Raichaudhuri Endowment Lecture 2019, 3 Jan 2019
- BITS-PILANI, Hyderabad.

The trinity



He (PCV) urged the use of both parts of the brain - left and right; left for analytical and mathematical, and right side for physical significance.— ICGC 1987.

Background...

- C.F. Cho and NDH(Ann.Phys. 96, p406,1976) were the first to give the correct classical derivation of the **Gravitational Spin Precession** in this system.
- The first GR derivation was given by Börner, J. Ehlers and E. Rudolph(Astron. Astrophys 44 p.417(1975).
- The expression that is widely quoted in literature now came out of the calculation of the gravitational interaction between two Dirac fermions by Barker and O'Connell(ApJ 199, L25, 1975).
- V. Radhakrishnan and NDH(Astrophysical Letters Vol 16, p.135, 1976) were the first to give a detailed method to observe this effect based on **pulse profiles**.
- Their analysis predicted in detail the effects of spin precession in pulsars both on pulse profile as well as the polarisation sweep.

New controversy

- Ehlers, Rosenblum, Goldberg and Havas in 1976 ([Ap.J.Letts 208\(1976\) L77](#)) criticised the Einstein derivation on a number of counts.
- Einstein had been rather clumsy in his derivations.
- For all those reasons, Ehlers et al advocated a **critical re-look** at this very important issue.
- Among the items they recommended for a careful treatment was the issue of the so-called **logarithmic deviation** of light-cones even in the so called **radiation zone**(more on this later)
- In 1978 Rosenblum claimed that one needs 3rd order post-newtonian approximation, and further claimed the correct answer to be 2.5 times the Einstein result.

Our approach I

- I first describe work done with V. Soni (*Feynman graph derivation of the Einstein quadrupole formula*, J.Phys. A, Math and Gen., 15(1982) 473-492) that was based on a Feynman graph approach in spin-2 (rather, helicity-2) theories of gravitation.
- Normally one would not resort to quantum methods to resolve admittedly classical issues, though there is nothing wrong in principle in doing so.
- One might even argue that philosophically that is the correct way as the world is quantum mechanical!
- In the present case, the main motivation came from the fact that even careful classical calculations had come under a shadow.
- Some obvious advantages of the Feynman graph approaches are that particle equations of motion are automatically taken into account through conservation laws at the vertices.

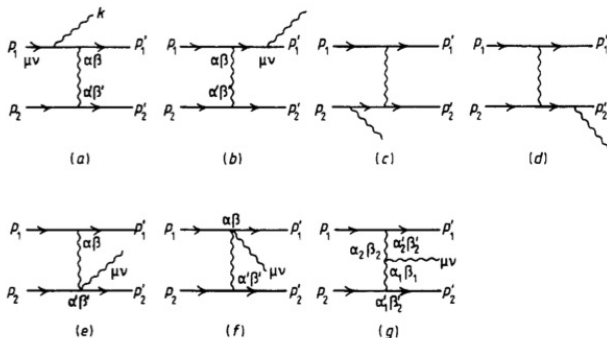
Feynman graph..

- **General coordinate invariance** translates to the better understood and computationally easier **gauge invariance**.
- Many valid objections can also be raised at this point.
- The most serious could be that no fully satisfactory quantum gravity theory has yet been found(**this remains true even 40 years after my work!**).
- My response to that is that we are ultimately interested in the classical limit and this is captured by the **tree graphs** for which there are consistent and satisfactory treatments.
- In fact, regularised perturbative quantum gravity is fully under control.
- In the limit one is interested in, renormalisation problems do not arise.
- No need to struggle with subtleties and nuances of the **pseudo tensor**

- Another serious issue is the presence of the potentially large parameter $Gm_1 m_2$.
- As it turns out, this is tied up with the other serious lacuna of massless field theories i.e the lack of a strict S-matrix.
- In plainer terms this has to do with the fact that even at very large distances, plane waves are not a solution.
- This is quite familiar and well understood, for example, in the solutions of the Schrödinger equation for Coulomb potentials.
- **Coulomb distorted wave functions**
- It turns out that the precise analog of this in GR is the logarithmic distortion of distant light cones.

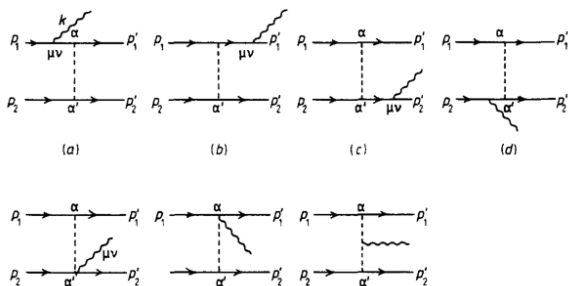
Gravitational Scattering Case

- The diagrams contributing to gravitational radiation during gravitational scattering are shown below.
- It is to be noted that all these are of order κ^3 .
- The criticism of Einstein's original derivation becomes self-evident here.



Electromagnetic Scattering Case

- The diagrams contributing to gravitational radiation during electromagnetic scattering are shown below.



Non-relativistic reductions

- We leave out the details and present results for the amplitudes in the non-relativistic limit:
- The result for gravitational scattering case is:

$$M_{ij}^g = 4 i \kappa^3 \frac{m_1 m_2}{q^2} \left\{ \frac{M}{8\omega} (p^i p^j - p'^i p'^j) + \mu M \frac{q^i q^j}{q^2} \right\}$$

- The result for electromagnetic scattering case is:

$$M_{ij}^{em} = -8 i \kappa \frac{m_1 + m_2}{q^2} e_1 e_2 \left\{ \frac{M}{8\omega} (p^i p^j - p'^i p'^j) + \mu M \frac{q^i q^j}{q^2} \right\}$$

- It is to be noted that these are simply proportional to each other!
- This hints to a **universal form** for gravitational radiation.

Coulomb distorted Born approximation

- The final result when long range modifications to plane waves is taken into account: The two particle state becomes

$$\chi(\vec{r}_1, \vec{r}_2, t) = e^{i(E_1+E_2)t} e^{i\vec{P}\cdot\vec{R} - \frac{i}{2}\vec{p}\cdot\vec{r}} F(i\nu, \frac{ipr}{2} - \frac{i}{2}\vec{p}\cdot\vec{r})$$

$$M_{ij} = \iint d\mathbf{q} d\mathbf{q}' \psi_-^*(-i\nu', \mathbf{p}', \mathbf{q}') \{ \dots \} \psi_+(i\nu, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q})$$

- Here $\nu = \frac{Gm_1 m_2 \mu}{p}$ for the gravitational case, and

$$\psi(i\nu, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}) = \frac{8\pi\nu p}{(p^2 - q^2)^{1+i\nu}} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}|^{2-2i\nu}}$$

Logarithmic distortion of light cones

- The graviton wave function in the radiation zone approaches the form:

$$h_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \epsilon_{\mu\nu} e^{i\omega t - i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r} + 2iGM\omega \ln r}$$

- Clearly the light cones are logarithmically distorted w.r.t flat light cones!
- This was one of the issues that Ehlers et al had emphasised.
- Suggests the new time coordinate

$$t^* = t + \frac{2GM}{c^3} \ln r$$

- This is the same as what Anderson had used to analyse this issue!
- Most remarkably, the long range modifications to the graviton wavefunction do not affect the matrix elements.

One Graviton Transition Operators

- The final results can be cast in the form

$$M_{ij} \rightarrow \frac{-4m_1 m_2}{\omega} \left\{ \frac{\kappa}{2} \ddot{D}_{ij} \epsilon^{ij} \right\}_{fi}$$

- This allows one to identify

$$\left\{ \frac{\kappa}{2} \ddot{D}_{ij} \epsilon^{ij} \right\}$$

as the **one graviton transition operator**

- For the electromagnetic radiation this, in the leading order, turns out to be

$$M_{ij} = -\frac{4m_1 m_2}{\omega} \left\{ \vec{\epsilon} \cdot \ddot{\mathbf{d}} \right\}_{fi}$$

- On comparing the Larmor power formula there, one immediately arrives at the Einstein quadrupole formula!!

Approach II: Low Energy Theorem Approach

- *Low energy theorems for quadrupole radiation in electromagnetism and gravitation, N.D. Hari Dass, NBI-HE-81-45 (1980) (Unpublished).*
- Low energy theorems are powerful techniques pioneered by particle physicists when they were desperately groping for a theory of strong interactions.
- Pioneered by Nambu, Schwinger, Weinberg, Mandelstam, Francis Low and others, these theorems allowed one to understand many aspects of hadrons even in the absence of a fundamental or even effective theory for them.
- The earliest example was Low's theorem for Compton Scattering which showed that at **very low frequencies** the scattering was entirely determined by the **total electric charge**, and nothing else (**in the sense that structural details were irrelevant**).

Low Energy Theorems...

- Next such, due to Low again, showed that power radiated through electromagnetic radiation was entirely governed by the time rate of change (actually second derivative) of the **electric dipole moment** and nothing else.
- In fact, in my application of these techniques to gravitational radiation, I closely followed Low.
- As a spin-off, I found that Low's treatment gives more even for electromagnetic radiation! (Though Low also had claimed this he had omitted some crucial terms needed for this).
- The next correction is also **universal**, given by third time derivative of quadrupole moment.
- A vast majority of processes involving mesons and photons could be described in terms of a few parameters long before QCD came on the scene!

Electromagnetic and Gravitational LET's: Weinberg

- Weinberg in the 1960's pioneered the study of gravitational LET's. A remarkable result proved by him was: for arbitrary processes

$$A_1 + A_2 + A_3 + \dots \rightarrow B_1 + B_2 + B_3 + \dots$$

gauge invariance of amplitude to emit a soft photon requires

$$\sum q_i = \sum q_f$$

However, the analogous gravitational LET yields

$$\sum \kappa_j P_j^\mu = \sum \kappa_j P_j'^\mu$$

Conservation of energy-momentum

$$\sum P_i^\mu = \sum P_j'^\mu$$

immediately implies

$$\kappa_j = \kappa$$

This is the **Principle of Equivalence!**



Gravitational LET's..

- Then came the Hulse-Taylor pulsar in late 1974. The test particle assumptions broke down.
- Barker and O'Connell had proposed a formula for spin-precession based on a calculation of the gravitational interaction between two Dirac particles.
- With C.F. Cho I calculated this purely **classically** using **Schwinger Source Theory**. The answer agreed with Barker-O'Connell result!
- I again smelled Low Energy Theorems!

Gravitational LET's..

- We (C.F. Cho and NDH, Phys.Rev. D14, p.2511, 1976) proved a LET for the stress tensor of the form:

$$\langle \mathbf{p}' | T^{\mu\nu} | \mathbf{p} \rangle = \kappa \{ (\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{p}')^\mu (\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{p}')^\nu + q^\mu \Sigma_{\mu\nu} p^\nu + \mu \rightleftharpoons \nu \}$$

- This is a completion of Weinberg's results to include spin (this had also been derived independently by Deser and Boulware shortly before).
- Because of the inherent **ambiguities** of the stress-tensor, this is all that one can achieve.
- This single LET correctly accounted for all the classical predictions of GR (excluding perihelion advance and gravitational radiation)!
- It also correctly reproduces many one graviton exchange quantum processes.
- In electromagnetism the corresponding LET is:

$$\langle \mathbf{p}' | J^\mu | \mathbf{p} \rangle = 2ep^\mu + O(q) + \dots$$

How to derive LET's for radiation?

- One starts with T-matrices for vertices and for scattering.
- T-matrix becomes the S-matrix when all external legs go **on shell**
- S-matrices are **observable**
- When the emitted radiation is very **soft**, except for the leg connecting the scattering T-matrix to the vertex T-matrix, all others are on-shell.
- The exceptional leg is only mildly off-shell because of the softness of the radiation. Hence the T-matrices can be Taylor expanded.
- The sum of all diagrams where radiation is from the external legs is not **gauge invariant** in general.
- One adds the **internal bremsstrahlung** diagram to restore gauge invariance.
- The sum of all terms now give the LET amplitudes.

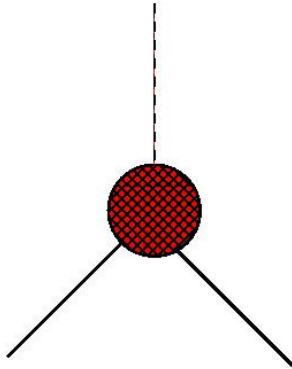


Figure: The vertex T-matrix

LET scattering T-matrix

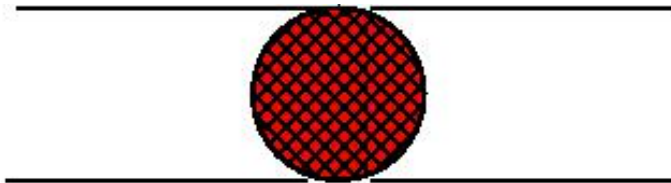


Figure: Scattering T-matrix

$$T(p_1^2, p_2^2, p_1'^2, p_2'^2, \nu, \Delta)$$

$$\nu = p_1 \cdot p_2 + p_1' \cdot p_2' \quad \Delta = \mu \left\{ \frac{(p_1' - p_1)^2}{m_1} + \frac{(p_2' - p_2)^2}{m_2} \right\}$$

$$q = p_1' - p_1 = p_2 - p_2'$$

LET for radiation

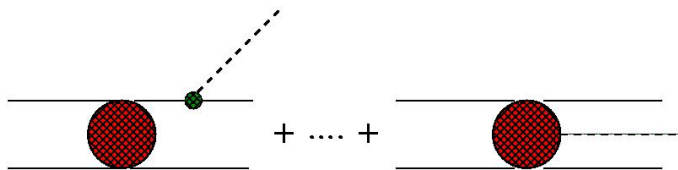


Figure: Radiation LET's

Some details..

- Consider the first of the diagrams. Its contribution is

$$M_\mu = \frac{2e_1 p'_{1\mu}}{2 p'_1 \cdot k} T(m_1^2, m_1^2 + 2 p'_1 \cdot k, m_2^2, m_2^2, \nu + p'_2 \cdot k, \Delta + \frac{2\mu}{m_1} k \cdot q)$$

$$M_\mu = \frac{e_1 p'_{1\mu}}{p'_1 \cdot k} \{ T_0 + 2 p'_1 \cdot k T_2 + 2 p'_2 \cdot k T_5 + \frac{2\mu}{m_1} k \cdot q T_6 + \dots \}$$

$$k \cdot M = e_1 \{ T_0 \dots \}$$

- Adding all such contributions one finds T_0 terms cancel completely (Weinberg's electro LET).
- For the first diagram find \tilde{M}_μ such that

$$k \cdot M + \tilde{M} = 0$$

$$M_\mu = e_1 \left\{ \frac{p'_{1\mu}}{p'_1 \cdot k} T_0 + p'_{1\mu} \frac{p'_2 \cdot k}{p_1 k} T_5 + \frac{2\mu}{m_1} k \cdot q \frac{p'_{1\mu}}{p'_1 \cdot k} \right\}$$

Final amplitude: electromagnetic case

$$\begin{aligned} M^\mu &= e_1 \left(\frac{p_1'^\mu}{p_1' \cdot k} - \frac{p_1^\mu}{p_1 \cdot k} \right) T_0 \\ &+ \left(p_1'^\mu \frac{p_2' \cdot k}{p_1' \cdot k} - p_2'^\mu + p_1'^\mu \frac{p_2 \cdot k}{p_1 \cdot k} - p_2^\mu \right) T_5 \\ &+ \frac{2\mu k \cdot q}{m_1} \left(\frac{p_1'^\mu}{p_1' \cdot k} - \frac{p_1^\mu}{p_1 \cdot k} \right) T_6 \\ &+ 1 \Leftrightarrow 2 \end{aligned}$$

Final amplitude: gravitational case

$$\begin{aligned} M^{\mu\nu} = & \left(\frac{p_1'^{\mu} p_1'^{\nu}}{p_1' \cdot k} - \frac{p_1^{\mu} p_1^{\nu}}{p_1 \cdot k} \right) T_0 \\ & + \left(p_1'^{\mu} p_1'^{\nu} \frac{p_2' \cdot k}{p_1' \cdot k} + p_1^{\mu} p_1^{\nu} \frac{p_2 \cdot k}{p_1 \cdot k} + p_2'^{\mu} p_2'^{\nu} \frac{p_1' \cdot k}{p_2' \cdot k} + p_2^{\mu} p_2^{\nu} \frac{p_1 \cdot k}{p_2 \cdot k} \right) T_5 \\ & - \left(p_1'^{\mu} p_2'^{\nu} + p_1'^{\mu} p_2'^{\nu} + p_1^{\mu} p_2^{\nu} + p_1^{\nu} p_2^{\mu} \right) T_5 \\ & + 2_{\mu} k \cdot q \left\{ \frac{1}{m_1} \left(\frac{p_1'^{\mu} p_1'^{\nu}}{p_1' \cdot k} - \frac{p_1^{\mu} p_1^{\nu}}{p_1 \cdot k} \right) - \frac{1}{m_2} \left(\frac{p_2'^{\mu} p_2'^{\nu}}{p_2' \cdot k} - \frac{p_2^{\mu} p_2^{\nu}}{p_2 \cdot k} \right) \right\} T_6 \end{aligned}$$

Non-relativistic reductions..

- For the electromagnetic case(gauge choice $\epsilon_0 = 0$):

$$\vec{\epsilon} \cdot \vec{M} = \frac{\vec{\epsilon} \cdot \vec{q}}{\omega} \left(\frac{e_2}{m_2} - \frac{e_1}{m_1} \right) T_0 + \left(\frac{e_1}{m_1^2} + \frac{e_2}{m_2^2} \right) \frac{\epsilon_i n_j}{4\omega} (p^j p^i - p'^j p'^i) T_0 \\ - 2\mu \epsilon_i n_j \left(\frac{e_1}{m_1^2} + \frac{e_2}{m_2^2} \right) q^i q^j T_6$$

- Rewriting the second group as

$$\frac{\epsilon_i n_j}{4\omega} \left(\frac{e_1}{m_1^2} + \frac{e_2}{m_2^2} \right) X^{ij}$$

where

$$X^{ij} = \{ (p^j p^i - p'^j p'^i) T_0 + 8\omega \mu q^i q^j T_6 \}$$

Non-relativistic reductions: gravitational case

- It is straight forward to carry out the reductions here too. Adopting the gauge

$$\epsilon_{00} = 0 \quad \epsilon_{0i} = 0 \quad \epsilon_j^i = 0$$

the final answer is

$$-\frac{\kappa}{\mu\omega} \epsilon_{ij} X^{ij}$$

What next?

- The first step is to simplify various terms...

$$p^j p^j - p'^i p'^j \simeq -4(p^j q^j + p^j q^i + q^i q^j)$$

- Next use

$$p^j = 2\mu v^j$$

- Finally in the Born approximation

$$T(q) = \int \frac{V(r)}{4\pi} e^{-i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r}}$$

- Assume spherically symmetric potentials.

Some useful identities

$$q_i T_0(q) = -i \int \left(\frac{\nabla_i V}{4\pi} \right)$$

$$\frac{q_i q_j}{|\vec{q}|^2} T'_0 = - \int \frac{e^{-\vec{q} \cdot \vec{r}}}{8\pi} \left(V(r) \delta_{ij} + \frac{r_i r_j}{r} V'(r) \right)$$

$$\omega \equiv i \frac{d}{dt}$$

- For electromagnetism:

$$-\frac{i}{4\pi\omega} \langle \vec{\epsilon} \cdot \dot{\vec{d}} \rangle - \frac{i}{8\pi\omega} \epsilon_j n_j \langle \frac{\dot{\dot{Q}}_{ij}}{3} \rangle$$

- For gravitation, the same quadrupole term!

Octupole: status

- Since in electromagnetic case, one gets dipole in leading, electric quadrupole in the next, and $\frac{v}{c}$ corrections to electric quadrupole (non-universal T_5), it is reasonable to expect octupole radiation also in the case of gravitation.
- Some preliminary results are at hand.
- The LET gives the correct mass dependence

$$\frac{\Delta m_{\mu}}{M}$$

- Several of the terms in the fourth time derivative of O_{ijk} are reproduced, but not all.

- The problem could be because in higher orders one has to be extremely careful in keeping small quantities consistently.
- I plan to carefully reanalyse all the terms that have been neglected to see if that improves the situation.
- I plan to use the feynman graph calculation to guide me in this.
- If I succeed in getting the octupole terms correctly, I would conjecture that **all** multipoles should be reproduced by the LET's.
- Such an exercise will be important in carrying the LET analysis to higher multipoles.
- One can also use explicit T-matrices to learn more.
- These approaches have the important potential for independent verifications of GR calculations.

Results

- For gravitational radiation I was able to obtain the quadrupole formula.
- My method has the potential to yield the $(\frac{v}{c})^2$ corrections.
- Additionally, two **remarkable** results on **parity violations** could be proved. These are stated without their full proof in *(NDH, Experimental tests for some quantum effects in gravitation, Annals of Phy, Vol 107, p.337, 1977)*.
- I. The first two terms in **parity violation in gravitation** induced by the **Standard Model** vanish!
- II. The leading order fundamental parity violations in gravitation are absent in any theory with a symmetric $g_{\mu\nu}$.
- The stress tensor LET that I had proved with Cho had been proved independently by Deser and Boulware shortly before us using very different techniques.
- These results are complimentary to Duff's demonstration that summing tree diagrams of spin-2 theories yields GR in the low energy limit.

- In the case of electromagnetism, the T_5 terms were **non-universal**, but in the case of gravitation the energy dependence of T-matrices could be universal and hence the T_5 terms too.
- A puzzle in the case of electromagnetic radiation was the apparent absence of magnetic dipole radiation.
- I have resolved this as due to the omission of magnetisation terms in the current.
- In the gravitational case also I should be getting the gravi-magnetic quadrupole part also by including the extensions to Weinberg's LET..

- An important question is about general space-times.
- Quantum calculations could only be formulated in terms of S-matrices involving asymptotic states.
- Coulomb distorted waves was an improvement, and that could also be thought in terms of non-perturbative infrared aspects.
- For general space-times, all this points to the importance of asymptotic symmetries.
- Recently there has been a lot of interest in the so called **super-translations** and their connections to soft-graviton theorems(**Strominger, Cachazo, Ladha, Sen...**).
- I would like to explore the import of my results for those issues.